

CORE VALUE #2: QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION

BELIEF STATEMENTS

1. We believe that Catholic schools provide a strong, basic education, challenging students to reach their full potential and preparing them for future academic success.
2. We believe that each student is nurtured in a safe, disciplined and enriching environment that is conducive to learning and where each child's unique gifts are recognized.
3. We believe the value of education is enhanced by the Catholic dimension which is integrated throughout the curriculum and demonstrated by faculty who teach students to "live their faith."
4. We believe that dedicated faculty partner with parents who are actively engaged in their children's education.
5. We believe that the lack of financial resources makes it difficult for Catholic schools to:
 - a. Offer "extras" such as music, art, world language, athletics;
 - b. Provide "cutting edge" technology, textbooks and equipment;
 - c. Attract and retain quality teaching staff;
 - d. Accommodate both special needs and gifted children.

ACTION STEPS

The following initiatives need to be enhanced to improve the **Quality Catholic Education** offered at our schools:

1. Establish creative ways to attract and maintain quality teachers and administrators, Examples:
 - a. Offer more continuing education/training/in-service opportunities for teachers to encourage new, creative teaching methods;
 - b. Initiate an Archdiocesan Benefit Program for Teachers and Administrators including increased, just wages, tuition remission for continuing education, discounts for children attending Catholic schools, rewards for teaching innovation, etc.;
 - c. Establish an Archdiocesan subsidy for college students who commit to teaching 2-3 years in Catholic schools – "Loan Forgiveness;"
 - d. Offer more mentoring opportunities for teachers;

2. Place Archdiocesan and local emphasis on finding additional funding sources in order to provide more electives, necessary physical plant improvements, and updated educational and technological programs and resources, Examples:
 - a. Grant-writing;
 - b. Purchasing aggregates; consolidated buying;
 - c. Soliciting additional funds for tuition assistance;
3. Develop programs to provide services for special needs students in our Catholic schools;
4. Lobby on an Archdiocesan and local level to procure more State and Federal funding; advocate for tax credits, vouchers, textbook assistance, special services;
5. Effectively utilize parent resources to help meet the schools' needs;
6. Establish links between schools (elementary/high school/Catholic college) that foster educational development via internships, workshops, tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment programs;
7. Create an Archdiocesan "Best Practices" resource database to leverage innovative educational ideas and maximize academic opportunities and experiences;
8. Enrich the elementary math and science curriculum by providing increased "hands-on" learning and making algebra available at the middle school level;
9. Continue to upgrade technology, integrate it throughout the curriculum, facilitate the affordable purchase of technological resources, and provide teacher training and support;
10. Encourage an increased pastoral presence in our schools.