

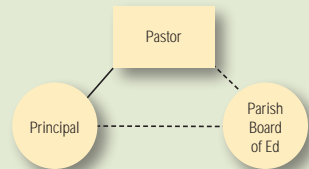


A Renaissance
for Catholic
Education

New Structure for Governance

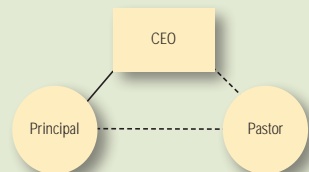
1. Parish School Model

Catholic Education Office consults on decisions with pastor, principal and board.



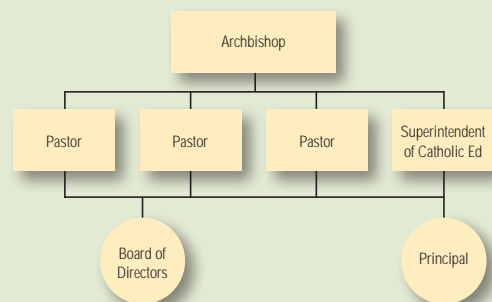
2. Archdiocesan Elementary School Model

Catholic Education Office makes decisions regarding curriculum, programs and personnel.



3. Corporate School Model

Catholic Education Office oversees decisions regarding curriculum, programs and personnel.



New Initiatives

The Archdiocesan School Oversight Committee is proposing some new initiatives that will usher in a new era for our Catholic schools in the City of St. Louis and eventually throughout the archdiocese.

- Creating a new position in the Catholic Education Office with responsibility for all of the elementary schools in the City of St. Louis. This person would focus only on the Catholic elementary schools throughout the city working with pastors, principals, teachers and parents to ensure that our schools are addressing the educational and formational needs of the students.
- Providing the resources, personnel and funding necessary to ensure that all educational and religious education programs in all of the schools throughout the city are of similar quality. The archdiocese would provide funds to enhance programs and provide direction in maintaining and placing quality educators in the elementary schools of the deanery.
- Introducing a new school governance model that will provide the necessary leadership, support and direction at the school level to maintain quality Catholic schools in the future.

This booklet provides an overview of the recent efforts of the Archdiocesan School Oversight Committee, the Catholic Education Office and a variety of other archdiocesan offices and agencies to fashion important recommendations to ensure the future sustainability of our elementary schools in the City of St. Louis. The School Oversight Committee has prepared a plan that creates new structures for leadership, shared governance, and new resources to ensure the quality schools and the strong Catholic values our families expect for their children.

This proposed plan to reshape the educational landscape in the Archdiocese of St. Louis is intended to ensure that Catholic elementary schools are:

- Providing quality academic and faith formation programs.
- Financially viable and affordable for families and parishes for the long term.
- Available in locations through the city that would allow access for families.
- Making efficient and effective use of limited resources.



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ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Change
CHALLENGE
Choice

Catholic Education — *Alive in Christ!*



The renaissance of Catholic schools opens a new era in quality Catholic education in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This work has been underway for several years.

The vision of Archbishop Robert Carlson for Catholic education is firmly rooted in his 2011 Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education, *Alive in Christ!*

“My vision for Catholic education in 2018 looks to a future full of hope, and I invite you to join me in sharing that hope.”

— *Alive in Christ!* 9, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson

Funds from the *Annual Catholic Appeal* have continually been directed to assist schools throughout the city of St. Louis. *Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation* scholarships are vital to some of our schools. Financial support for scholarships and ongoing sustainability is underway with the *Beyond Sunday* Campaign.

An Archdiocesan School Oversight Committee, under the guidance of Reverend Monsignor Mark S. Rivituso, Vicar General of the Archdiocese, was established by the archbishop to assist deaneries and parishes in sustaining a dynamic Catholic educational system in the archdiocese which will foster the faith of the young church and inspire them to participate in the life and mission of the Church.

Change. Challenge. Choice.

In developing its plan the Archdiocesan School Oversight Committee began to understand that **change** is something that we can always expect. However, the **challenge** of the Christian life is to embrace the necessary change of heart and follow Jesus. The **choice** families make will shape the future of Catholic education in the City of St. Louis and the future of their children.

Change

Change has been with us since the opening of our Catholic schools by such people as St. Rose Philippine Duchesne in the early 1800s. Waves of immigration required opening more parishes and schools. Catholic schools were on the vanguard of change when they became the first to open the doors of equality to African American students seven years before the United States Supreme Court mandated it. During the baby boom of the 1950s 34 new parishes, some with schools, were built in a 10-year span. Clergy, religious men and women, parishioners and parents made great sacrifices to help build these schools.

Recent demographic shifts have created new conditions for change. New efforts are directed toward advancing the mission and ministry of Catholic education in a new era.

CHALLENGE

Catholic Schools have always challenged young people to be better students and better people. But to provide this challenge to students, Catholic schools themselves have had to meet continual challenge: improved educational programs, advanced technology, fully certified administrators and faculty skilled in best practices, accredited schools. In meeting these challenges Catholic schools have met the challenge of preparing their students for successful high school and college careers. More importantly, these schools have been instrumental in the formation of strong, moral leaders whose values and faith strengthen the workplace and communities wherever they might be. Plumbers, grocery store clerks, financial advisors, stay-at-home mothers, business leaders, priests and sisters, politicians and a thousand other vocations and careers are built on the strong foundation we call a Catholic education.

Choice

Freedom is at the foundation of the Christian life. The ever-present desire in our culture — and in the heart of every person — for freedom is a remarkable force for change and gives us energy to meet the challenges we face.

Of course, today families have unprecedented choices in public, private and archdiocesan schools. Without question there are numerous opportunities for an excellent and an exceptional education in the City of St. Louis. Parents and students weigh the strengths of schools and choose the best path that will lead their children to a happy and holy life. Catholic schools are committed, now more than ever, to ensure the choice of a Catholic school is the best choice.



In 2018, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of Catholic schools serving the families and youth of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Over those two centuries, our Church has continually faced change, challenge and choices in regard to its schools. We stand on the shoulders of so many faithful men and women who sacrificed so much to build, maintain, and grow our Catholic schools. These clergy, religious, and lay faithful embraced the change and met the challenge, choosing to stay committed to the Lord's mission to proclaim the Gospel message to a new generation.

There is no doubt that these new initiatives will impact the landscape of Catholic education that has faced change and challenge for decades. The Church of St. Louis again faces some choices as we look to secure the future direction of our schools.

Moving into this new era of Catholic education will require prayerful support and mutual goodwill of all involved. We entrust the success of our efforts in this renaissance of Catholic education to the intercession of the patrons of our archdiocese: St. Louis the King, St. Vincent DePaul and especially St. Rose Philippine Duchesne.