

Catholic School Study Group Update

October 31, 2010

The Catholic School Study Group is completing work on its proposal, and a draft is now being reviewed by members of the diocesan Catholic Education Ministries office and others. We will meet with these representatives on Thursday, November 4.

One of the questions we took to heart as we worked on the draft was the parents' desire for specifics in terms of how we defined sustainability. In this update, we would like to present to you our vision for our Catholic schools, which we think also reflects our definition of sustainability. These principles will guide the implementation process of our proposal.

Our schools must:

- remain Roman Catholic, and continue to integrate that identity into their curriculum and programs;
- maintain measurable, high academic standards;
- engage in more strategic planning for their financial future;
- engage in a much higher level of collaboration;
- find new ways to promote success and recruit students beyond the parish level through marketing;
- identify and cultivate strong individual and corporate partners who will contribute through charitable giving and sponsorship of programs;
- make efficient use of their facilities and plan for the long term.

We were pleased to note that this vision of sustainability mirrored the four principles for viability outlined in the recent archdiocesan report on their school planning process: In the October 16 edition of the diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Spirit*, the archdiocese identified “four marks of viable Catholic schools.” These were: 1) Catholic identity, 2) academic quality, 3) financial management, and 4) community outreach.