

Bridging Faith and Future: A Plan for Catholic School Vitality

Glossary of Terms

“Catholic Promise” program: A concept inspired by regional “Promise” programs which pay certain college costs for students who graduate from particular public school districts (e.g., the Kalamazoo Promise). A “Catholic Promise” program may be desirable to pay for certain high school and college costs for students who graduate from Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, encouraging families to keep their children enrolled in Catholic school.

Digital citizenship: Putting the dignity of the human person at the forefront of everything we do with technology; including privacy and security, relationships and communication, cyberbullying, digital footprints and reputation, self-image and identity, information literacy, creative credit and copyright.

Disciple of Christ -- Education in Virtue: “A Christian curriculum structured on the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas regarding the virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit. It aims to provide a consistent structure and systematic instruction for youth to learn about the virtues so that they can form the habits and dispositions necessary to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. This curriculum emphasizes Christian discipleship as indispensable toward human flourishing and the quest for joy. It has been developed in response to the call for a New Evangelization, firmly conveying the reality that happiness is found in a life of holiness.” (Source: educationinvirtue.com/about/)

G.O.D.S. Plan tuition model: An approach to tuition designed to create unique opportunities for families of all income levels, not just those who qualify for scholarships.

- **G**iving families the opportunity of Catholic education
- **O**ffering a value that families can’t afford to miss
- **D**elivering an experience that families will value forever
- **S**tewarding sophisticated financial tools and education to optimize affordability
- **P**lanning opportunities for families at every income level:
 - **High**-income families pay tuition and have the opportunity to add value through targeted “wish lists” to enhance programs and facilities (e.g. private donations, annual appeals, scholarship funds, capital improvements, endowments, etc.).
 - **Medium**-income families are offered the opportunity of sophisticated financial education and tools to create a plan and maximize affordability (e.g. education savings plans for parents, godparents, and grandparents).
 - **Low**-income families are offered opportunity to afford Catholic school through scholarship from multiple resources (e.g. school, parish, diocesan, and other).

Madrinas Program: An initiative being piloted in the 2016-17 school year at three Diocese of Grand Rapids Catholic schools (Corpus Christi, San Juan Diego Academy, St. Stephen) to welcome and engage Latino families through involvement from volunteer ambassador families. It is adapted from a model developed by the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame.

NSBCESS: The National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools were developed by the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, School of Education, Loyola University of Chicago, in partnership with the Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education,

School of Education, Boston College. These effectiveness standards and benchmarks give “the entire Catholic community a common framework of universal characteristics of Catholic identity and agreed upon criteria for Catholic school excellence.” (Source: http://www.catholicstandards.org/files/Catholic_School_Standards_03-12.pdf)

Raiser’s Edge: Fundraising and donor management software by Blackbaud, a technology company serving nonprofit, charitable, and education sectors.

ROI: The return on investment in Catholic education encompasses a wide range of benefits for students, the entire Catholic community, and all of society, including but not limited to greater likelihood students will succeed academically, consider religious vocations, and live lives of service and generosity. (Sources: Coleman, Hoffer, & Kilgore, 1982; Sander, 1996; <https://nrvc.net/>; the Catholic school effect noted by Fr. Ron Nuzzi, ACE Leadership Mentor Workshop, 2005.)

Strong Catholic Families: A National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry initiative designed for “changing the way faith communities partner with parents so that the Catholic faith can be more effectively passed on to the next generation of disciples.” It aims to “motivate parents to embrace the responsibility for the faith growth of their children and family as a domestic church and motivate parishes/schools to support and equip parents and families in passing the faith onto their children and deepening the practice of faith within their homes.” (Source: strongcatholicfamilies.org/about.htm)

Total stewardship: The commitment to living a lifestyle consistent with the U.S. Bishops’ definition of a Christian steward: “One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with all, and returns them with increase to the Lord.”

W.I.N.G.S. satellite model: An acronym for World knowledge; Individualized, innovative education; Nurturing, family environment; God-centered; and Supportive technology, the W.I.N.G.S. satellite model involves small schools that have been virtually consolidated under one administration with many shared services. They feature one-to-one computing and blended learning in classrooms of students of multiple grade levels. These students work with their teacher through an individualized workshop model that allows students to advance through much of the core content at a personalized pace. Introduced in 2011, this model unites St. Catherine in Ravenna and St. Joseph in Wright as Divine Providence Academy. (Source: http://www.stcatherineravenna.org/uploads/6/7/3/7/6737181/wings_presentation_9-28-11.pdf)