

# "Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future."

Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Strategic Growth Planning Process

## Communication Update - May 2023



The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office launched its Strategic Growth Planning Process, *Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future.*, at the beginning of April.

In order to make sure all of our stakeholders remain fully informed about this initiative, we will be providing ongoing communication updates directly to our Catholic School families through email and providing updates to the rest of our Diocesan community via *The Catholic Light* newspaper and Diocese of Scranton website.

### WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE THIS MONTH IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

With the help of the Meitler team, which is serving as one of our partners in this process, we held introductory "kickoff meetings" with school principals, clergy and members of the Diocesan Steering Committee and Planning Task Force. These meetings helped to explain the strategic growth process objectives, planning steps, timeframes and more.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Superintendent, set the tone for these meetings emphasizing the overall goal is to help ensure Catholic education is affordable and accessible for a new generation of students in the decades ahead.

At the kickoff meetings, each group reflected on the following three questions relating to the strategic planning process:

- *What expectations do you have of the planning process? What do you hope will be the result(s)?*
- *What are the key issues and challenges that need to be addressed through the strategic planning process?*
- *What is your vision for Catholic school education in the Diocese of Scranton for the long-term future?*

Input from principals, clergy and steering and planning committee members included, but was not limited to:



- Providing students and staff with the safest learning environment possible
- Strengthening Catholic Identity while focusing on each student's opportunity to grow to his/her God-given potential
- Making Catholic Schools centers of evangelization to help families and all of the faithful come to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Monitoring academic growth through regular use of various assessments and data to provide responsive and appropriately rigorous, differentiated instruction
- Continuing to make Catholic education affordable and accessible to new generations of students
- Trusting that the strategic growth planning process will give everyone a voice in shaping the future of Catholic School education throughout the Diocese of Scranton
- Providing financial stability for each school by addressing aging infrastructure, recruiting and retaining dedicated teachers and administrators, all while staying competitive within the local educational markets
- Creating engaging opportunities with alumni to garner their participation in each school's future growth
- Better succession planning for each school and the Diocesan school system overall
- Doing a better job marketing the strengths of the Catholic School System: evangelization and academic excellence

### WHAT COMES NEXT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

The planning process will begin with the collection and analysis of community and Catholic demographics, school enrollment trends, staffing information and school financial information. Site visits to each school will be planned for the fall to help members of the Meitler team understand the unique experience of each school.

We ask for your prayerful and cooperative support as we look towards the future with great hope. We promise to keep you informed on the progress of the planning process throughout the next several months and how you will be able to participate.