

Catholic Identity Assessment

PLEASE COMPOSE YOUR DOCUMENT IN THE NARRATIVE STYLE.

The Catholic Identity assessment examines critical elements of the school:

1. **How does the Catholic School community take seriously its responsibility of evangelization and building the Kingdom of God?**
2. **Is there a strong presence of collegial relationships within the school? Are compassion, faith development, and inclusiveness clearly evident within the total school community?**
3. **Information:**
 - **Is adherence evident in the grade by grade Religion content as outlined in WISDOM (K-8) and (9-12) the Religious Educational Guidelines Curriculum for Secondary Schools?**
 - **Is Catholic Identity integrated into the School Policy Handbook/s?**

Formation:

- **Does the religion curriculum include: Catholic religious practices, rituals, rites and special ceremonies throughout the liturgical year that represent Catholic culture?**
- **Is Catholic Identity visible in school choices and actions?
For example, how does the school use behavioral challenges as teachable moments?**

Transformation:

- **Is there a nurturing gospel climate within the school community?**
 - **Does evidence exist, that passionate witnessing to our Catholic culture and tradition happen within the school community?**
 - **How is the school climate changed by its community living their faith?**
- A. Relate the Historical Background of the school:
- Date established
 - What affiliation with religious community/ies has the school experienced?
 - Name those religious orders, past and present:
- B. Describe how the school is currently identifiable as Catholic? It should include concrete examples that reflect the above statements. Examples may include, but need not to be limited to:
- Mission Statement
 - Vision Statement
 - Philosophy
 - Liturgies and Para-liturgies:
 - All school, individual class and family/community Masses, Prayer Services
 - Student and faculty involvement in faith formation activities
 - Knowledge of liturgical gestures and responses
 - Celebration of liturgical seasons: Advent, Lent etc.
 - Prayer Life
 - Memorization of scripture passages and prayers of the Church
 - Morning Prayer
 - Prayer before meals

- Prayers at extra curricular events, meetings etc.
- Retreat experiences/days of prayer for students and faculty/staff
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Stations of the Cross
- May Crowning, praying the Rosary
- Prayer intention board
- Prayer corners and tables
- Knowledge of Doctrine
 - Familiarity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - NCEA/ACRE Assessment
 - Sacramental Curriculum
- Symbols of being a Catholic School
 - Statue or sign in front of school
 - Banners, statues and crucifixes throughout the school
 - Religious bulletin boards, liturgical blessings
 - Uniforms worn appropriately
- Stewardship
 - Campus Ministry
 - Contribution of time and talent through service opportunities
 - Contribution of treasure through family, faculty, staff and students
- Spiritual Direction
 - Retreat experiences/days of prayer for faculty and students
 - Sacramental preparation
 - Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Programs for teaching respect for self and others (examples: Child Assault Prevention Program- CAP; No More Bullies)(HS: Praesidium Training)
 - Chastity programs
- Celebrations of Catholic Schools Week
- Family Spirituality
 - Family spiritual enrichment through participation in liturgical celebrations, family catechesis and sessions for parents concerning Sacramental preparation
 - Opportunities for parent participation in Bible Study, Catechetical classes
 - The school and parish community cooperate to present opportunities of faith formation to encourage the evangelization and participation of inactive families.
- Teacher/staff/parent catechesis training
 - Formal formation as catechist:
- Basic Certification; Continued Re-Certification of all faculty and administrators
- University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation
- Participation in religious education workshops: DOM, NCEA - Faith Formation
- Any parish religious educational workshops
- Religion curriculum
 - Textbooks chosen from the conformity listings of catechetical texts and series
 - The Benziger Family Life Program is a component of the curriculum
 - Frequency and time periods for religion classes at each grade level

- Cross curricular teaching of sacred scripture, doctrine and Catholic ideals in all subject areas
 - Vocation and Ministry Awareness
 - Creation of a vocation culture throughout school community
 - Consult diocesan vocation director to obtain priests, consecrated religious and lay missionaries to discuss their vocation
 - Sponsor trips to seminaries, motherhouses and shrines
 - Post vocation posters
 - Make vocation literature available
 - Sponsor a seminarian: have students send cards to seminarians and pray for them
 - Mission awareness
 - Appoint mission moderator
 - Participate in Holy Childhood Association
 - Attend diocesan sponsored mission education days
 - Support area hunger and poverty relief organizations
 - Raise funds, collect clothing etc. for the less fortunate
 - Catholic Social Teaching
 - Demonstrate consistent life ethic (pro-life, peace and justice)
 - Promote a safe environment through the Family Life Program (Benziger)
 - Provide disability awareness; allergy awareness
 - Offer a multi-cultural perspective
 - Promote global and environmental awareness
- C. Does the School Administrator/s meet the religious requirements for his/her position?
1. Is the principal an active and committed Catholic?
 - Does the principal have basic faith formation certification and pursue continual faith formation certification (seasoned administrator)?
 - Does the principal accept and participate in his/her role as Spiritual Leader?
- D. What is the public expression and support for Catholic education on the part of parish and school leadership?
- E. Describe any areas of concern, that impact future methods to strengthen the Catholic Identity of the school
- F. Using the information you gathered from the focus groups and from your research work on Catholic Identity, formulate goals and objectives for school improvement.

Signature of Committee Chair and Members who prepared this document:

Chair: _____

Committee Members: _____

Date of completed report: _____