

Dear St. Ignatius Community Members,

As you are aware, St. Ignatius Parish School recently completed the self-study process for Catholic Elementary Schools using the protocol found in the document for “Improving Student Learning” for the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) and Accreditation Commission for Schools (WASC).

The Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) is a private agency established under the auspices of the Bishops of the Catholic dioceses of California for the purpose of school improvement and accreditation. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), is a regional non-governmental group that the U.S. Department of Education recognizes as an accrediting agency for schools, provides institutional accreditation of private elementary schools, private high schools, and post secondary schools.

The accreditation process is a periodic cycle of assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring, and reassessment. A school is typically visited every six years. Starting eighteen months prior to the visit, the school performs a thorough review of its Mission, Philosophy, and Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLE’s) and begins the formal process that assesses the existing student programs and plans for the future improvement of student learning. The outcome of this Self-Study process is the development of a 3-4 year Action Plan focused on Improved Student learning.

Our Visiting team was chaired by a principal from the Diocese of Santa Rosa and the team members were principals and teachers from the Diocese of Sacramento with a local charter school principal serving as the WASC representative. From Oct. 20-22, 2021, the Visiting team spent time in each classroom, with our parents, our pastor, Father Tom Lucas, our students, faculty, and staff to interview, observe and then verify the information and find evidence that what we wrote and provided in our self-study was true and factual.

Next, the Visiting team used a rubric to rate the Accreditation factors you see below:

- Highly Effective
- Effective
- Somewhat Effective
- Ineffective

The twelve accreditation factors that are measured.

**Factor 1:** Involvement and Collaboration of Shareholders in Completing the Self Study

**Factor 2:** Use of Prior Accreditation finds to Support High Achievement of All Students

**Factor 3:** Assessment of the School's Catholic Identity

**Factor 4:** School’s Purpose

**Factor 5:** Organization for Student Learning to Support High Achievement of All Students

**Factor 6:** Data Analysis and Action to Support High Achievement of All Students

**Factor 7:** High Achievement By All Students Toward Clearly Defined SLE’s and Curriculum Standards

**Factor 8:** Instructional Methodology to Support High Achievement of All Students

**Factor 9:** Support for Student Spiritual, Personal, and Academic Growth

**Factor 10:** Resource Management and Development to Support High Achievement of All Students

**Factor 11:** Design and Alignment of the Action Plan with Self-Study Findings

**Factor 12:** Capacity to Implement and Monitor the Action Plan

On the third day of the visit, the Accreditation team meets with the entire Faculty and Staff to present their decision as well as in a published document titled, “Report of Findings.” **I am very pleased and proud to share that the team rated St. Ignatius Parish School Highly Effective in eleven of the twelve accreditation factors.** We were rated Effective for factor #4, where we ourselves identified room for growth in

creating an assessment for our newly adopted Schoolwide Learning Expectations. In addition, the Visiting team commended the school with the following accomplishments:

Schoolwide Significant Accomplishments (the 8 most significant by the Visiting Team)

1. The school's Jesuit identity is clearly evident and highly valued.
2. The school's purpose is clearly defined in the mission statement, philosophy, and Schoolwide Learning Expectations, and Ignatian Virtue Program.
3. Students demonstrate a high level of achievement of challenging and comprehensive curriculum standards.
4. Technology is fully embedded in the teaching/learning process cross-curricular throughout grade levels.
5. Increased access to the Education Achievement Specialist supports the instructional process.
6. A variety of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs meet the needs of students at all levels of achievement.
7. There are improved safety procedures and increased campus security.
8. The creation of the Director of Ignatian Formation position and the implementation of the Ignatian Virtue program.

The next step is for our Catholic School Advisory Commission and our faculty/staff to begin work on our Action Plan by using these identified critical goals.

1. The school will have a plan to support students with mental health challenges.
2. The school will effectively validate student progress toward the Schoolwide Learning Expectations using comprehensive assessment plan with clear, measurable indicators.
3. The Ignatian virtues will be a fundamental part of the school's purpose along with Mission Statement and Schoolwide Learning Expectations.
4. The teacher/learning process will continue to be supported with current, high quality instructional materials and technologies.
5. Decisions will be guided by a written Strategic Plan.

As we have shared, this process can be daunting, but it is always rewarding. We are all so incredibly blessed to have such an outstanding faculty and staff. They always have your child's faith and academic development as a priority. Along with that is every child's emotional and social growth. Thank you to all the parents that supported and helped us along the way. For those who willingly met with the team. I want to thank our Advisory Council and Parent Club as well. Their leadership has been key to our success. A special thank you to Katrena Paine, who chaired our WASC/WCEA Accreditation. I think she is the best project manager that anyone could ask for. She kept us on track, on schedule, and held each of us accountable throughout the entire process. To Father Mike who was our pastor for most of the six years that this report reflects upon and to our current pastor, Father Tom Lucas for his guidance and support as well. What we are able to accomplish at St. Ignatius is due to the commitment we all have towards our children, Catholic faith, and our Jesuit charism. It is an honor to be part of such an incredible team.