

Governance and Leadership

Standard 5

An excellent Catholic school has a governing body (person or persons) which recognizes and respects the role(s) of the appropriate and legitimate authorities, and exercises responsible decision making (authoritative, consultative, advisory) in collaboration with the leadership team for development and oversight of the school's fidelity to mission, academic excellence, and operational vitality.

Narrative Summary

St. George Catholic School provides governance and leadership that promotes our strong Catholic identity, student achievement, and school effectiveness. The school relies on well-balanced and productive relationships among all of its stakeholders.

St. George Catholic School has many organizations which contribute to the well-being and success of the school by providing input and helping to organize activities that help live out our mission and foster a strong sense of community among all of our stakeholders.

Additionally, St. George Catholic School enjoys a positive and productive relationship with the Catholic Schools Department of the Diocese of Baton Rouge led by Dr. Melanie Verges and Bishop Muench.

Commendations

In order to ensure fidelity to our mission and systematize all school policies the administration of St. George Catholic School regularly consults with our pastor and the Superintendent of Catholic Schools. There are a number of parent organizations whose members partner with the school administration to contribute to the success of the school, including the Home and School Association, School Advisory Commission, Athletic Association, Men's Club, and School Finance Committee. In the 2013 AdvancED Program Effectiveness survey, 85% of St. George staff strongly agreed/agreed that there was stakeholder bodies who collaborated with school administration to make or recommend decisions for the success of the school.

Collaboration with our stakeholders is an important ingredient of our continued growth and success. According to the AdvancEd Program Effectiveness survey, 79% of St. George staff agree or strongly agree that our school has a strong culture of collaboration within the school at all levels to advance excellence.

St George Catholic School Administration works in collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office to maintain constructive and beneficial relationships. St George administration regularly contributes at monthly principal meetings. The principal is chair of the Child Nutrition Committee and a member of the Catholic School Athletic Board.

The pastor of St. George Catholic Church is a visible presence on the campus. The principal is a member of the parish staff and regularly attends parish staff meetings. In addition, administration is a regular participant in the fair committee, auction committee, and capital campaign committee. St. George Catholic School is blessed to have a very productive relationship between the pastor, parish and school administration. Mutual trust, close cooperation and continuous dialogue are evident in all interactions.

Recommendations

Personal interviews and discussions indicated a need for growth in informing our stakeholders of our financial plans. We will implement strategies to inform our stakeholders of our financial plan on a more regular basis. Strategies may include an

annual stakeholder budget meeting prior to registration, putting the parish/school annual report on the school website or publishing quarterly updates provided in the “Dragon Tales” newsletter.

Rating of Standard

Based on the evidence, recommendations and benchmark ratings for Standard 5, St. George Catholic School received a score of 3.