



St Louis Catholic School

Strategic Plan 2016-2021

HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

St. Louis Catholic School opened its doors in September 1963 as the parish school for St. Louis Catholic Church. The school was named for Bishop Louis Reicher, who was Bishop of the Austin Diocese. During its first year, the school housed grades 1-7. Eighth graders attended Reicher Catholic High School until the 1964-65 school year. In 1979, a kindergarten was added. Pre-K 3 and 4 were added in 2007. St. Louis School is known as one of the top private educational institutions in Waco because of its high standards and its ability to educate the whole child - academically, physically and spiritually.

PHILOSOPHY:

St. Louis Catholic School community readily accepts the ministry of Catholic education. We stress the importance of the parents as the primary educators and religious trainers of their children, and we encourage open and friendly communication policy among home, school and parish. We feel the responsibility to integrate the Gospel message, as well as the social teachings of the Catholic Church, in all aspects of school life by upholding, teaching and modeling Christian beliefs, morals and ethics to our students. The faculty and administration strive to create a family-like atmosphere that fosters the respect and dignity of each person. We recognize the unique needs, abilities, and gifts of each student and endeavor to help all students achieve to the best of their ability. The philosophy of St. Louis Catholic School takes into account the whole child by addressing the spiritual, intellectual, psychological, sociological and physical formation of each child. The school's goals in these areas are:

Spiritual – to nurture a personal relationship with God and to help mold a Christian person, in the Catholic tradition, who will live out Gospel values despite our changing society. While our focus is unashamedly Catholic, we are respectful of the faith development of non-Catholic persons in our school community.

Intellectual – to help our students develop a positive self-image.

Psychological - to help our students develop a positive self-image in relation to themselves and to the community around them.

Sociological – to help our students develop and maintain Christian attitudes toward their friends, families and all people. We try to foster social awareness, compassion and a responsible involvement in the world.

Physical - to assist our students in developing a wholesome attitude toward their bodies through physical training and education in order to foster and maintain mental and physical well-being.

VISION STATEMENT:

As a family of faith inspired by Christ, St. Louis Catholic School strives to prepare today's students for enriched and productive lives by fostering personal excellence in faith, mind and body emphasizing the Catholic Tradition and a lifetime of learning

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of St. Louis Catholic School combines its history and philosophy. The mission statement is stated as follows: Christ is our model. St. Louis Catholic School is dedicated to the formation of children in Faith, Mind and Body by fostering personal excellence within the Catholic tradition.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY:

St. Louis Catholic School has at its very core a strong Catholic Identity. Weekly Mass brings students together in worship and offers an opportunity for them to actively participate in their faith as lectors, altar servers, cantors and ushers. We will continue to implement Grade level retreats at each grade level. [Completed School Year 2014](#). The time provided to the students for Adoration during the Liturgical Seasons of Advent and Lent, in our new chapel, will continue to afford the students special prayer time in addition to Mass and regular daily prayer. [Completed School Year 2016 and ongoing](#). Service projects now chosen for each grade level bring the issues of Catholic Social Teaching to the attention of the students at a developmentally appropriate level. [Completed School Year 2016 and now ongoing](#). In addition to the Grade Level service projects, a school wide service project brings the chance for us all to work together as a school family toward a common goal of reaching out into the greater community.

THE CONSTITUENCIES AND GOVERNANCE OF ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

St. Louis Catholic School is blessed to enjoy ardent support from St. Louis Catholic Church Parish community. These supporters have seen their children and grandchildren reap the benefits of a program that is known for its consistent success and positive contributions to the education of its students. St.

Louis is regularly sought out by a wide demographic array of families who are seeking the benefits it offers in preference to other public and private schools. This preference of families is evidenced by the fact that St. Louis Catholic School has been voted the Best Private Elementary School in Waco for the past several years in a row.

The Pastor of St. Louis, St. Louis Administration and the School Advisory Board, St. Louis Parents Association, St. Louis faculty and staff are engaged in meaningful dialogue which elicits the type and quality of information that is needed for broad, sound and engaged governance and a focused five year strategic plan.

THE FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

This five year plan of St. Louis Catholic School sets forth focused, defined goals and aspirations of educating the whole child in a prayerful effort to continue building the kingdom of God in the community of Waco.

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT:

We must further develop a salary and benefit structure that allows St. Louis Catholic School to retain its exceptional teachers and attract qualified new teachers. Although we just this year added a retirement option for teachers, there still exists a great disparity between the salaries and benefits offered by the surrounding public school districts. While compensation levels are not the principal reason teachers have chosen to teach at St. Louis, we must be good stewards of our resources and an example of social justice in the areas of both compensation and maintaining a competitive tuition structure.

The continuance of a pull out program and referral to counseling programs with certified individuals who can meet the needs of these students is an imperative part of fully serving the children and parents. While referrals' to credentialed individuals who can assist are made frequently, and would continue to be made when appropriate, keeps us in line with our mission if we as fully as possible serve our students and families in the area of counseling and academic needs.

We will maintain an annual faculty and staff retreat for the purpose of fellowship and spiritual renewal.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:

We will maintain the adoption cycle of approved textbooks to assure that the curriculum remains academically challenging and fully in concert with the established TEKS requirements.

We will seek to integrate a reading enrichment program to meet the needs of the variety of academic achievement levels represented in each classroom.

We will continue to encourage teachers to attend and transfer to the classroom professional development into their respective classrooms. We will seek financial use of Title Funds available when possible and underwrite in-house when possible to provide teachers with the classroom skills they need to deliver the most effective instruction.

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Marketing our school and the excellence of our teachers and the education St. Louis provides in the formation of each child is a top priority. A consistent and multi-faceted marketing plan to reach prospective students and families, as well as the Waco community, relaying to them all of our achievements, will also inform these potential students and families of enrollment opportunities.

TECHNOLOGY:

We will continue to lease-purchase computers on a five year or other periodic plan. This protocol allows, at the end of the lease period, for used computers to be replaced with new lease/purchase computers in the lab thereby, allowing students use of the latest in computer equipment.

We will maintain the newly purchased 20 IPADs on the cart to be checked out to the teachers for use in the classroom enabling technology during instructional times other than just in the computer lab.

We will maintain the new server newly installed and oversee the installing of a fiber optic line which will increase network bandwidth. [Completed summer 2017](#)

We will maintain and grow the newly purchased Chrome Books supplying our 7th and 8th grade Jr. High students with a one to one chrome book - student ratio to include 5th and 6th Grade. The student use of Google Apps for education will also expand to open new educational and research possibilities for our students.

We will continue to expand our use of Ren Web to include Donor Connect as a way to track donor contact information and giving.

FACILITES:

We will continue to provide adequate security during and after school hours through our continued use of camera monitoring of doors in addition to maintaining in good working order the locking mechanisms on the doors.

We will maintain the Gym which has a newly installed floor and bleachers as well as being freshly painted.

We will work toward painting the entirety of the school building including hallways, door frames and classrooms. [Hallways, Foyer and 6 classrooms Completed Summer 2017](#)

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT:

We are committed to ongoing positive development in the cooperation of St. Louis Catholic Elementary School and Reicher Catholic High School in our common mission to the formation of each child, as evidenced by our respective mission statements. Both schools together will explore the implementation of an enrollment model in an effort to bring to fruition a seamless PK-12th Grade program of Catholic education. We will also continue to bring faculties together for both professional and spiritual development.

While St. Louis Catholic School serves multiple parishes, the financial contribution of these parishes to the support of the school has been fairly nominal. The primary source of financial support comes from the graciousness of the Pastor and parishioners as well as St. Louis parents. We will continue to build rapport with our sister parishes and explore alternate funding methods in consort with the individual Pastors and Diocesan authority.