

Catholic Community Members with Experience and Expertise Come Together to Create New Vision and Future for Catholic Schools in Bismarck

The start of the new school year has been very exciting for the Catholic Schools in the Bismarck area. The Vision Statement was completed and published in May. The vision statement is designed to ensure that our Catholic schools continue to provide strong Catholic spirit; educational excellence with a focus on servant leadership; are sustainable well into the future and funded in a manner that makes them available, accessible and affordable to all families who wish to choose them for their children. The vision states that the schools will be jointly operated by the member parishes (currently Ascension, Cathedral, Corpus Christi, St. Anne's and St. Mary's). A unified system of Catholic schools provides many opportunities for us from the efficiency of reducing costs of services, a unified curriculum, enhanced resources to support staff development for our administrators and teachers and the support and direction of an educational leader at the helm of our system. More importantly it will strengthen the already vibrant spirit of our faith community in Bismarck. The entire Vision Statement can be found on the Cathedral website.

The strategic planning committees have been hard at work since August. Members of the Bismarck community, parents, parishioners and alums have been involved in every phase of the process: surveys, interviews, meetings and now, the strategic planning phase. The timeline calls for the strategic planning process to be completed by December 31st. Prior to the finalization of the strategic direction and plan for our schools, the pastors and consultants will be meeting with parish councils, finance committees and school boards to announce the draft plan, receive insights and responses to the draft, revise as needed and seek support to move forward. Although no decisions have been finalized to date, planning areas include: Catholic spirit, academic excellence, leadership, governance, finance and operations, facilities and property, marketing, development and communication, and resources. After the draft goes through review and revision, it will reach the approval stage of the process beginning with pastors and parish finance councils and followed by final approval from the bishop.