

Operational Vitality

Standard 12

An excellent Catholic school develops and maintains a facilities, equipment, and technology management plan designed to continuously support the implementation of the educational mission of the school.

Narrative Summary

St. George Catholic School is committed to the continued integration of technology in support of the curriculum and educational goals of the school. Funds have been allocated for the growth and expansion of the network across the campus in an effort to implement the latest technology in the classrooms. St. George Catholic School is continually updating student database systems in an effort to provide families with increased on-line access to student information. Administration, faculty and staff work in collaboration to provide hardware and software solutions that are in alignment with the educational mission of the school.

Commendations

St. George Catholic School's facilities, equipment and technology plan include objectives to support the curriculum and educational goals of the school. Technology is made available to all students in the school and is integrated across curriculum. St. George Catholic School has a Technology Committee that meets on a routine basis to create both short and long term technology plans. This committee is comprised of administration, educators, staff, and the school's technology coordinator.

The budget of St. George Catholic School supports equipment and technology with specific plans for capital improvements, additions and replacements. Over the last two years, over \$500,000 has been allocated for the purchase of desktop computers, laptop computers, and smart boards, in addition to the upgrade of the school's network. A technology fee of \$150 per student has been implemented as a commitment to continued maintenance and upgrades to current hardware and software. St. George Catholic School has also dedicated funds for a full-time technology coordinator who is responsible for daily network operations, as well as short and long-term planning.

St. George Catholic School's purchasing and physical and technological improvements are done in alignment with the mission and the school's planning and curricular goals. When surveyed through the Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness survey, 91% of staff agrees that curriculum and instruction at St. George Catholic School prepares students to be capable and critical users of media and technology. In that same survey, again, 91% agree that the school's facilities, equipment, and technology management plans are designed to enhance teaching and learning. The school continually upgrades software that is used both in the classroom and for enhanced practice by the student in the home environment. For example, IXL, which is an online practice site for math, has had measureable success as evidenced by standardized test scores.

Recommendations

St. George Catholic School has invested in technology throughout the campus. The school has made large investments in both hardware and software, as well as a commitment of salary dollars for a full-time technology coordinator. The school also has an active Technology Committee that meets regularly to discuss both short and long-term technology plans. However, the need to have a more fully developed technology plan remains. This plan should be a comprehensive plan that includes asset planning and plans for complete curriculum integration, including academic, spiritual and operational goals. This plan should include a long range plan, detailing the school's future expected needs, as well as current needs. The Technology Committee is currently working to complete this integrated plan.

Rating of Standard

Based upon the evidence, benchmark worksheets and recommendations for Operational Vitality Standard 12, St. George Catholic School rates themselves at level 3.