



## MARQUETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### *Stakeholder Summary FY 2023-2024 - 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**

- ✓ A 2-day formation retreat by Steve Angrisano was offered to all school faculty and staff along with parish staff, ACCE Board members, and parish Finance Council members. Nearly all teachers and staff attended. The event was generously funded, in part, by a Duluth Diocese CREED Fund grant submitted by the school.
- ✓ Students, faculty, and staff attended daily mass with their students every day this year at both the elementary and middle school locations.
- ✓ Students participated in the sacraments of the Eucharist weekly and Reconciliation periodically throughout the year (weekly for middle school students).
- ✓ A culture of relentless prayer continued to foster and strengthen in the school, and faculty and staff prayed together and shared stories of faith during in-services and staff meetings.
- ✓ Students in grades 4-8 received training and 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 had weekly religious ed courses led by priests and parish youth and adult ministers.
- ✓ Priests visited elementary classes on teaching about the Catholic faith and rituals.
- ✓ Eighth grade students participated in a Theology of the Body course.
- ✓ Faculty participated in a Diocese-wide book study/discussion on how to implement the Catholic faith into all aspects of school curriculum.
- ✓ The Virtues in Practice Program was used to study virtues and saints and provide family engagement, while Virtue Victories cards recognized students for exercising virtues.
- ✓ Art, writing, and performance-based projects were provided that engaged students in the Catholic faith and were displayed for the community at-large to view.
- ✓ Students prepared and performed two concerts/performances at Christmas and in the spring that included traditional and modern Christian music and highlighted the choir, music, and band programs. The Christmas program celebrated Christ's birth while the spring concert focused on God's creation of the physical world and universe.
- ✓ A Catholic-themed House system continued to establish in building a sense of community and responsibility among Marquette middle school students. Weekly house meetings were held and often included discussions and activities to help students learn and grow in faith.

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**

- ✓ The new school building that was purchased in March of 2023 underwent reconstruction to renovate the south building to accommodate a new elementary school for fall of 2024.
- ✓ The Marquette middle school (grades 5-8) was moved to the north building of the new school campus in the fall to provide more space and build a middle school culture that would differentiate from the elementary school.
- ✓ The old 3<sup>rd</sup> floor middle school location was converted into space for elementary school specialists including music, STEM, library, and art.
- ✓ The new facility renovations will enhance the safety and health of our students through the updated HVAC system with heat, air conditioning, and ventilation; modern plumbing and sufficient restroom facilities; ADA compliance and ease of a single-level structure. Other improvements include energy-efficient lighting, in-room bathrooms in grades PreK-2, and technology upgrades of high-speed internet, new fire alarms, new safety locks and system, and an intercom and bell system that will replace our current archaic dinner bell dismissal.
- ✓ In both facilities, all required emergency equipment checks were done, and professional environmental checks and evaluations were completed.
- ✓ Teachers and staff participated in Blood Borne Pathogens and Right to Know training and maintained certification in CPR and First Aid.
- ✓ Teachers and staff participated in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training to practice strategies for managing potential intruders or critical incidents.
- ✓ Students in both locations practiced safety drills including five lockdowns, five fire drills, a tornado drill, and bus safety for students in grades PreK-6.
- ✓ All volunteers and staff were vetted to ensure they were current with Safe Environment training and passed 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

- ✓ A new math curriculum was implemented to align with the local public school and support a smooth transition for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduating from Marquette.
- ✓ Marquette teachers provided input in the development of new science standards to be implemented in Diocese schools in the fall of 2024.
- ✓ New financial literacy curriculum (Wallet Win) was implemented for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students; and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were, again, able to take introductory courses for Spanish and French.
- ✓ Teachers were provided up to 31 hours of professional development/training including: NWEA Map Assessments, First Aid/CPR, ALICE Lockdowns, Trauma and Student Behavior, Mandatory Reporting, Suicide Prevention, Strategies for Infusing the Catholic Faith into Curriculum, and Professional Roundtables with other Diocesan Teachers. Faculty and staff also had 22 hours of formation through Catechetical Days and the Steve Angrisano retreat.
- ✓ Marquette students are outperforming students in our local LEA, Rock Ridge Public Schools in both reading and math. (See Exhibit A)
- ✓ Marquette's PreK program became star-rated through Parent Aware. In this process, all PreK teachers and aides participated collectively in over 162 hours of annual orientation training and preschool-specific training.
- ✓ Marquette again provided in-house 1:1 tutoring for struggling students which resulted in significant student progress and success.
- ✓ The Check & Connect program was secured for half of the year to offer students extra academic, social, and emotional help and support.
- ✓ Through the support of the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE), teachers received on-site training twice during the school year to grow in being able to read and use standardized MAP test results to influence instruction and individualized student support.
- ✓ The school underwent and completed a technology audit that involved a committee of parish and school staff working with a professional organization to identify technological strengths, weaknesses, needs, and opportunities.
- ✓ Students were introduced to new technology through participating in a project supported by CSCOE that supplied the school with monthly lending library and STEM kits.
- ✓ Two grant-funded part-time interventionist positions were implemented to assist struggling students. After school tutoring was also added for middle school students.

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

- ✓ Marquette's enrollment of 215 students increased by 10 students this year over last year's enrollment of 205 students. Marquette's enrollment has consistently increased every year for the past five years and significantly grown since 2019 when Marquette had an enrollment of only 126 students.
- ✓ The capital campaign continued to raise funds for the new school building purchase and renovations with about \$4.7M of the \$5M project phase (purchase of the building and renovating the south campus) secured through donations and pledges.
- ✓ Over \$105K in grant resources were secured and used to support and enhance the school including resources that contributed to salaries, training, and equipment for the PreK program; tutoring and support services for students; internet connectivity and technology equipment; and teacher/staff retention and recognition.
- ✓ The preschool program also worked to become star-rated which enabled families to be able to apply state need-based scholarships to Marquette's PreK tuition which increased income for the PreK program.
- ✓ Fundraising efforts achieved significant success bringing in nearly \$250K in 2023-24.
- ✓ School endowment funds are at about \$143K.
- ✓ Marquette took first place for the fourth year in a row in the Catholic School Raffle raising over \$83K.
- ✓ Fall and spring open houses were held, and anyone interested in learning about Marquette for their kids/families was invited to attend.
- ✓ A Class Size and Decision-making Policy was developed and implemented to help determine when classes would be capped, split, and/or staffed differently.
- ✓ The school's ACCE Board and parish Finance Council proposed and approved tuition increases for both the PreK and K-8 grades.
- ✓ Several positions were open and filled over the past year. These included teachers for section two of kindergarten, social studies, band, art, music, and library. Two teacher aides, a middle school secretary, and recess and Aftercare aides were also secured.

**Exhibit A: Math and Reading Scores for Marquette and Rock Ridge Public Schools**

