



MARQUETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Stakeholder Summary FY 2020-2021 - Strategic Plan Activities/Progress

Objective 1: Marquette Catholic School will nurture faith in Jesus Christ through the knowledge, teachings, and practice of the Catholic Faith.

Strategy 1: Provide and support opportunities for faith formation and spiritual development for MCS faculty and staff.

Strategy 2: Provide and support opportunities for faith formation and spiritual development for MCS students.

Strategy 3: Strengthen and expand classroom strategies for teaching the Catholic faith.

Activities/Progress

- ✓ Faculty and staff had formation in-services on the power of prayer, identifying and using your God-given gifts, and the Teaching Mass. These were done in-house this year due to COVID.
- ✓ Students, faculty, and staff attended at least one daily mass every week and participated in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- ✓ Faculty and staff were invited to attend parish-sponsored formation events such as the Search, RCIA, Chosen series, Adoration nights, Catholic Speakers such as Mr. Peace, etc.
- ✓ Students signed up to get training to help serve during weekday, weekend, and special masses.
- ✓ Students helped with mass including preparing, serving, reading, singing, praying, etc.
- ✓ Students read daily scripture readings, recited the Rosary, studied saints, listened to religious classical music, and Middle School students covered the Old and New Testaments.
- ✓ Virtues in Practice Program and Virtue Victories were used to study virtues and saints, provided for family engagement, and recognized students for putting virtues into practice.
- ✓ Art and writing projects were provided that supported the Catholic faith.
- ✓ Students prepared and performed two concerts/performances (one virtual; one community-wide in the park) that included traditional and modern Christian music and highlighted choirs and the new band program.
- ✓ Marquette hosted three missionaries from the Teach for Christ program who helped teachers, worked 1:1 with students, shared their faith, facilitated the Aftercare program, and served as witnesses in what it means to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Objective 2: Marquette Catholic School will provide a safe, functional, and welcoming environment for students and staff.

Strategy 1: Maintain physical plant to provide an environment that is conducive to learning.

Strategy 2: Seek out ways to provide additional classroom and meeting spaces for the day-to-day operation of the school.

Strategy 3: Provide a safe environment for students and staff.

Activities/Progress

- ✓ Significant yet balanced COVID-related school health and safety planning and protocols were developed and implemented to promote the health, safety, and well-being of all students and staff.
- ✓ Various sources of grant funding were secured to cover costs related to the pandemic including supplies and equipment to ensure a healthy, clean, and safe environment.
- ✓ A major architectural/engineering feasibility study was conducted on the short- and long-term needs and viability of the school.
- ✓ Three classrooms received new flooring, paint, window coverings, etc.
- ✓ All damages from a major roof leak affecting three floors of the building were repaired.
- ✓ All remaining 2019 Fire Marshal correction order items were addressed and corrected.
- ✓ A new fire alarm system was installed that will increase fire detection and rapid response.
- ✓ ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training was provided and strategies implemented to give students and staff more tools to manage potential critical incidents.
- ✓ Students and staff participated in four fire drills, one tornado drill, and five lockdown drills.
- ✓ A new dedicated fiber line was constructed to provide the school and parish with reliable and accessible high-speed internet.
- ✓ School was completely rewired with high-speed cabling, and 16 wireless access points, new network switches, and a new firewall were installed.
- ✓ All middle school students were provided 1:1 Chromebooks; and all Chromebooks were outfitted with cloud-based licenses for student safety and program administrative purposes.
- ✓ E-Rates program funding was secured to support 50% of the costs for fiber installation, wireless access points, and internet service.
- ✓ The St. Therese room and adjacent kitchenette were reconfigured to accommodate music classes, choir, band lessons, and band ensemble.
- ✓ Marquette continues to require and monitor all volunteers and staff to ensure they are current with Safe Environment training and background checks.

Objective 3: Marquette Catholic School will utilize best practices and established methodologies to optimally meet students' individual learning needs.

Strategy 1: Maintain an ongoing structured curriculum review process based on current Diocesan student learning outcomes.

Strategy 2: Support professional development opportunities to learn the most effective instructional practices that are supported by sound educational data.

Strategy 3: Employ technology to strengthen student engagement and increase efficiency and productivity.

Strategy 4: Marquette Catholic School will employ effective instructional practices to respond to each student's unique learning needs.

Activities/Progress

- ✓ MCS teachers and principal participated in a 28-hour Responsive Classroom training and implemented Responsive Classroom school-wide to promote positive classroom environments and happier and more productive students and teachers.

- ✓ Superkids reading curriculum was launched in kindergarten and was so effective that we purchased Superkids curriculum for grades 1 and 2 to be implemented Fall 2021.
- ✓ School-wide curriculum was inventoried and discussed to determine effectiveness, student and teacher satisfaction, and availability leading to the development of a curriculum plan for instructional planning and budgetary purposes.
- ✓ Four-day school week provided Friday in-service opportunities for teachers and staff to grow professionally and spiritually.
- ✓ Teachers were provided over 50 hours of professional development and training—much of what could be used for CEU's for licensure renewal. These included: Responsive Classroom Elementary Core training; technology trainings related to online tools for lesson planning, grading, reading, and testing; suicide prevention and awareness; social media and anti-bullying; and a variety of health and safety trainings. Faculty and staff also participated in formation, team building, and school planning workshops.
- ✓ Marquette initiated a third-party contract for FACTS to help manage Title funding for MCS rather than the local LEA. This opened doors to more professional development and more efficient purchasing and monitoring of Title funding budgets held at the LEA.
- ✓ Professional books and materials were added to the library of resources for teachers and staff.
- ✓ New FACTS Student Information System and Tuition Management System was launched and used to communicate important information from enrollment to grades, health records, school announcements, calendars, teacher communication, payments, etc. Teachers also used the system to communicate lessons and coursework when students were absent due to quarantine or illness.
- ✓ Dial-up phones were replaced with VoIP internet-based phones, and additional phones were placed in the school.
- ✓ Teachers were able to integrate web-based curriculum into instruction due to the installation of high-speed fiber internet throughout the school.
- ✓ All middle school students were issued a licensed safety-monitored Chromebook which increased opportunities for supplemental instruction and testing.
- ✓ Middle school students were given the opportunity to take the Dave Ramsey Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship course.
- ✓ The school's Title program transitioned from paper-based with limited support from the local LEA to blended instruction with substantial support from FACTS Title.
- ✓ MCS's Technology course was revamped and expanded to include STEM activities.
- ✓ Art and writing projects integrated both Religion and Language Arts curriculum. Work was displayed in the church to be shared with the public.
- ✓ Marquette committed to providing in-house 1:1 tutoring for every struggling student which resulted in significant student progress and success. Much of the individualized tutoring was provided by the three Teach for Christ missionaries we were blessed to have.
- ✓ Partnerships with local public school and Catholic schools in the Diocese led to greater capacity and opportunities for professional development, access to instructional tools and enhanced student learning and safety. (Responsive Classroom, Renaissance 360, ALICE)
- ✓ Middle school students engaged in Lemonade Day, a cross-curricular project that gave students the opportunity to plan, market, and facilitate a community-wide event and raise funds to support the needs of others in the greater community.

Objective 4: Marquette Catholic School will pursue long-term stability and growth.

Strategy 1: Secure the financial stability of Marquette Catholic School to provide for a dynamic and high-quality educational environment.

Strategy 2: Market the Marquette Catholic School to families in our surrounding area.

Strategy 3: Create a competitive compensation and benefit program for the teaching staff.

Strategy 4: Recruit, hire, and develop personnel who are highly qualified and dedicated to the mission of the school and to the students entrusted to their care.

Activities/Progress

- ✓ Substantial funding (over \$200K) was secured through e-Rates, grants, and Covid-related CARES Act funding (ESSER, EANS, DHS, SLC, etc.) to support new technology, safety and health initiatives, and the PreK program.
- ✓ School transitioned from each teacher ordering and stocking excess supplies in their rooms to establishing a room for common supplies which has resulted in cost savings as well as efficiency when teachers need supplies.
- ✓ Marquette initiated its first e-Rates funding requests to support 50% of the costs of installation of fiber internet and 16 wireless access points along with internet connection.
- ✓ Marquette took first place in the Catholic School Raffle raising nearly \$65,000 and receiving an additional \$3000 award for doing so.
- ✓ Community relationships were nurtured to help build awareness and support for the school. The Laurentian Chamber of Commerce offered “Chamber Blasts” to advertise our school and activities. The Mesabi Daily Tribune provided a significant amount of free press covering many of the school’s events and activities. Donors were cultivated and gave significantly to the school over the year. New relationships were also formed with the Cleveland Cliffs Foundation and Shultz Family Foundation which are likely to lead to support in the future.
- ✓ A new teacher salary scale was developed and implemented which will appropriately place teachers in steps according to their affiliated teaching experience. The new scale boosted salaries of most teachers and will be reviewed in a year to determine cost of living increases and if the school can afford the addition of lanes based on education attainment.
- ✓ Several positions were open and filled over the past year. These included teachers for kindergarten, grade 3, and middle school; specialists for PE/Recess and Band; and additional cleaning help.
- ✓ Marquette was blessed to receive three Teach for Christ missionaries who served the school all year in many ways including helping teachers, serving as substitute teachers, tutoring students 1:1, chaperoning field trips, helping with formation activities, and facilitating the Aftercare program.
- ✓ Marquette successfully implemented the 4-day school week, added 7th grade, and stayed in school all year during a pandemic. These activities required substantial planning, preparation, commitment, adjustments, patience, teamwork, and lots of prayer, and Marquette teachers, staff, students, and families delivered! Praise and thanks be to God!

Give
THANKS
to the *Lord*
For He is good; His love endures Forever.
Psalms 136:1