



The New Moment

OFFICE of the BISHOP

April 3, 2019

Dear Friends,

I am excited to endorse *A Vision for Excellence in Catholic Education 2020-2025*, the Diocese of Des Moines Strategic Plan for our Catholic schools. The plan has my full support and I enthusiastically endorse the work completed as well the work that lies ahead to implement the plan. I want to thank Dr. Tracy Bonday, Dr. Jerry Deegan, members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the many groups and individuals who contributed to the production of this outstanding plan. Their leadership and vision have been inspiring and their commitment to the process helped produce an excellent path to guide our schools to a strong future. I am especially encouraged that the plan embraces *The New Moment* to deepen our relationship with Jesus as we engage our calling to be Missionary Disciples.

I am proud of our Catholic schools and the work they do with our students and families. Over the years our schools have been blessed with committed teachers, staff and pastors, engaged parents, supportive communities, not to mention the personal perseverance of “bright” students. Our plan builds on that base to reach a new level of excellence across the board to secure the future of these treasured institutions. The plan is an ambitious plan that will stretch each of us and will allow us to grow in new and exciting ways to fulfill our mission and reach our vision.

In our plan for the future, we are rooted in our vision and foundational beliefs. While schools in the diocese already exemplify many aspects of the new vision, our vision statement challenges all schools to aspire to be the best and not be content with the status quo. The vision asks all schools to pursue greater results that are consistent, creative, and collaborative. Our foundational beliefs provide the pillars upon which we will build our future.

VISION

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Des Moines will be excellent at building Christ-centered, collaborative, inclusive partnerships with parents, students, and parishes to provide innovative academic excellence and inspirational faith formation for students and families.

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

FAITH FORMATION

Faith formation fosters a personal journey, promotes a relationship with Jesus, and teaches how to live the Gospel through love and service to others on life-long basis.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Excellence is relentlessly pursued in academics and service by instilling a culture of continuous improvement, innovation, and growth that empowers students to maximize their potential and use their gifts to serve God and others.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Schools with their parishes create a loving, caring and welcoming Catholic faith community that promotes integrity, trust, and collaboration among teachers, students, parents, pastors and the wider parish.

I look forward to working with you to implement the plan to help our students know, love and serve God throughout their lives. The plan is available at dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools/strategic-plan.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Bishop Richard Pates
Bishop of Diocese of Des Moines