

Catholic Identity

Introduction

Excellence in education is characterized by having a strong curriculum, student engagement, utilizing quality instructional methods, making good use of data and regular communication with parents and stakeholders. What is at the heart of learning in a Catholic school is the inclusion of faith and Catholic identity in all we do.

Philosophy

Catholic schools have a two-fold charge: providing an education that is academically excellent and one that is deeply rooted in Catholic identity. The challenge, then, is to ensure that the education that is delivered (no matter what the mode of delivery) meets this standard.

Process

1. There is a level of intentionality across all grade levels and all subject matter that course content is intentionally Catholic.
2. When face-to-face instruction is possible, school Masses will require their own protocol that will maintain the appropriate social distancing.
 - o Attendance of parents and general community at the school liturgies may have to be suspended depending on local guidelines. If the Mass is live-streamed, parents and families will be invited to attend.
 - o Because of social distance, part of the school may attend the Mass while the others attend through live streaming. Attendees via the latter will be encouraged to make a spiritual Communion.
3. When it is necessary to deliver remote instruction to all students, we will maintain the emphasis on school liturgy by streaming all school Masses.
4. We will provide opportunities for daily prayer in a community.
5. The prayer of Pope Francis will be included in our daily prayers.
6. We will support and make modifications to other faith-based activities that are important in the life of the school (i.e., retreats, prayer services).
7. We will begin all synchronous video sessions with prayer, including soliciting prayer intentions from students.
8. We will ensure the presence of the pastor in new school configurations.
9. We will promote service learning experiences in virtual spaces.
10. We will maintain Catholic Identity in the school environment.

The Prayer of Pope Francis during the Coronavirus

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (1 Pet 5:7). Ame

