



Dear Parents,

October, 2019

We hope the school year is off to a great start for you and your child/ren. It is hard to believe we are almost two months into the year! We are grateful for our new leadership and hope your family has an opportunity to meet Bishop Joensen as he makes his way around the schools. His schedule will be very busy the next few months but he is committed to meeting our students and all the youth in the diocese. As the new Superintendent, I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting each school and getting to know and work with so many wonderful staff members. I feel blessed to be a member of such a committed, hardworking community and look forward to meeting you as my work continues.

We are writing to give you an update on the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan for our Catholic schools. As mentioned in Jerry's last letter, the Implementation Committee members are leading committees to research each area of the strategic plan to offer suggestions on how to implement it. The committees have eight to ten members including parents, board members, pastors, teachers, principals and business managers. The job of the seven committees: Faith Formation, Finance, Advancement, Academics, Enrollment Management/Marketing, and Diversity is to forward their recommendations to Bishop Joensen for his approval by the end of the calendar year. The committees have met approximately every two or three weeks since July and will continue to meet through the first semester. Included is a list of meetings that have taken place or are planned up through mid-October.

We have also included Year One of the Regionalization Process so you can follow the committee's efforts. Some of the work is already underway with the parish business managers monthly meetings to determine a common set of terms, definitions and processes; the Catholic Schools Office is hiring an enrollment/marketing director to lead and coordinate enrollment and marketing efforts across all schools; brought on a consultant to review and analyze elementary school budgets to obtain a clear picture of the financial status in an effort to forecast enrollment, financial assistance, compensation, and purchasing so annual plans can be set; and the curriculum and assessment committee s aligning textbooks, assessment, and professional development.

We want to thank all of the committee members who have so graciously given of their time to be involved in laying the groundwork for the Bishop to review. This is a complex process that takes time and needs to include many voices and ideas. We feel great progress has been made and look forward to continuing to meet with constituents across schools to provide updates on our continued efforts. We look forward to an opportunity to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Donna Bishop
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jerry Deegan
Implementation Coordinator