

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School

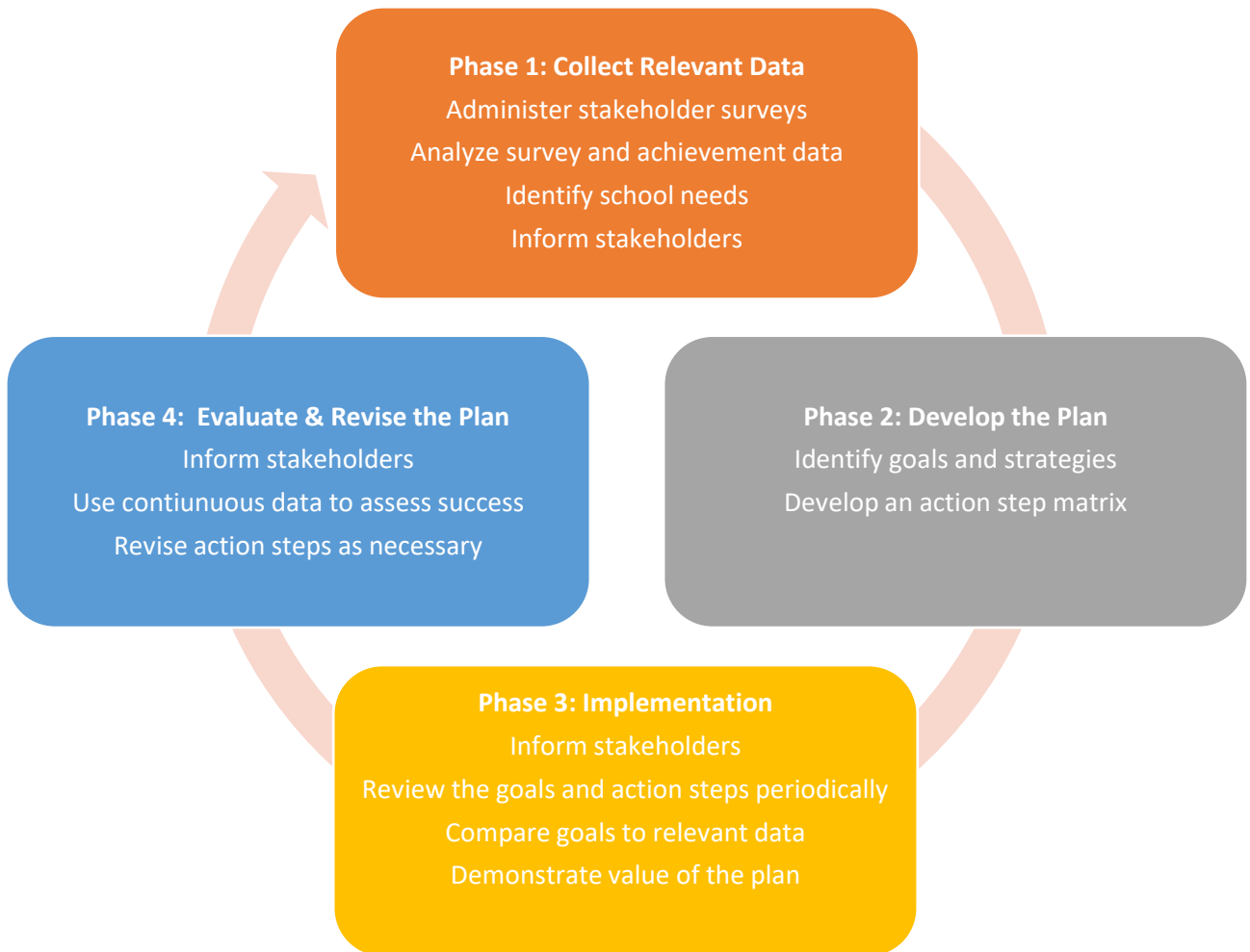
Strategic Plan

2023-2028

*Strategic planning acts as a roadmap for the future as well as an impetus for discussion.*

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## **SECTION 1: Introduction**

### ***History and Community***

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School opened its doors in August 2011 in northwest Wichita with 63 students in kindergarten, first, and second grades. In the fall of 2014, we moved into the Parish Education Center (PEC). By the fall of 2017, both wings of the PEC were complete, and construction was finally finished in 2019 with the dedication of the gymnasium. In the spring of 2018, we promoted our first class of eighth graders and began our preschool and pre-kindergarten program. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, we have two classes per grade level, which is our capacity by design. Today, we have an enrollment of 486 students in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. At St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, the past decade seems like ten years of firsts. We find new, engaging ways to learn, community-building activities, and begin new traditions. Each of these traditions is designed to form the whole student (mind, body, emotions, and soul) into saints, as God has called them to be. Although the youngest school in the Diocese of Wichita, our faith tradition is strong and alive as demonstrated by our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

For our students, stewardship is not a once per year lesson. Rather, it is something that has been ingrained and truly has become a grateful and joyful response to God's many blessings. Stewardship for our students takes many forms and benefits our community in many ways. Each class has a unique stewardship-based project. We attend all school Mass twice per week. Additionally, the first Tuesday Mass is highlighted by our stewardship collection (envelopes with examples of students' time, talent, and/or treasure), the first Friday of each month is our Adoration day, and each Wednesday of Lent, our students pray the Stations of the Cross with their Faith Families. Our Faith Families help keep the small-school, community feel from our beginning days. Each family is made up of a few students from each grade level, and monthly activities led by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade "parents" allow the family members to get to know each other. We also stress the corporal works of mercy through monthly visits to our neighbors at Via Christi Village assisted living center. Whether it is through large scale events like food drives, giving trees, Drexel fund, or Advent service projects or simply singing at Mass, our students, our Saints in Training, want to be involved.

To understand what it means to be a Saint in Training is to walk in the footsteps of our students and experience our Catholic culture. Many of our traditions include:

- We kick off each school year with an open house and Saints Athletics sponsored tailgate. Families meet their teachers for the year, enjoy fellowship, and a tailgate-style dinner provided by our student athletes.
- Each October, during Respect Life week, our middle school students lead the student body in a living rosary.
- During Catholic Schools Week, we open our doors to our grandparents. The Grandparents Mass has become an amazing hospitality event where students showcase their classrooms and learning for their grandparents. Our preschoolers celebrate a similar Grandparents Day in the fall with a more intimate gathering of games and refreshments.
- Also, during Catholic Schools Week, the famed Religion Bowl is a huge hit. Multi-grade leveled teams compete in a lively faith-themed quiz show competition hosted by our parochial vicar.

- Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students participate in a prayerful retreat off campus. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders travel to Pilsen to learn about the life and example of Fr. Kapaun.
- Each year, on or near April 29, we celebrate St. Catherine of Siena’s feast day so that it will be a memorable day for our students. We hold an in-house themed student retreat day with faith integrated into the activities.

To accompany our faith-filled activities, our school maintains a well-rounded, standards-based academic program, music, P.E., and art programs, as well as a strong technology program. Our classrooms and lessons are technology-rich where students in 3rd grade and above use tablets at a ratio of 1:1. Students in the primary grades have ready access to educational technology, too. Additionally, all students have access to a growing library, and a resource room assists and complements the learning in the classrooms.

Students have other opportunities to grow in areas of sports and academics. Students in grades 6-8 may participate in CSAL athletics, Scholars Bowl, and Religion Bowl. Also, students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> may participate in Battle of the Books.

Middle school students form small group communities through “Delta” groups and spend time each day to come together for several activities, including prayer, virtue-studies, games, service to the school, and socializing. One highly anticipated event each year is the Christmas-themed “Delta Breakfast” followed by the “Delta Olympics”.

A few of our other community-building activities include the PTO-sponsored Trunk-or-Treat, Siena Auction, family read night, and field day. Each event is anticipated by our students and takes the efforts of our dedicated teachers and parents to support. Not only are they exciting and fun, these events and similar ones require steadfast stewards to be successful, which in turn provides excellent examples for our students.

## **SECTION 2: Mission, Core Values, & Learning Dispositions**

*Mission Statement: Learn, Love, and Live in God’s Presence*

This ostensibly simple mission statement of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School reflects both the school’s and the parish’s desire to educate the whole person: mind, body, emotions, and soul. This desire, focused through the lens of the mission statement, is manifested through rigorous education, caring learning environments, and a deeply-rooted Catholic culture. The mission statement was dissected by the staff to find how its key elements are related to our core values and how it is integrated into each classroom, activity, and decision. The mission statement is not only posted throughout the building, but it is also reviewed annually by the faculty, staff, and school council.

An extension of our mission statement are the core beliefs. The core belief statements form the foundation of our approach to education and learning. We believe meeting students’ needs where they are; cultivating a safe, caring, welcoming, and faith-filled environment; and fostering personal relationships with Jesus. Through our mission and core beliefs, we hope to promote students who are curious, persevere, take ownership, make connections, and are reflective. These are the learning dispositions of a visible learner at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School.



By living the mission of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, we live the answer to the question of the meaning and purpose of life: Why did God create you?

God created me to know (LEARN), love (LOVE), and serve (LIVE) Him in this life so that I can be happy with Him in the next.

# St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School

## *Core Beliefs*

The mission of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School is...

...to Learn,...

The faculty and staff at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School believe all students learn through differentiated instruction, engaging lessons, and the use of technology. We seek to educate and form the whole student so that each can become the best version of themselves.

...Love,...

The faculty and staff at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School believe our school is a place where students feel welcome and motivated to learn and collaborate. We foster a safe, caring, and faith-filled learning environment so students can feel confident in their learning through faith.

...and Live in God's presence.

The faculty and staff at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School believe students can grow in a personal relationship with Christ. We help students recognize their God given gifts and talents and help them become grateful stewards of those gifts.



# The Learning Dispositions of a Saint in Training

## CURIOUS

- Uses the virtues of faith and humility
- Asks questions and wonders beyond what is taught
- Is innovative and seeks learning
- Is thoughtful and self-assessing



## MAKES CONNECTIONS

- Uses the virtues of charity and unity
- Is imaginative and reflective
- Connects to personal experiences and real-world learning
- Makes links across curriculum and sees the big picture
- Communicates well with others



## REFLECTIVE

- Uses the virtues of prudence, self-control, and patience
- Builds on previous learning
- Acts positively on feedback
- Makes goals and plans for next steps
- Is a critical thinker and self-assesses



## TAKES OWNERSHIP

- Uses the virtues of justice, self-control, and gratitude
- Is responsible for own thoughts, actions, and learning
- Practices self-advocacy
- Practices independence and self-direction



## PERSEVERES

- Uses the virtues of fortitude, forbearance, and patience
- Shows grit and pushes through difficult tasks
- Is a bold problem-solver
- Embraces challenges and takes risks
- Keeps working even when it's hard



**Strategy 1: Catholic Culture**

*We will foster a climate where the Catholic faith is taught and nurtured in students and staff alike. We are all called to be saints.*

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Model Christian hospitality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a welcoming atmosphere for all visitors</li> <li>• Host a variety of diocesan, parish, and community events</li> <li>• Provide customer service training and feedback opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration and front office staff</li> <li>• School-council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going</li> <li>• Biennial training</li> <li>• Annual performance reviews</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Provide catechesis programs for students, staff, and families</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Called &amp; Gifted</i> training</li> <li>• Regan Institute</li> <li>• Book studies for teachers and annual retreat</li> <li>• Continue scheduled and unscheduled classroom visits with the Parochial Vicar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Parochial Vicar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going</li> <li>• Biennial Regan training</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Evangelization &amp; Discipleship</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create opportunities for a personal encounter with Christ and share them with classmates, friends, and family</li> <li>• Continue Blaze and Kapaun’s Boys Bible studies</li> <li>• Develop retreats, student-planned liturgies, etc. with Blaze and Kapaun’s Boys groups</li> <li>• Continue teacher Bible studies and formations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Parochial Vicar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Promote the stewardship way of life</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate service opportunities</li> <li>• Refine the grade-level service projects using the improvement cycle</li> <li>• Incorporate discussions of the “why” of stewardship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Community resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going throughout the year</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Virtue-based Restorative Discipline</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual teacher re-fresher trainings</li> <li>• New teachers to attend summer institute</li> <li>• Provide parent education on VBRD practices by creating video of VBRD in action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Parent/PTO liaison</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodic review of practices</li> <li>• Annual review of VBRD goals</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	

*Religious Infusion*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue variety of prayer and liturgical experiences (e.g. Mass, Adoration, Praise &amp; Worship Adoration, Stations of the Cross, etc.)</li> <li>Share/invite prayer experiences opportunities with families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration</li> <li>School Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly</li> <li>annual</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
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**Strategy 2: Teaching & Learning**

*We will foster a culture of rigorous and relevant learning. Students will be engaged in learning opportunities that challenge them at their level and are applicable to their lives. Teachers and staff will be trained in differentiation techniques and effective student data analysis.*

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Visible Learning Goals</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher professional learning in learning dispositions, clarity (learning intentions and success criteria), and effective feedback</li> <li>Monitor effective implementation of the visible learning strategies</li> <li>Promote the visible learning plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration</li> <li>Teachers</li> <li>BLT</li> <li>Impact Coach</li> <li>Teacher Leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going</li> <li>Weekly classroom walkthroughs</li> <li>Monthly BLT meetings</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Rigorous &amp; Relevant learning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every lesson will include a Catholic, personal and/or real-world connection</li> <li>Students will present their learning in meaningful ways (e.g. eighth grade culminating project or grade-level capstone projects)</li> <li>Where available, classes will be tiered and lessons will be engaging and appropriately challenging (goldilocks approach)</li> <li>Academically talented students will be identified and challenged through the protocol</li> <li>Advanced skills in MS and W.I.N. differentiation in K-5</li> <li>Develop summer bridge program for advanced skills students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration</li> <li>Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going</li> <li>Weekly classroom walkthroughs</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	

<i>Retain and train highly qualified and motivated staff</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase support for instructional coaching and data analysis</li> <li>• Focus on positive relationships, TLC, and recognition (systematic and sustainable)</li> <li>• All first through third year teachers will receive specific professional learning (support) in addition to the mentor program</li> <li>• Develop the leadership capacity of all staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Mentors</li> <li>• BLT</li> <li>• PTO</li> <li>• Appreciation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going</li> <li>• Annual</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Develop Foreign Language and Fine Arts programs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire a foreign language teacher</li> <li>• Hire a band teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Parish leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring of 2028</li> <li>• Spring of 2028</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<i>Develop the W.I.N. classes- our MTSS approach</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate W.I.N. planning responsibilities</li> <li>• Develop resources to accommodate ELA, math, and enrichment W.I.N. classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall of</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	

**Strategy 3: Resources & Support Systems**

*We will support our students’ growth and achievement by responsible use of our parish’s stewardship. Additional fund-raising activities will be directed toward the successful achievement of our student-centered goals.*

<b>Goals</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Grow the resource room</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire a Resource Room teacher and personnel with reading specialist credentials</li> <li>• Teachers will be trained in differentiation techniques and student data analysis (professional learning in OG, AP, early numeracy, etc.)</li> <li>• Increase para support</li> <li>• Invest in W.I.N. curricular resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• SITeam</li> <li>• Parish leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase para staff as needed</li> <li>• On-going</li> <li>• Annual</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	

*Technology training & support*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in an asset management system or database</li> <li>Hire additional help or delegate tech support duties</li> <li>Create a student-led tech troubleshooting team (e.g. Geek Squad)</li> <li>Annual teacher training in troubleshooting classroom technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration</li> <li>Teachers</li> <li>Technology Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall</li> <li>On-going</li> <li>Annual</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
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*Finance*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual budget items with specifically designated fundraisers to support those items (e.g. PTO supported classroom grants)</li> <li>Biennial Siena Auction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administration</li> <li>PTO</li> <li>Parish leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual</li> <li>Biennial</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
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#### **SECTION 4: Conclusion**

This strategic plan is a working document. With the previous strategic plan, one of the unique challenges was assessing and meeting that the needs of the students and the community, which were ever increasing. With this next five-year plan, we aim to sustain and improve the programs. Thus, this plan is intended to provide general direction while allowing for more detail and adjustments to be added along the way. Many of the goals are in-progress while others are awaiting initiation. Goals and action steps will be reviewed periodically (minimally annually) by relevant stakeholders such as the pastor, school administration, the school council, and the school faculty.

Through this plan, we will be better prepared to meet challenges that we understand and those that have yet to surface. Some of those challenges include meeting the learning needs of a diverse student population, the cost of technology to continue the 1:1 initiative, and hiring, training, and retaining highly qualified staff.

We are grateful to the School Council and the Building Leadership Team for their time and energy in developing this plan. Through the intercession of St. Catherine of Siena, may the Lord continue to bless us and provide us with the wisdom and fortitude to implement this plan for the continued success of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School. May we continue to educate the whole person (mind, body, emotions, and soul) to learn, love, and live in God's presence.

Pastor

School Administration

School Council

Building Leadership Team

Faculty & Staff

