

The theme for St. Mary Catholic Schools this year is **SERVANT LEADERSHIP**. The servant leadership attribute that we are emphasizing in the month of May is "**Witness**".

Curriculum and Professional Development

The AdvancED High School Accreditation Site visit was completed in May. Thank you to the BOT members who were able to participate in the interview process. The visiting team recommended re-accreditation for our high school!

Powerful Practices:

- There is a robust Catholic presence in the high school and a commitment to daily practice of faith
- High school culture was described as positive, warm and welcoming
- A significant emphasis is placed on creating strong relationships between the educators, students, and families

Improvement Priorities:

- High school must develop a student assessment system that places an emphasis on formative and summative assessments and monitors using internal data with standardized assessments
- The Board of Trustees must revise its current efforts toward the creation of a strategic plan. The current plan missed the input of several important stakeholder groups. Additionally, the current plan addressed key goals, but lacks identifiable action steps and specific criteria that will allow the school to measure the plan's success. The strategic plan should guide all major decision making involving large school projects – both capital and curricular.

Literacy Instructional Materials.

Teachers received a review guide to use in order to help identify pros and cons of the literacy programs. Presentations from consultants were completed. SMCS administrators pared the choices to two options. Next week teachers will be invited to evaluate and assist with a final recommendation.

Aquinas Program Update

St. Mary Catholic Schools administrators had hoped to have a new multi-age, accelerated learning elementary school program in place for the 2017-18 school year. Significant efforts were made, including research, site visits and teacher interviews, to establish this opportunity for our students. However, we were unable to secure an instructor with the required qualifications in time to begin this important initiative by the fall of 2017. Instead, administrators, independent consultants and SMCS teachers will spend the next year developing the SMCS Aquinas Program.

Admissions/Enrollment

We continue to actively recruit new students and work with current families that have not yet registered. A strategic initiative report and updated dashboard will be presented with the Recruitment & Retention Task Force update at the May BOT meeting.

Human Resource Transfers/Changes/Hires for 2017-18

- Retirements: Eleanor Healy; Nancy Stevenson; Mary Bergman; Val Vanci; Sue O'Connell
- Not continuing: Jess Ott (Art); Karen Fahley (Reading Specialist); Christina Turner (FA Director); Jennifer Miller (HR); Robin Gallucci (Zephyrfest Coordinator)
- Promotions/expanded roles: Hayden Krause, Director of Fine Arts; Sue Peters, Alumni Relations & Events Coordinator; Jill Ahles, SME Principal & PLTW Coordinator; Pat Batey, Director of Educational Services
- Interviews in process for HS Principal, HR Generalist, and Zephyrfest Coordinator

Business Services: Finance-Technology-Food Service

- Biometric screens for employees were conducted on site May 16 & 17.
- Benefit enrollments for next year were due May 15.
- Employment letters for at will employees will be distributed this week.
- A technology plan is being updated and a technology fund-raising campaign is being prepared.

Fine Arts

- The SMCHS concert band performed at the WSMA Concert Festival at Lakeland College, earning first ratings from all judges.
- The high school Forensic team competed at the state meet in Madison, coming home with five gold medals, three silvers and two bronzes.
- Senior Brandon Wagner will be recognized at the PAC High School Musical Theater Awards on May 20. Three SMCHS students will perform in the opening and closing numbers.

Fund Development & Alumni Relations

Annual Fund:

- Currently at about \$170,000 (with many commitments made, but payment not yet received)
- Constant Contact email sent last week as a reminder that the campaign is nearing the end; please give prior to June 30
- PLEASE contact Michelle if you have ideas to help reach this year's goal (personal contacts, second gifts, etc.)

Events:

- Zephyrfest new date for next year: April 21, 2018
- Brewfest is being renamed Taste! and moving to The Reserve (Equitable Building Ballroom)
- ZNight planning continues for November 11, 2018 debut
- Watch for SMCS to present arts/crafts at the Neenah Farmer's Market the last Saturday of each month

Other Projects:

- Tennis Restoration Project: Goal of \$80,000 to be raised through personal gifts and a tennis rally (tournament) in August; Lizzy Bergstrom Auth is leading the campaign
- Foundation development work continues. Plan in place to proceed along appropriate path (via the Green Bay Diocese)
- Meeting with Associated Investment Services to outline investment process scheduled for May 24

Alumni:

- Hard copy newsletter in process (for June delivery)
- New '*Senior Sunrise*' event took place today at 5 a.m. on Zephyr Fields. As the sun sets on their high school careers, 60 (of 72) seniors gathered to watch the sun rise on their future as Zephyr alumni. Breakfast, alumni prizes and field games made for a WONDERFUL success.
- Senior class going through the VIRTUS training next Monday (students that are 18 years old), so they will be certified volunteers and can help with events and sports teams/camps as Zephyr Alumni
- Working to develop a robust Alumni Association – stay tuned
- Leadership Day was held on May 3. Mary Lou Kalas, Craig Uhlenbrauck and Mike McClone honored for their continuous contributions in so many ways to SMC. All three provided very inspirational messages to the entire SMCHS student body.