

Executive Summary

Catholic Schools Strategic Planning Team
Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Plymouth
Summer 2018

Our School Vision:

***To offer every member of our school community
a life-changing encounter with Christ.***

Our School Mission:

***We exist to offer a life-changing encounter with Jesus
and equip leaders to transform the culture.***

Introduction

In Archbishop Vigneron's pastoral letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, he made clear that, without our schools, there won't be a church. He then called each and every school in the Archdiocese to develop a strategic plan that will allow us all to improve and grow. OLGC answered his call and we are proud to share with you this strategic plan.

In late 2017, we formed the OLGC School Planning Team (more specifics below), comprised of our pastor, school leadership and staff, parents (both school parents and parents whose children go to nearby Catholic schools), parishioners, and an alumnus. The team met more than a dozen times over the first six months of 2018 and, after much prayer, hard work and collaboration, we completed the process. The result, we believe, is a dynamic strategic plan, a living and breathing document that will continue to evolve as we do; that will take our school and our community to an entirely new level.

As you will see below, we ultimately zeroed in on two specific pillars that will be the foundation of our plan going forward – *Mission & Catholic Identity* and *Academic Excellence*. By focusing on these two specific pillars, we believe we will become the benchmark for Catholic schools, forming saints by immersing them in a cutting-edge, evidence-based, learner-focused, and of course, God-centered, curriculum and environment.

The remainder of this report breaks down our plan under these two pillars, outlining the objectives and strategies that will allow us to achieve these goals. Please note that this document is a road map of sorts, and that the specific action steps under each strategy will be developed and carried out by various teams that will be identified as we reach each step.

Goals, Objectives & Strategies

I. Pillar I – Mission & Catholic Identity

A. Our Goal – To increase the number of people in our school community (i.e. the entire community: students, staff, parents) to come to know and act upon all that God has done for the world in Jesus and are equipped to lead the transformation of our culture as measured by a biannual school community survey (baseline data will be gathered at the beginning of the school year via survey and goal will be updated to become a SMART goal).

1. Members in the community will be offered a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

a. OLG staff and parent leaders will communicate our vision and mission *and* the community will begin to live it.

*note that this item is listed as the first item under every objective in this report. The reason is simple - we cannot achieve our mission if we don't tell people what it is, and we cannot ask people to join us if we are not living it.

(1) The pastor and principal will host a mandatory vision casting event following the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

completed 9/5/18

(2) Families will be offered a Pledge to commit to living our vision and mission. completed 9/5/18, 9/13/18, 11/14/18

(3) The school website will be redesigned to communicate our vision and mission. completed 1/12/19

(4) The School Advisory Committee will be redesigned to support our vision and mission.

(5) All school business and meetings will be centered around our common vision and mission.

b. The OLG school community and parish will partner to bridge the divide, i.e., bring people through the school to the parish, and bring people through the parish to the school.

(1) Invite charism teams to support the school. 9/23/18, 12/20/18

(2) Provide opportunities for OLG students to serve the parish community.

(3) Communicate the happenings of the school with the parish community.

(4) OLGC school will sponsor parish events and parent education opportunities such as a Cyber Bullying presentation. 10/16/18

(5) Invite parish to participate in events such as Mass, Open House, Coffee Chats and school assemblies.

c. In partnership with the parish, training and tools will be provided.

(1) Alpha will be offered for school families in the winter.

(2) Opportunities will be offered for faith communities such as a Dad's Club and Walking with Purpose.

(3) Self-measurement tools – we want our community members to take initiative for their own spiritual lives.

(4) Spiritual retreats will be offered for mothers and fathers in the fall. completed 10/12/18, 10/19/18

2. *Our school staff* will be offered life-changing encounters with Jesus.

a. OLGC school administration and parish staff will communicate our vision and mission and the OLGC school staff will begin to live it.

(1) The pastor and principal will host a vision casting event for staff the week before school starts. completed 9/5/18

(2) The OLGC parish staff will be encouraged to pray for and encourage all school staff. began summer 2018

b. OLGC school administration and campus minister will increase opportunities for staff formation.

(1) Alpha will be offered for school staff in the fall. completed 11/19/18

(2) The OLGC staff will participate in a Called and Gifted Workshop in the spring. (3/15/18)

(3) A spiritual retreat will be offered for OLGC staff. completed 8/24/18

c. The OLGC school staff will participate in leadership training through The Leader in Me to create a culture of student empowerment. completed 11/19-20/18

3. *Our students will be offered life-changing encounters with Jesus.*

a. OLGC school staff will communicate our vision and mission and the student body will begin to live it.

(1) Every classroom will write a classroom mission statement in alignment with our school mission.

completed 8/30/18

(2) The mission statement along with student testimonies will be shared through daily video announcements.

(3) Begin every day with school-wide praise and worship and prayer.

b. The OLGC school staff will increase opportunities for student formation.

(1) Alpha will be offered for Middle School students.

began 1/13/19

(2) 8th Grade boys and girls retreats will be offered in the fall. completed 9/21/18, 9/28/18

(3) An increase in liturgies, adoration, praise & worship (integrate music)

(4) Begin Level 1 of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for PK-Grade 1. completed 10/1/18

c. Leadership and life skills will be developed in students through The Leader in Me to equip leaders to transform the culture.

II. Pillar II – Academic Excellence

A. Our Goal – OLGC students will achieve a minimum average of 75 in each grade level as measured by the IOWA Assessment by 2020.

1. OLGC school staff will create a research-based, learner-centered academic environment and curriculum that supports the needs of *all* who desire a Catholic education.

a. OLGC school staff will engage in an honest assessment of our current practices and how we can advance learning to support the needs of all students. completed 9/11/18

b. OLGC school administration will offer professional development opportunities to re-imagine curriculum and instruction.

- c. A Supplemental Student Support Program will be developed to offer support to students who meet grade level criteria. **completed 11/16/18**
 - d. Professional development and coaching will be provided to support teachers in differentiated instruction and intervention strategies.
 - e. Ensure that the Gospel permeates in everything we do.
2. OLGC school administration will develop a system for continual improvement.
- a. The Strategic Planning Team will continue to meet bi-annually to review the progress and make adjustments as necessary; **began 1/15/19**
 - b. A School Improvement Team will monitor the progress of measurable objectives through data-driven analysis. **10/10/18, 11/28/18**
 - c. Action Teams will be created to execute the strategies listed herein through an action plan. **completed 10/15/18**

Conclusion

Our Lady of Good Counsel School exists to bring our school community to Jesus and equip leaders to transform the culture. Our overarching goal is to be the standard by which other schools measure themselves when it comes to doing this. We want to be the best. We want our students, staff, parents, and others in our reach to be the best. And we believe this plan sets us on that path.

We begin by sharing the plan with you, by communicating our vision and mission, and by asking those who already have come to know what God has done in Jesus to share the good news.

Meanwhile, as we execute this plan, we will align every decision and action we take with our vision and mission, while continually monitoring, incessantly tinkering, and carefully measuring. May God bless us with his grace and guidance every step of the way.