

News Notes...

From the Office of Education



Catholic Diocese of Spokane
Office of Education
PO Box 1453
Spokane, WA 99210-1453
(509) 358-7330
www.dioceseofspokane.org

From Our Director of Catholic Schools



As we conclude this school year, we want to thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our Catholic school system. It has been a year filled with joy and hope. We've been blessed with a new building at Trinity, a new Early Childhood Center and Gym at St. Aloysius and many other exciting beautification projects throughout our schools.

We also wish our wonderful principals, who will experience a new adventure, many blessings and heartfelt thanks for the gifts and talents they have bestowed upon their school communities. We thank Sonia Flores-Davis, Arlene Jones, Mark Selle, and Joan Voelker.

We look forward to welcoming our new principals this fall.

The Office of Education has instituted many changes this past school year. Our focus has been on our providing support for our Principals and Teachers as well as offering more productive approaches to administrative tasks within our schools.

Our Commitment to You...

PRINCIPAL SUPPORT

This year we have focused on our Principals with principal mentoring and more productive principal gatherings. We've provided hands on assistance with finances/budgeting, personnel, talking points, and working with parents and School Advisory Councils.

The Office of Education facilitated a School Safety Task Force. This team has created a threat assessment protocol with support tools for internal and external threats. Next year we will analyze our Child Protective Service protocol as well as common safety measures such as lockdowns, evacuations and earthquake safety.

TEACHER SUPPORT

Our office has provided teacher collaboration sessions. We have facilitated sessions working with our new teachers in common areas as well as providing a network of support outside their own school. Teachers have worked together on religion lesson design, writing curriculum and reviewing their mathematics programs. We have focused on our Teacher Supervision program to allow for a more intentional approach to supporting our teachers' growth and supervising for effectiveness of instructional practices. The Office of Education is actively working with a task force to address teacher retention and recruitment of new teachers.

continued on next page

from page 1

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR OUR SCHOOLS

The various departments within the diocese collaborated on a new hiring procedure which allowed for simplification and streamlining of efforts to make the hiring process more effective.

We have worked closely with Cornerbooth Media to bring awareness of our Catholic School System and allow for individual school marketing.

Much has been accomplished this year. We are excited to continue our work for the next school year.

from Bishop Daly...



I want to personally thank all our principals and teachers on the completion of another school year. I would especially like to thank Sonia Flores-Davis, Arlene Jones, Mark Selle and Joan Voelker for their commitment and dedication to Catholic education and specifically to their respective schools. I commend you for your service and laying the foundation for future generations.



From Our Commissioner of Accreditation & School Improvement...

The office began the school year refocusing on accreditation of our Catholic Schools by making the process manageable and strategic. By aligning the process to what schools are already doing in the areas of Catholic Identity, curriculum review, and analyzing data to enhance instruction, the schools can streamline accreditation with their individual long range goals. Our focus is to directly work with schools in training, guiding and modeling collaborative discussions and working with them side by side as they develop their self-study.



Congratulations to St. Mary's Catholic School who completed their accreditation this year. The Administration, staff and teachers worked very hard in writing their self-study and completed their visit this spring. They did an outstanding job. Well Done St. Mary's!! Thank you for being committed to school improvement.