

Home and School Meeting  
March 12, 2009 - 7pm

Introduction and Prayer - Father Larry Blake

Reading of Mission Statement.

Begin every meeting with mission statement and prayer.  
All faculty decisions based on mission statement.

Explanation of President/Principal model.

Began with Jesuits  
So successful it permeated Catholic education

Purpose of standardized testing.

Learnia tests math and reading.  
Shows progress toward standards.  
Not complete battery.  
Criterion-referenced test.

Norm-referenced tests provide snapshot of achievement.  
Allow for benchmarking from year to year to year.  
Aligned with National Standards, as is our curriculum.  
Allow for teachers to evaluate curriculum.  
Does not provide apples to apples comparison with Waconia Public.

SAT 10 will be given in Fall to eighth graders.  
Purpose is to look for profiles of students in entire archdiocese.  
Catholic high schools may use results.  
May also give OLSAT - waiting on Archdiocesan decision.

ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) will be given in April to all students, 1 -8th.  
Online data is outstanding tool for teachers for identifying needs of low and high achievers.  
Parent book will accompany results to explain test and results.

CogAT (Cognitive Ability Test) will be given in 3rd, 5th and possibly 7th.

Spanish Curriculum will be vertically aligned with Waconia Public High School and Holy Family Catholic High School. The Middle School program will teach Spanish I. The goal is that students will pass Spanish I and enter Spanish II as Freshmen. Not every child will test out of Spanish I entering high school, because every child learns foreign language at his own pace. The two important factors affecting level of proficiency is conjugation and fluency. Lower grades will be adjusted to meet goal of completing Spanish I in Middle School and will focus on conversation, vocabulary, and writing words and own name.

## Meeting needs of all learners

Strategic Intervention Team will be implemented. This team will process with parents and school professionals to brainstorm strategies to meet enrichment and remediation needs. This will allow a file to be immediately ready for District 110 if more intervention and testing are needed.

## New Math Standards

Our curriculum will reflect new standards so that students will be able to walk into high school and be fully prepared. Mrs. Woodard is still in conversation with Mrs. Issacson towards this end.

## Enrollment

No new student will be turned away until there are 2 full classes at all levels.

## Role of School Board

Every board is advisory to the pastor. Very rarely is a decision from the school board not rubber-stamped by the pastor. If the board has done its job well, its decisions will be followed. The board is a representation of the parents.

## Communication will be in a timely manner (24 - 48 hours).

Mrs. Woodard is reading email constantly. Goal is to be transparent in order to gain trust and tie us together as a community. There are confidentiality issues with regard to staff and students discipline that need to be respected. Building good relationships via meaningful communication will move us forward.

Expressing Concerns - It is important to go the teacher, then Principal, then President when expressing concerns. It is appropriate to copy all on emails, but may only get response from person it is addressed to.

Strategic Plan Progress - Work from Fall is not lost. Board will continue work now that President is hired.

Financial Aid is available. Do not hesitate to ask for help. Making the commitment to tuition is hard, but Catholic education is the best gift you can give your child. Catholic education takes time, treasure, talent, and prayers. Please come forward to register if you need help with fees or tuition.

## Enrollment

We have the earliest commitments to returning, undecided, and not returning students. Reaching out to undecided, not returning, and all those families that left in the last 2 years. We will be focusing on younger families attracting the oldest in the family. Retention is the key - We are all responsible for it. We need to be positive about our school.

## Class Size

We are currently utilizing creative and successful strategies to solve classes that do not support 2 teachers.

We will commit to providing additional staff support to meet educational needs and to lower teacher-student ratio.

Our goal is consistency with class sizes and ratios. We are putting a plan in place that can work for our school year to year.

Be patient as we make decisions, which will reflect Mission Statement and be made in prayer.

Please share all ideas.

## OPEN FORUM - QUESTIONS FROM OUR PARENTS :

### Why ITBS?

data easy to read and manipulate for both parents and teachers.

want to collaborate with high schools and are open to sharing results.

State tests not option because they are not aligned with our curriculum.

### When will enrollment decisions be made?

The goal is May, but no promises.

Making some preliminary decisions. If the enrollment stays down, need to begin process of staff reductions.

### Why are we not giving the MCA's?

### What is the role of the Home and School Association?

Needs a big shot in the arm.

Assist in fundraising.

Support teachers and school.

Community building.

Many testimonials from parents with former St. Joe students at Waconia Public High School:

53% Clearwater students make high school honor roll. 78% St. Joe students make high school honor roll.

High indicator of later success is involvement in extras.

Important to form the whole child, not just academically.

America Reads Tutors (Waconia Public High School students) request to be placed at St. Joe's.

### How are you part of our Catholic identity?

Moved back to the Midwest because our family missed the Catholic culture. This is where we want to raise our family.

Will be looking for how we can promote our Catholic identity in community and parish.

Parents want simple values of treating others with love and kindness as Jesus would stressed.