

## **Summary**

The development of the Strategic Plan for Corpus Christi School began with discussion at our School's Education Commission meeting. Shortly after that meeting, a committee was formed consisting of our school's AdvancEd team, Matthew Weddle, PE teacher, Andrea Greaney, 6-8 Language Arts teacher, Shari Seitz, 6-8 Math teacher, Audrey Folz, second grade teacher, and Martha Craig, Principal. Professional development time was given to the committee members in order to complete the Strategic Plan. A Community Input Meeting was held in February of 2018 led by Jeff Martin. Mr. Martin has conducted and participated in many SWOT analysis studies for Bristol Myers. Invited to this meeting were all school council members, Tom Goebel our Deacon, staff members, several parents and parishioners. All were invited to share ideas for goals and areas of growth to be addressed in the Strategic Plan. The principal did not attend this brainstorming session so all members could speak freely concerning Corpus Christi School. The results of this meeting and surveys completed by parents and staff were reviewed and categorized into various elements from the responses. These areas included: Mission and Catholic Identity, Academic Programs, both curriculum and school improvement, Enrollment and Marketing, Finance and Development, Facilities and Capital Improvement.

## **Background**

Corpus Christi School is one of twenty-six schools in the Diocese of Evansville. There are twenty-two elementary schools and four high schools. The present enrollment is 251 students in preschool through eighth grade. The socioeconomic level is middle to high with 16% (31) of the students receiving free or reduced lunches. At the present time, 12% (30) of the student population is receiving special services.

In 1955, Bishop Henry Grimmelman, the first Bishop of Evansville, wanted a new parish to be built in the west of Evansville. Fr. James O'Connor was assigned by the Bishop to be the first Pastor of Corpus Christi. Land was obtained from John and Elizabeth Tekoppel. Fr. James O'Connor celebrated the first Mass in the new church on August 18, 1957. The school opened its doors in the fall of 1957 with four Sisters of Providence teaching eight grades.

Corpus Christi School was established in 1957 as a first through eighth grade school. A kindergarten program was added in 1993. In 2002, a preschool program was added. A special education program was established in 2012 to meet the needs of our changing demographics. During the 2014-2015 school year, the preschool was expanded to include an extended care program in order to meet the needs of the parents. For the 2015-2016 school year, the preschool program expanded to two sessions and a second kindergarten class was added. There is currently a waiting list for two classes.

Teachers serve the school with dedication and expertise. The professional staff consists of the following: thirteen full-time teachers, six with a master's degree and seven that hold bachelor's degrees; two part-time teachers that hold bachelor's degrees; a full-time licensed administrator with a master's degree. One of these full-time teachers holds a master's degree in special education and serves as a part-time special education teacher. Additional staff members include a technology coordinator, three primary assistants, two after school day care workers, five after school day care workers for our preschool called Lil' Coyote Corner, a librarian, a social worker, two preschool

assistants, a speech specialist, a special education itinerant teacher, and a band teacher from Mater Dei High School. The school has a support staff including a full-time administrative assistant, a part time bookkeeper, one full time cafeteria manager, three part time cafeteria employees, and three maintenance personnel. Minorities represent 6% and males represent 20% of the teaching staff.

The school day at Corpus Christi extends from 7:15 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. for kindergarten through eighth grade. The timing of the school day is a result of the bussing schedule of the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. The buses that students ride to and from school are provided by the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. Our preschool has two sessions each for children ages three and four. The preschool classes meet two days per week, and the Pre-K classes meet three days per week.

Kindergarten through fifth grade are self-contained classes. An eight period day is presently in effect for sixth through eighth grades. All students participate in art, music, computer, and physical education classes. Students in grades 3 through 8 participate in a differentiated remediation and achievement program four days per week. Additionally, students in grades kindergarten through second participate in Minds in Motion four days per week. All students have the opportunity to go to the library frequently.

Because of Corpus Christi School's focus on spiritual growth, a variety of Christ-centered opportunities are integrated. These opportunities include the celebration of weekly Mass, church choir, Crusaders, youth group, prayer services in Advent, Stations of the Cross during Lent, and the Living Rosary. Additionally, students participate in Catholic Schools Week activities and grade level retreats.

Corpus Christi School offers challenging extracurricular opportunities. Academic opportunities include: the speech team, spelling bee, Pizza Hut Book It, Accelerated Reading, University of Evansville Music Competition, geography bee, Evansville Otters Reading Incentive, Rotary Club BUG, Think First Stay Safe, In It To Win It The Seven Habit Way, STREAM club, robotics, The Leader in Me, Girls Who Code, Smart Moves and D.A.R.E., and Holly's House. The school also maintains partnerships with both the IU Med School and the University of Evansville. Athletic opportunities include: volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, Bidy Ball, cross country, track, wrestling, soccer, football, softball, and baseball. Corpus Christi School also offers early leadership responsibilities through the Junior Fire Warden Program, student mentoring programs, Student Council, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Teen Power.

### **Vision Statement**

Inspiring God's Children

### **Our Mission**

Corpus Christi School fosters spiritual growth, academic excellence, and lifelong learning in a caring Catholic community.

### **Belief Statements**

In order to fulfill its mission to the fullest, Corpus Christi School will:

-provide opportunities for spiritual growth to both students and staff.

-foster academic excellence and character development in a faith-based environment.

- support the development of our students spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.
- help our students pursue ways of giving back to the church and the community at-large.
- ensure the education that students receive will motivate them to develop self-discipline.
- strive to have all students reach their full potential and aspire to be lifelong learners

## *Focus Area 1-Mission and Catholic Identity*

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***Goal: Help each child facilitate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.***

### **Current Strengths**

- Student involvement in religious services that take on a variety of forms
- Student led religious services
- Collaboration between classes on development and implementation of religious services
- Kindergarten involvement and participation in religious services
- Multiple religious opportunities provided for students

### **Long-Range Objectives/Action Statements**

- Relate service projects to Gospel values
  - Monthly service projects
  - Student-led programs relating service projects to Gospel values
  - Community representatives from benefiting organizations explain organization's purpose.
- Classroom involvement by the Parish priest
  - Teachers schedule classroom visits with the Parish priest - 1 time per year
- Students will spend focused time devoted to spiritual growth and well-being
  - Each grade level will have a religious retreat annually
- Students will learn about the varying forms of prayer
  - Each grade level will be responsible for ensuring students know the appropriate rote prayers
  - Students will participate in: Living Rosary, Advent and Lenten prayer services, Bi-annual Penance services, and the Way of the Cross
  - Classrooms will incorporate special intentions, rote prayers, and free prayer.

### **Financial Resources**

Financial requirements for these efforts will be minimal; however, any costs associated will be accommodated by existing budget resources

### **Benchmarks and Measurement**

- Sycamore school calendar
- Flyers and bulletins in Parent and Staff newsletter
- Teacher lesson plans
- Religion curriculum guide

## ***Focus Area 2-Academic Programs, both curriculum and school improvement***

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***Goal: Corpus Christi School will develop educational programs to differentiate instruction for struggling and academically gifted students.***

### **Current Strengths**

- “A” Rating from the State of Indiana
- Coyote Achievement Period (CAP)– remediation and enrichment program
- Differentiated technology-based programs
- Small group instruction provided by a resource teacher and other staff members
- Foster a positive, achievement-driven work environment for faculty and staff and explore initiatives to help attract and retain the best teachers

### **Long-Range Objectives and Action Statements**

- Create an environment that promotes life-long learning
  - Solicit best practices from schools throughout the Diocese of Evansville and around the country
  - All teachers participate in appropriate staff-development
  - Utilize all Title funds
- Implement Achieve 3000, a differentiated program, with fidelity
  - All students in grades 3-8 will complete a minimum of 2 articles per week
  - Teachers in non-ELA classes will assign a minimum of 1 article per month
  - Professional development will be provided by Achieve 3000 trainers
- Full implementation of Coyote Achievement Program in grades 3-8
  - Students will spend 20 minutes per day, four times per week in CAP
  - Students will focus on below-grade level skills via IXL program

### **Financial Resources**

- The Education Commission will work closely with finance committee to advocate for funding of differentiated programs

### **Benchmarks and Measurement**

1. Post Education Commission Meeting Minutes on the Corpus Christi School website
2. Administration will meet annually with each teacher to establish personal and professional development goals, conduct walk-throughs, and yearly evaluations
3. Pastor and principal will be active on diocesan boards
4. Growth data from utilized programs will be analyzed periodically

### *Focus Area 3-Enrollment and Marketing*

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**Goal: Increase school wide enrollment (PS-8) by 5% each year for 3 years while retaining 95% of current enrollment.**

#### **Current Strengths**

- Middle school/primary buddy program
- Leader in Me implementation
- Lil' Coyote Corner Extended Care (pre-school, pre K)
- After School Care K-8
- One-to-one technology integration
- "A" rating and 4 Star School status
- Prevalent Catholic Identity

#### **Long-Range Objectives/Action Statements**

- Add full-time resource teacher
  - Request funds for part-time teacher in addition to current part-time resource teacher
- Implement more marketing days/opportunities for potential families
  - Principal will host a Grab and Go lunch marketing event
  - Utilize student leaders and current parents to provide guided school tours
  - Promote Leadership Day events to potential families
  - Neighborhood Family Nights
- Encourage school families to review Corpus Christi School on Facebook page
  - Add reminder to weekly parent newsletter to submit a review
- Increase school awareness via social and print media
  - Increase school postings on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
  - Technology coordinator increase submissions to print media sources

#### **Financial Resources**

- Request school budget increase from Finance Commission
- Request marketing budget to fund postcards, postage, and lunches

#### **Benchmarks and Measurements**

1. Principal and committee will analyze student enrollment data each school year

## *Focus Area 4-Finance and Development*

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***Goal: Inspire alumni to maintain a lifelong connection with Corpus Christi School to encourage contributions of time, talents, and treasure.***

### **Current Strengths**

- Many current students are children of Corpus Christi alumni
- Some current staff members are Corpus Christi alumni
- Alumni financially support student scholarships
- Alumni volunteer to help maintain the building

### **Long-Range Objectives/Action Statements**

- Develop an alumni database containing current contact information
  - Obtain class lists from the parish office
  - Send a postcard to last known address
- Send a newsletter to alumni quarterly via email
  - Create an email group containing alumni email addresses
- Create and promote a Corpus Christi Alumni Facebook page
  - Principal and marketing committee will create a CC Alumni Facebook page
- Extend invitations to alumni for school events and programs
  - Marketing committee, a subcommittee of the Education Commission, will extend personal invitations to alumni

### **Financial Resources**

- Establish a marketing budget for those items that require funding

### **Benchmarks and Measurement**

- Alumni database established by March 1, 2019
- Postcard campaign by 2019-20 school year
- Facebook created and promoted by June 1, 2019

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## *Focus Area 5-Facilities and Capital Improvement*

***Goal: Review Corpus Christi campus to develop a prioritized maintenance and facilities action plan.***

### **Current Strengths**

- Campus grounds are maintained by volunteer grounds crew
- Campus security and safety
- Entrance is aesthetically pleasing
- Maintenance supported by parish volunteers

### **Long-Range Objectives/Action Statements**

- Update facility by repairing or replacing damaged or aged building components.
  - School administrator and committee will review building and develop a list of needed repairs/replacements
  - School administrator will meet with property, finance, and education commissions to plan for repairs/replacements
- Maintain and continue to upgrade campus security and safety
  - Evaluate Corpus Christi's campus for security/safety updates as determined by the parish community, school community, Perry Township Fire Department, and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department.
  - Explore grant funding and other resources to support safety and security measures
- Parish office will maintain and provide school administration with a schedule of facility usage outside of the school day.
  - Parish will develop a master schedule via Google Docs or Calendar that is up-to-date
  - School administration will have access to calendar

### **Financial Resources**

- Education Commission will work closely with finance commission, property commission, and school administration to advocate best interest of the school.
- Utilize grants to partially fund security/safety updates to Corpus Christi School campus

### **Benchmarks and Measurement**

1. Prioritized list of facility repairs/replacements will be developed/reviewed by March 1, 2019.
2. Expansion of key-fob system and security cameras.
3. Parish master calendar will be developed and shared by January 1, 2019

