



School Study Timeline

Spring 2008 - Consultants visit schools and meet with pastors and school administrators.

Summer 2008 - Research community demographics and analyze school trends.

Fall 2008 - Spring 2009 - Consultants meet seven times with advisory groups, conduct two focus groups, and refine strategic direction.

School Study Goals

A successful effort will lead to the long-term vitality and viability of our Catholic schools. The ultimate goal is to ensure that schools are:

- distinctly Catholic
- academically excellent
- fiscally stable

October 2008

Strategic Planning for Catholic Schools

Catholic Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FINN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Generation after generation, our Catholic schools have earned a reputation for academic excellence for all. Consistently, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) confirms that our students outperform their public school counterparts on standardized tests of achievement.

Last year, 100% of our seniors met all of the academic requirements and earned diplomas. By commencement day, 99% had confirmed plans for college or university. Across the nation, the NCEA reports that our Catholic high schools prepared and sent 97% of the graduates of 2008 on to college.

The seeds of excellence are sown early through age-appropriate early childhood programs and elementary schools sponsored by our parishes. We must ensure that this reputation is deserved. For this reason, our

strategic planning effort not only focuses on the Catholic identity and fiscal stability of our schools but also on sustaining verifiable outcomes of excellence.

Along with competent leadership at each school and center, our Catholic Schools Office plays an integral role in maintaining our standards of achievement. As a diocese, we are intent on developing a plan to continue our Catholic education ministry into the future. Pray for wisdom to guide us as we plan for distinctly Catholic, academically excellent and fiscally stable Catholic schools.

In Christ and Mary,

Most Reverend Robert W. Finn
Bishop of Kansas City - St. Joseph



Catholic Schools for the Third Millennium Must Be...

Distinctly Catholic • Academically Excellent • Fiscally Stable

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT"

- Each school offers a superior and comprehensive program that equips students to achieve their potential and become faith-filled and responsible members of the Church and society.
- Every school is fully accredited by 2012 and recognized as an academically excellent institution with a challenging, rigorous curriculum. Teachers employ differentiated instruction and a variety of strategies and creative methods to meet the learning needs of students. Outcomes are confirmed by objective measures of student growth.
- Graduates have acquired an appreciation for life-long learning and possess the skills necessary for critical thinking, moral decision-making and team work.
- Up-to-date technology and resources are employed by teachers to enhance teaching and learning.
- Each school has a strategic plan in place. Updated regularly, plans reflect a commitment to continuous improvement.
- Each school has an effective school board. Members have the necessary expertise and training to provide leadership and support for the school and school administration.

Our Schools Measure Up

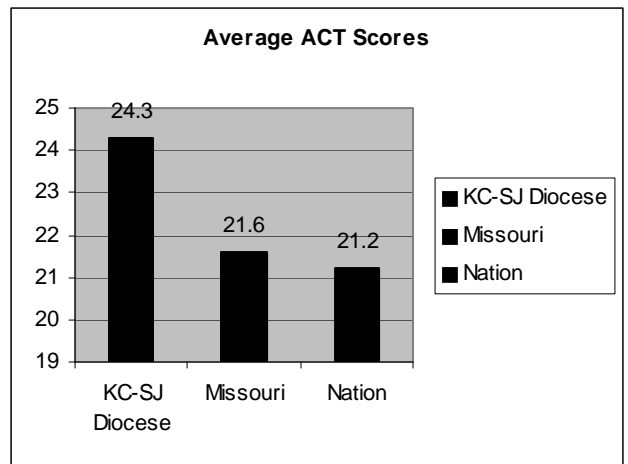
Based on successful planning efforts in the Northland and Northeast Deaneries, the diocese selected Meitler Consultants to guide the planning for Catholic schools.

Last spring,, Meitler staff visited every school in the diocese.

"We saw strong evidence of student achievement, observed interactive teaching and learning, and met many dedicated, enthusiastic teachers," said Sister Mary Ann Heenan, CSJ.



"Your schools are blessed with highly qualified teachers, with 33 percent having advanced degrees," said Sister Heenan. "The diocese should take pride that its 4th and 6th grade students scored well above grade level in every area tested by the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills," she said.



I.T.B.S. OUTCOMES

