

2010-2015

St. George Parish School



Icon of St. George by Sr. Marie Fitzpatrick

Five Year Plan



“If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.” -

Mahatma Gandhi



St George Parish Church

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St. George Parish School

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A letter from The Pastor

Welcome to St. George Parish School. We are a school community dedicated to passing on to each new generation our Catholic faith and values in an exemplary academic setting. Catholic schools were first established in the United States for the primary purpose of educating our children about our faith. This emphasis on our faith and the moral teachings that flow from it provide the framework for the education provided at St. George. During your time at St. George, you will be invited to experience more deeply the mystery of our faith and be given the opportunity to grow closer to God and one another. You will be asked to share your unique gifts and talents with the entire community family of St. George.

St. George Parish School's five year plan outlines the school's vision of educating children in the faith of our Church while providing a robust academic foundation. As St. George looks toward the future, our plan identifies the essential elements necessary to fulfill our duty of educating our children. The school's mission statement incorporates the collaborative effort necessary between each family and the St. George community. This is a crucial element in the education of your children. It is also important to emphasize your role as a parent/guardian as the primary educator in the life of your children both in their academics and the practice of their faith.

A good teaching environment begins with you at home. Please consider the importance of the following in your life:

- Attending Church each Sunday to establish a pattern of worship in your family.
- Blessing of food before meals as sign of family gratitude to God.
- Sharing your money and time with the Church so that others might hear and believe.
- Teaching your children how to pray, both memorized prayer and spontaneous prayers to God.
- Caring for your marriage, including respectful communication.
- Example-setting by you, your spouse, and other adults in your family.
- Setting clear expectations for the children in your household.
- Caring for the poor and marginalized in our community as a sign of God's love for all.

The more your child sees these behaviors modeled by you, the more likely your child will acquire Christian habits and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you should find yourself away from the Catholic Church or find yourself without any church, I hope you will contact us so we can assist you.

In the meantime, let us pray for one another and for our children in the coming year. Thank you for choosing St. George Parish School.

Blessings,
Father Felino Paulino, Pastor



Fr. Felino

“The most basic element ... is parental love, which finds fulfillment in the task of education as it completes and perfects its service of life.”-

*Pope John Paul II
Familiaris
Consortio*





"Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire."

-

W. B. Yeats



A letter from the Principal

Since 1921, generations of school families and friends have cherished St. George Parish School. We have faithfully grounded the education in Catholic values as we have developed, revised, revamped and updated the academic programs and materials to keep up with the times. We have painted, upgraded, remodeled and added buildings to the campus. Over the past five years alone, we have added a new pre-school, a gym, laptop computers for the classrooms, interactive whiteboards, and a Spanish program. We have replaced text books and successfully maintained our accreditation. At a time when Catholic Schools are closing at a rate of 200 per year, we have increased our enrollment-- St. George is growing.

St. George Parish School is blessed with a committed and enthusiastic faculty and staff. The teachers themselves have gone back to school, supplementing their own knowledge with innovative ways to educate a diverse student body. They have attended numerous professional development courses this past year (and continue to do so) and are very excited in what they bring back to the students of St. George. The seminars have ranged from teaching life sciences, math, and reading to curriculum development and catechetical instruction. Additionally, the faculty continues to integrate new technologies into the classrooms so that our students are well prepared in their future studies. As principal, I can say that I am enlivened and uplifted with the talented, dedicated, and passionate faculty and staff with whom I have the privilege to work.

These educators are part of the St. George School community along with the diverse student families, the larger St. George Parish, and friends of St. George. This community collaborates to meet the spiritual and academic needs of its remarkable students. We are charged with the mission of ensuring continued growth for St. George Parish School. It is an ongoing journey and one for which we must be well equipped with a long-range vision for our future. This five year plan outlines the specifics of this vision, this on-going journey, as we lay the foundation of strong Catholic values and a robust academic education for children living in an ever changing world.

God Bless,

Bernadette O'Leary

Mission Statement

St. George Parish School is a welcoming, supportive, accessible community of educators and diverse families who come together with a shared sense of purpose and dedication to lead our lives as Jesus did. This vision guides us as we provide our children with strong Catholic values and a robust academic foundation.

Flowing from this mission are these specific goals

The St. George Community Shall:

- Encourage growth among students and faculty by supporting St. George Parish in its role of providing religious education and values to the school community
- Develop social skills through a Christian lifestyle expressing the values of peace, justice, and service.
- Reinforce and support parent's values and goals through communication with students, parents and the Parish.
- Help children realize their own personal dignity and the worth of others by understanding their rights, responsibilities, and how to give and take constructive criticism.
- Teach critical skills for learning and encourage children to reach their highest potential in every aspect of their lives.
- Develop courageous Christian leaders to keep ever before them the hope of a better world.
- Offer our students the education and values necessary to deal with the moral challenges facing society today.

and these services to cultivate a nurturing, welcoming atmosphere for children and be accessible to all regardless of their background or ability to pay the full cost of their education

- Pre-school Program
- Full day Kindergarten
- Extended daycare (before and after school)
- Learning Resource Center
- Counseling referrals
- Tuition assistance
- Study hall

along with these Enrichment Activities to develop skills beyond the academic classroom

- Inter-school athletics through the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)
- Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts
- Student Council
- School Safety Patrol
- Varied arts programs to promote creativity and social development such as:
 - Fine Arts
 - Piano Lessons
 - Foreign Language classes
 - Talent Shows
 - Drama and Musical Performance



“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children.” -

Chief Sitting Bull





Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
Where there is injury,
pardon;
Where there is doubt,
faith;
Where there is despair,
hope;
Where there is darkness,
light;
Where there is sadness,
joy.*

*O divine master,
grant that I may not so
much seek to be consoled
as to console;
To be understood
as to understand;
To be loved
as to love.*

*For it is in giving
that we receive;
It is in pardoning
that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying
that we are born
to eternal life.*

St. George Parish School History



The first Graduating class of St. George

Saint George Parish School is located in South Seattle, on Beacon Hill overlooking the Georgetown neighborhood and Boeing Field. The school was established in 1922 by the Franciscan brotherhood to serve the needs of the immigrant railroad workers.

These immigrant families wanted a religious education

for their children and hoped to protect them from the Great Flu Pandemic, which was raging through the public schools at the time.

The first students came from families with Austrian, French, Irish, Belgian, Italian, Bavarian, Polish, and Mexican origins. Most of their parents were employed by Burlington Northern in the Georgetown rail yard and, later on, many families were also employed at Boeing. As time progressed, the ethnic make up of the parish changed from primarily European immigrants to a community with predominately Asian and Pacific Islander origins. Even though the rail yard is gone and Boeing has dispersed its operations, almost all of our parishioners continue to be employed in service/industrial work.

The first teachers at Saint George were the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They were recruited from Dubuque, Iowa and taught here from 1921 to 1978. Since 1978, a primarily lay faculty and staff have operated the school, overseen by the pastor of St. George Parish.

The most recent change to both the school and the parish is that we are now part of a Tri-Parish cluster. Saint George Parish shares a pastor, personnel, some fundraising events and other resources with St. Edward and St. Paul. We are also part of an organization called the Rainbow Schools, an affiliation of the five inner city parochial schools and six additional, neighboring parishes.

The Development of this Plan

As prayer centers us and focuses us on what is most important as we deal with a hectic world, so should a five year plan. The five year plan should center the St. George Parish School on priorities and progressive development required to continue to provide a quality Catholic education to our children in a changing world.

This five year plan was developed through the St. George Parish School accreditation renewal process. St. George was one of the first Archdiocesan Catholic Schools to be accredited. In 1996, St. George received the full term accreditation by the Northwest Accreditation Commission. In 2009, St. George again successfully renewed that accreditation for a full six year term. Part of this process involved updating the school's mission statement. Additionally, we were asked by the accreditation committee to do a self study; the school was to evaluate itself and its goals for the future. Both committees were opened up to the school and the parish community for participation and the result of was a collaboration among the educators, parents, teachers, and the parish to define what St. George Parish School is now and what it should work toward for the future.

Information received from this process revealed the unique qualities of St. George that provided the foundation for our mission statement. We affirmed that St. George Parish School is a viable school that is doing many things well and continues to strive for excellence in the future. The self study identified five areas that the community of St. George believed were important for continued excellence: Catholic Identity and Community; Faculty and Staff; Academics and Programs; Facilities and Safety; and Development. Each of these domains will be discussed in further detail as they are our strategic roadmap toward St. George's future.



“A vision for the future, a forward-looking plan, emerges when people join as a team to imagine, when leaders invite others to join in creating a shared vision, when multiple perspectives inform decision making to build long-term effectiveness.”-

*Karen Ristau, NCEA
President, 2010*





“I am a Catholic School Teacher, I touch the future eternally.” -

Patricia James Sweeney, S.S.J



Catholic Identity and Community

Part of our mission statement reads, “... **educators and diverse families who come together with a shared sense of purpose and dedication to lead our lives as Jesus did**”. An essential characteristic of how Jesus lived His life on earth was serving others. Whether He was feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, washing the feet of His disciples, or dying on the cross, Jesus served all of humanity. Just as importantly, He was rabbi, or religious teacher, who spread God’s message for all people. Jesus was the consummate model for knowing the Word of God, understanding the Word of God, and authentically living life according to the Word of God--His is the example we strive to emulate.

What St. George Parish School is doing now:

- All children of the school pray daily, attend mass each Thursday, and have Monday morning prayer service
- Daily Religion classes that use textbooks that match the *Archdiocesan School Wide Learning Expectations and Benchmarks in Religion*
- Meet and exceed *Western Catholic Educational Association* standards for religion
- Service projects for each grade level are based upon the seven key themes of Catholic social teachings
- Students make cards of thanks for special events and pray every week in church for the parishioners of St. George for their support of the students and the school
- Weekly, the children donate non perishable food to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry (one of the ministries of St. George Parish)
- Once per month, children of school serve as readers and ushers in a Sunday “Family Mass”
- St. George Parish School students (and alumni) serve as altar servers
- Annually, the students donate back to the Parish
- The students also participate in various services in both the Parish and school such as:
 - Light clean up of church every Thursday
 - Organizing the music and the missal books in the pews
 - Settin gup for various Parish activities (Senior luncheons, funerals, etc.)
 - Inserting flyers into Parish bulletins
 - Cleaning the neighborhood and playground
 - Older students acting as reading buddies for younger students
 - Assisting in caring for kindergarteners
- Members of the School commission participate in meetings of the Joint Pastoral Council for further integration of school and parish



Recommendations

- Further incorporate service projects and key themes of Catholic social teachings in order to impart a meaningful integration of these for each grade level
- Emphasize how the Catholic teachings correlate with specific service projects so students experience putting God's word into action and as a result, they have a more meaningful, personally relevant understanding of what it means to live a Christian lifestyle
- Increase the students' awareness that attendance at Mass is an integral aspect in the whole of their understanding and experience of making God's Word alive in the world
- Strengthen the association of this understanding so that it can be generalized to other situations in the students' lives
- Heighten the understanding that in serving others, the students are connected to the larger parish community and to the larger community of God
- Recognize that while the Catholic teachings are timeless, the explanations of how they apply to current situation must be updated to keep pace with an ever changing world
- Further integrate students' service projects with those of the ministries in which the Parish is already engaged

Anticipated results of the recommendations

Students will have an in depth understanding of their Catholic identity and be able to independently apply their learning and values in any number of varying situations in today's world. They will utilize their academic education in moral and ethical ways. They will live their lives with love, integrity, acceptance of responsibility, and an understanding of the various blessings they have received in their lives. They will embrace the spirit of stewardship by sharing their time, talent, and treasures with the community as they recognize that they are part of, and connected to, that faith community.



"A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary."-

Thomas Carruthers





“True education is generally the work of skillful teachers. Since the former is a pearl without price [true education], the value of the latter can scarcely be overestimated. Teaching is the art of the interesting, the inspiring.”

Teacher and Teaching by Fr. Richard Tierney, S.J.(p27)



Faculty and Staff

St. George is blessed with talented and highly qualified faculty and staff who are focused on the students and committed to the mission of the school. They partner with the parents to provide the **“children with strong Catholic values and a robust academic foundation.”** The faculty and staff inspire and support one another, work to meet the needs of a diverse student body, and help students reach their full potential.

The teachers set high standards for their students and themselves. They strive for excellence, taking advantage of opportunities for professional development and new instructional methodologies to enhance student learning. Teachers attend in-services training and seminars on teaching life science, math and reading, formative assessment, differentiation, catechetical certification, curriculum and instruction classes and technology integration. All of their efforts are for the direct benefit of the students of St. George.

What we have now:

- Highly-qualified, WA state-certified teachers in grades pre-K – 8
- A faculty that is eager to research, analyze student performance data and apply best instructional practices
- Assistant teachers in preschool and kindergarten
- A P.E teacher
- A Part-time Spanish, music and art teachers
- A Librarian
- Two part-time tutors for reading and math
- A Part-time advanced math teacher
- Full and part time support staff
- Tutors from the Children’s Literacy Program at Seattle University
- Opportunities through St. George and Title Funds for professional development
- Teacher salaries based on 90% of the 2009-2010 Washington Public School salary scale
- Teachers who volunteer to take after-school study hall
- Before and after-school part-time staff



As we go forward, we must continue to retain and attract talented, qualified, and dedicated teachers who receive competitive salaries and opportunities for professional development. We must also increase the number of classrooms with teachers' assistants, while maintaining affordable tuition for our families.

Recommendations:

- Bring salaries to 95% of the current state salary schedule
- Provide incentives to retain the exceptional faculty and staff at St. George School and attract quality teachers as needed
- Continue to provide faculty and staff development programs
- Explore ways to increase the number of faculty and programs that meet the needs of individual students with learning differences, including both advanced students and those with learning difficulties.
- Pursue a partnership with teacher training programs and have interns in the classrooms
- Increase the number of assistant teachers
- Explore the possibility of having a full-time teacher for Spanish
- Explore the possibility of having Mandarin Chinese as part of the school day
- Increase the budget for fine arts faculty
- Explore the possibility of increasing the staff at the after-school program to allow the development of more options for after-school students.

Anticipated Results:

A highly qualified, competitively salaried faculty and staff, supported by tutors and teaching assistants, dedicated to provide each student the opportunity to reach his or her full potential and to access a breadth of educational experiences.



“A teacher effects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” -

Henry Adams





“It is not the actual physical exertion that counts toward a man's progress, nor the nature of the task, but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken.” -

St. Francis Xavier



Academics and Programs

The school provides a challenging, comprehensive and relevant curriculum for each student. The administration, faculty, and staff, in partnership with the parents, are deeply committed to the school's philosophy and mission. They lead by fostering students' spiritual and academic growth through their example as devoted Catholics.

Our School-wide Learning Expectations provide the framework for our curriculum and instruction. Our program strengthens Catholic identity by infusing Catholic values and traditions throughout the core curriculum and extra-curricular activities on a daily basis. Students participate in service projects, social justice activities and a strong sports program.

The curriculum adheres to the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements, the Archdiocese of Seattle's Curriculum Framework and our St. George School-wide Learning Expectations. A majority of our graduates are accepted in the Catholic high school of their choice and many of them take honors classes.

As we proceed with the goals of our most recent self-study, we are reviewing and mapping each area of the curriculum to ensure that it supports high achievement by all students.

What we have now:

- Strong faith formation and academic programs based on Archdiocesan standards for students in grades pre-K through 8th grade
- Catholic identity is integrated in all subjects throughout the day
- The mapping of the social studies is completed and science and math are underway
- Ongoing evaluation of the report card to ensure that it clearly explains progress towards the achievement of standards and the School wide Learning Expectations
- Teachers who have received training in Differentiated Instruction and who are willing to enhance the curriculum for individual students
- Opportunities for advanced math in the junior high and primary grades
- Title I help for students who have learning challenges
- Spanish language classes for grades 1,2,3,4,6,7,8



What we have now (cont):

- A wide range of field trips throughout the grades
- Hands-on science at the lab
- Music and art programs
- Technology integrated with instruction
- Twenty-seven laptops for student use, plus a computer lab
- After-school study hall for students in grades 3 – 8
- Online student management system with grading facilities
- Participation in CYO soccer, basketball, volleyball and track and field

Recommendations:

- Enhance the service curriculum, integrate it and map it for each grade based on the Seven Principles of Social Justice
- Add programming to meet more of the needs of our diverse learners
- Enhance the music program with opportunities for band, instrumentation, and/or choir
- Develop a middle school elective program to include speech and drama, fine arts, technology
- Add a teacher/trainer for technology or an on-site tech coordinator
- Add more typing classes
- Provide professional development to help teachers keep pace with technological changes in order to enhance classroom instruction and student achievement
- Continue to provide constant communication with parents from each classroom and begin online reporting of grades for students in grades 5- 8
- Full-time foreign language program(s)

Anticipated results

The ultimate goal is to build a continuum of learning that is relevant and makes sense for all students – one that builds upon itself to allow all students to achieve and a curriculum that is enriched through a variety of instructional supports and co-curricular programs.



*“St. George
rocks!” -*

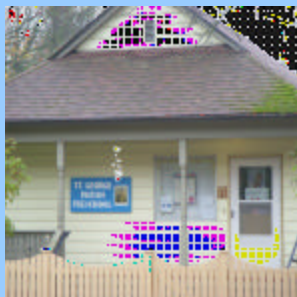
*St. George first-
grader*





“The most effective kind of education is that a child should play amongst lovely things.” -

Plato



Facilities and Safety

The St. George Parish School is a campus of four buildings, one portable, and a large play area that serve the needs of our students. The main building has been seismically upgraded in the past few years so that it is up to standards in case of an earthquake. The new gymnasium, *The Miracle Gym*, is adjacent to the main building. Across from the main building is the converted convent housing the library, the kindergarten, and the science lab. Near the main building, the portable is utilized for the before and after school programs as well as other school related classes. The pre-school building is 1 ½ blocks away, situated on the grounds of the church.

What we have now:

- **Facilities**
 - The main building houses offices, grades 1 -8, an auditorium, and a commercial grade kitchen
 - The new gymnasium serves the needs of St. George students, the other Tri-Parish Schools, and serves as the venue of various sporting events through the larger CYO as well as other activities
 - The converted building that holds the library, kindergarten, and science lab
 - A portable building that is utilized for the before and after school program and other school classes during the school day
 - A remodeled house on the church ground that is the site for the pre-school
 - A large play area that has a “Big Toy”, basketball hoops, and a large grassy area
- **Safety**
 - Main building doors are locked during school hours with the only access being the central door that opens directly opposite the main office and is easily monitored by office staff
 - Gymnasium, portable, and large play area of the main campus is completely fenced with gates that are locked and/or monitored by faculty/staff



What we have now:

- **Safety (cont.)**

- The doors to the library, kindergarten, and science lab building are locked during school hours and the yard of this building is completely fenced
- Maps and instructions are available to parents/guardians for safely dropping off and picking up children at school
- Students line up on school grounds prior to entering the school for the beginning of the school day and are monitored
- Students in safety patrol regulate children who cross the nearby streets before and after school
- Faculty/staff/volunteers working with children must satisfy the Archdiocesan "Safe Environment" program requirements

Recommendations:

- **Facilities**

- Increased landscaping improvements around the main campus and play area
- A running track around the play area
- Enhancement of the kindergarten play area
- New sound system and stage lighting in auditorium

- **Safety**

- Work with city to get a crosswalk directly from the kindergarten to the gymnasium
- Further work on traffic patterns before and after school as children are dropped off or picked up
- Possible removable speed bumps to regulate speed of vehicles passing through the area

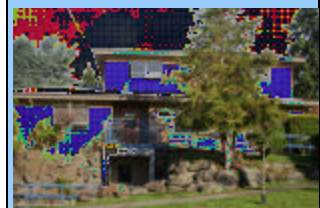
Anticipated results

The ultimate goal of these recommendations is to enhance the educational environment for the students at St. George as well as provide a safe learning environment.



*"Hope sends us
dancing around
the dark corners
trusting in a
common tomorrow
we cannot see."*

*Joan Chittister,
OSB*



Development



Jog A Thon

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”-

1 Peter 4:10



Halloween Carnival

Our mission statement declares that we are “***a welcoming, supportive, accessible community...***” That includes being accessible to families regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, special education needs, physical challenges or social economic status. Though costs have risen and the recent economic downturn has been challenging, our commitment to providing Catholic education to students regardless of the families’ financial ability has remained constant.

What we have in place now for finance

Income generated by tuition and fees covers about 64% of the school’s operating expenses. The remainder comes from subsidies, fundraising and grants. We are very blessed to receive annually:

- A subsidy from St. George Parish
- Subsidies from the Rainbow Parishes: St. James, St. Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mount Virgin, St. Patrick, St. Peter, Church of Vietnamese Martyrs
- Donations and gifts from parishioners, friends and families
- Fundraising commitments (Jog-a-thon, Candy Sale, Auction) from families and friends
- Contract and PTA fundraising
- St. George School Foundation Income
- South Seattle Catholic Schools donation
- Sue Byrd Foundation income
- Fulcrum Foundation (Schools in Need grant)
- Fulcrum Foundation (Tuition Assistance)
- Grants from other foundations.

What we now have in place to market the school and increase enrollment

- Annual presence at the Cathedral and some of the Rainbow parishes
- Newsletters during enrollment months
- Open houses and Tuesday visiting days
- Witness speaker for Catholic School Week Mass
- Advertising within the parish
- Tri – school marketing – St. George has a presence in the Progress
- Tri-school direct mail advertising
- An effective school web -site



Recommendations:

Hire a development director who will manage a team of volunteers for finance and marketing.

Finance

- Create a committee to strategize and implement ways to significantly reduce the debt associated with the Miracle Gym
- Cultivate and solicit new donors and engage the current donors by inviting them to attend school events and volunteer at school activities
- Communicate frequently with alumni and potential donors through newsletters and gatherings and by upgrading and maintaining the alumni data base
- Improve specific programs and increase available financial aid by identifying and writing grants for programs and scholarships
- Leverage and grow the existing resources in the Foundation by developing an Annual Fund
- Direct Donor events
- Write Grant applications
- Publish the Annual Report
- Manage the Endowment Fund

Marketing

- Celebrate successes and recruit new students by promoting St. George in the parish and Rainbow Parishes
- Create a separate recruitment committee
- Write press releases
- Make presentations at the Rainbow Parishes
- Communicate with families

Anticipated results

As we go forward, our goals are to maintain an optimal student enrollment base and to build a donor development program, both of which will ensure viability of the school and continued accessibility for families.



Leveraging Support for Catholic Schools
in the Archdiocese of Seattle

*“Children are the
hands by which we
take hold of
heaven.” -*

*Henry Ward
Beecher*



Harvest Bazaar



*On the way of wisdom
I direct you
I lead you on
straightforward paths.
When you walk, your
step will not be impeded
and should you run,
you will not stumble.
Hold fast to instruction,
never let her go;
keep her,
for she is your life. -*

Proverbs 4:11-13



In Conclusion

St. George Parish School is a community comprised of diverse families, educators, and parish members who form a cooperative partnership to help meet the spiritual and academic needs of our students. There is a commitment and dedication of those involved to follow the example that Jesus set as we face the challenges of educating our children. The process of developing the mission statement highlighted this commitment and revealed St. George to be a viable school that is well preparing its students for the future. This assertion is validated by the high percentage of graduating students getting into the excellent Catholic high schools in the area. It is also supported by the renewal of the school's full accreditation through the Northwest Accreditation Commission. However, St. George Parish School cannot just stand still; in an ever changing world, standing still means moving backward. We must look toward the future and respond to it. That is why it is imperative to have a road map, through this five year plan.

The St. George community came together, in their dedication to Catholic education, to provide input for this plan. The areas highlighted were the areas that were found most important as St. George looks toward the future: Catholic Identity and Community; Faculty and Staff; Academics and Programs; Facilities and Safety; and Development. The school commission recognized that in some of the areas, St. George was already performing quite well, being strengths of the school (Catholic Identity and Community; Faculty and Staff; Academics and Programs). However, we must continue to strive forward. Other areas show need of improvement (Development) that could further help advance the mission of the St. George.

Implementing this five year plan, with its five domains of noted importance and associated goals, will ensure that St. George Parish school continues to provide a vigorous Catholic Education that well prepares our children both now and in the future. This five year plan will focus us as we continually strive for excellence, toward the example Jesus set.

A Special Thank You



One of the prayers that we frequently begin our School Commission meetings with is a prayer by St. Teresa of Avila;

**“Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion
is to look out to the earth,
yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good
and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now.”**

I like to start our meetings with this particular prayer for two reasons. It highlights that Jesus is the source of compassion and the “good” which we do. Secondly, it charges us to prepare ourselves so that Jesus can act through us, reminding us that we have the responsibility to carry forth and model Jesus’ compassion and good works as we make decisions concerning our children.

I am truly blessed to be surrounded by many sets of helpful “hands”. I am so grateful to Fr. Felino for his servant leadership. The faculty and staff model stewardship daily, volunteering time beyond the school day to supervise study hall, attend CYO games and support PTA events. I thank St. George Parish members for their generous support of our school ministry and the parents and students for their partnership. I am also deeply indebted to the members of the School Commission who spent many, many hours listening, discerning and discussing our next five years. This plan emerged as our whole community came together to dream and imagine how we could fulfill our mission. I am especially grateful to Eric King, Chairperson of the School Commission, director of our planning team, author-in chief and graphic editor of this publication. With our shared sense of purpose, we will continue to provide the students of St. George with strong Catholic values and a robust academic foundation.



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