

FOCUS 2011/12

AN UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS AT GTACS

MNSAA SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08

Catholic High School HONOR ROLL 2008-2009

NATIONAL Catholic High School HONOR ROLL 2010-2011

GTACS GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2011

Plans fail when there is no counsel, but they succeed when advisers are many.

Proverbs 15:22

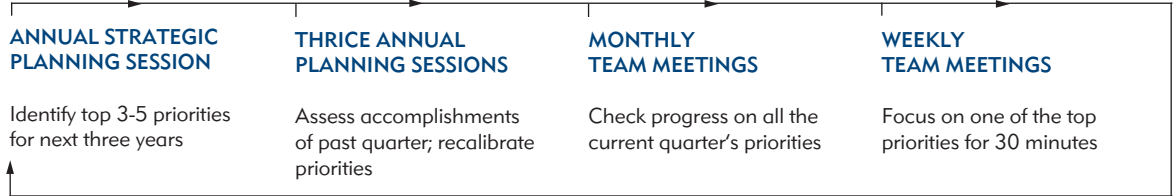
STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

- BISHOP HEBDA
- FR. DON GEYMAN
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- MATT BAUMAN
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- ERICK CHITTLE
- MARK ESPER
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- CATHY NELSON
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- DEB QUINLAN
- KATHY ROUSH
- CHARLES TAYLOR
- JANET TROPPEMAN

SELECTED TEAM RESOURCES

- GOOD TO GREAT
- MASTERING THE ROCKEFELLER HABITS
- THE FIVE DYSFUNCTIONS OF A TEAM

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS



Becoming a top-ranked educational institution requires vision, but it also requires strategic execution of that vision. To help determine priorities, maintain accountabilities, and create organizational clarity and alignment, Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools utilizes an on-going strategic planning process. The resulting focus contributes to continual progress and success at our schools. To keep you informed about this process, the strategic planning team provides periodic updates to members of the School Advisory Board and clergy, faculty and staff, and families of students. What follows is an update on each of the priorities from our first strategic planning period.



READING PRIORITY LEVERAGE FUTURE LEARNING BY FOSTERING GROWTH IN READING ABILITY, GRADES K-3

Because reading is such an integral part of a student's overall educational experience, this has been and will likely remain an area of focus across several years. Testing and curriculum evaluation have led to the implementation of new core materials and methods, and the team is rigorously monitoring effectiveness. Examples of tactics that have arisen from this initiative are level-based reading groups which meet several times each week in morning break-out sessions that take place in the libraries and classrooms.

ADVANCEMENT PRIORITY MAKE OUR TELLING OF THE GTACS STORY MORE CONSISTENT AND COMPELLING

The success of Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools is an important story with many facets. Industry best practices point to the need for a concise and consistent presentation that conveys the essence of what makes our schools unique and worthwhile. This team is developing a "tour" of GTACS that will include both the measurable and immeasurable differences available only at our Schools with the ultimate goal of increasing enrollment, enhancing fundraising revenue and bolstering the volunteer base.

MATH PRIORITY IMPROVE UPON ALREADY-STRONG LEVELS OF COLLEGE-READINESS IN MATH

This has been an area of emphasis for a while now, and terrific progress is being made. To keep moving toward the goal, the math team has been working hard to refine curriculum, agree upon lesson plans and teaching format, and analyze gaps between academic standards and teaching materials (textbooks and supplements). The team also looks at what's being taught in math class longitudinally; i.e., they pay attention to what is being taught in the year(s) prior and after a particular grade level. The group also evaluates and makes recommendations regarding summer math class offerings. In 2011, only 35% of graduating students in the State were college-ready in math (according to their ACT scores). Among GTACS graduating students, that number was 70% -- and it has risen steadily at GTACS since 2008 which was the first year in which all juniors began taking the ACT.

FAITH PRIORITY INCREASE SACRAMENTAL, DEVOTIONAL AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS/FAMILIES

Develop varied opportunities for students and their families to grow in their knowledge and experience of the faith. Examples: Parent rosary groups are being formed at each school; there will be an additional Mass in the Chapel on Fridays during Advent and Lent for parents and students with Reconciliation available before-hand; each school is implementing a traveling chalice program for vocations; there will be a 40-hour devotion in December; seminarians will visit schools throughout the year; Fr. Ben Luedtke spoke in October and national chastity speaker Leah Darrow will present to students and parents in the spring.