

# Mission and Catholic Identity

## Standard 1

**An excellent Catholic school is guided and driven by a clearly communicated mission that embraces a Catholic identity rooted in gospel values, centered on the Eucharist, and committed to faith formation, academic excellence and service.**

### Narrative Summary

The mission statement of St. George Catholic School is as follows: St. George Catholic School is a Christ-centered, family-oriented community, with a history and tradition of excellence. Gospel values are integrated with academics within a progressive curriculum, promoting faith development through liturgy, prayer, and service.

In support of this mission statement, St. George Catholic School is committed to: building a spirit of cooperation among parents, students, faculty and staff; furthering Gospel values through liturgy, prayer, and service; providing a progressive curriculum that integrates faith and academics; and encouraging individual success by challenging the students to create their own positive direction.

### Commendations

The St. George Catholic School mission statement contains language that unmistakably identifies the school as a Catholic institution. According to the April 2013 AdvancEd Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness Survey, over 90% of faculty and students

agree that the mission statement clearly expresses a commitment to our Catholic Identity. The St. George Catholic School mission statement was fully revised 6 years ago and is reviewed yearly. Four years ago Catholic was added to St. George School to make it St. George Catholic School. It was also determined at this time that Christ-like would be the first of several adjectives used to describe St. George Catholic School. The St. George Catholic School mission statement is visible in public places such as the school buildings and classrooms. It is included in all official documents, such as, student and faculty handbooks, report cards, student applications, advertisements, brochures and on the school website.

The school administration uses the St. George Catholic School mission statement to guide the creation, revision or implementation of school policies and procedures. It is referenced by the administration and other governing bodies as the foundation for all planning. As is evidenced in the April 2013 AdvancEd Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness Survey, over 85% percent of St. George Catholic School faculty agree that everything we do is guided and directed by our mission. An average of 85% of students, according to the April 2013 NSECD Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness Survey feel that everyone in the school community – the principal, teachers and staff, students, parents/guardians, alums, knows and understands the school’s mission.

## **Recommendations**

As shown in the AdvancEd Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Survey, April 2013, 59% of St. George Catholic School students agree that the school mission affects everything St. George Catholic School does. There is disconnect between what the St. George Catholic School staff perceive versus students regarding the role of the mission statement and this will be carefully evaluated and addressed. This evaluation will be done in order to improve the understanding that the mission of St. George Catholic School truly affects every aspect of its daily functioning.

The St. George Catholic School leadership team plans to clearly outline a procedure for the process of reviewing, editing, and/or renewing the St. George Catholic School mission statement. The process will include representation from all of the various school constituencies including but not limited to pastor, administration, faculty, staff, teaching

assistants, students, alumnae, church members, school leadership team, and any other stakeholders of the St. George Catholic School community.

In the April 2013 AdvancEd Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Survey, 73 % of students feel that everyone in the school community – the principal, teachers and staff, students, parents/guardians, alums, knows and understands the school’s mission. Therefore the leadership team will implement strategies to increase student and stakeholder understanding and knowledge of the St. George Catholic School mission statement. Suggested strategies may include, but are not limited to, reciting the mission statement each day at assembly, reading and/or reciting the mission statement before all meetings, discussing the meaning of the mission statement in classes, making the mission statement more prominent on the school website and including the mission statement in classroom management plans and on all teacher correspondences.

## **Rating of Standard**

Based upon the evidence, benchmark worksheets and recommendations for Mission and Catholic Identity Standard 1, St. George Catholic School awards our school a score of 3.