



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office for Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of Catholic Schools Promotes Vision for Schools

Grand Rapids, Mich. - The Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Grand Rapids coordinated a year-long process to revitalize and articulate the Vision for Catholic Schools as:

“An alliance of Catholic schools expanding outstanding Catholic educational ministry, through innovation and collaboration, that is affordable and accessible to families investing time, talent, and treasure”.

The Vision outlines several strategic elements that serve as a guide for all schools within the diocese as they look to “**add value**” and engage in long-range planning. The elements include:

- Innovation and collaboration in academics, parental engagement, technology and parish relationships.
- Customizing elementary and secondary school features based on geographic location and demographics served.
- Establishing a culture of collaboration through a process of continuous strategic planning.
- Optimizing resources for sustainability through shared technology and human resources and leveraging the capacity of learning spaces.

“We need to look at finding new and creative ways of thinking and of doing things,” Bishop Walter Hurley said recently to teachers and administrators who attended this year’s Back to School Kick-off. He further encouraged educators from all 31 schools to “...embrace the Vision looking to the future with confidence and trust.”

David Faber, superintendent of diocesan schools, explained that more than 1,700 participants from 60 parishes contributed during the year-long process of consultation, responding to surveys, writing and revising which resulted in the Vision document.

“The Vision for Catholic Schools provides direction for this generation of Catholics to build upon the strengths of the past and plan for a future of ‘return with increase’”. Faber

continued, “The Vision supports the timeless treasures of strong faith and quality education. These are true advantages for our students as we anticipate a future of great change and challenge.”

The Vision for Catholic Schools can be found at: www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves 178,000 Catholics, 101 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan.

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