

LIGHTING THE WAY NEWS

Lighting the Way: A Visioning for Catholic Schools

DECEMBER 2011

Vision Timeline:

Jan. 2011: Beginning of Phase One

Jan.-Aug. 2011: Data Gathering

May-June 2011: Visioning Sessions

Aug. 2011: University Summit

Sept. 2011: Release of Assessment Report

Sept. 2011: Beginning of Phase Two

Oct. 2011: Formation of Task Forces

Oct.-April: Task Forces Meet

Oct. - April: Visioning Sessions

May-July 2012: Completion of Final Report

Aug. 2012: Release of Final Report

LETTER FROM: DR. JIM RIGG

Dear Supporters of our Catholic Schools,

The blessed season of Advent is upon us, and we are in the midst of preparations for the birth of Christ. Our schools are abuzz with Christmas activities, final exams, and preparations for 2012. Likewise, our vision continues to develop. As detailed in this newsletter, our Task

Forces continue to work on analyzing school data and considering ideas and directions for the future.

Overall, our vision continues to be on track and developing well. As we enter the new year, I cannot adequately convey my thanks for the hard work and dedication of the Vision Steering Committee members,

and the members of the Task Forces. All have put in extra hours. You have my sincerest gratitude for so freely sharing your talents and time.

May God shed his Grace upon our Catholic schools this Christmas, and continue to bless us in 2012.

Yours in Christ,
Dr. Jim Rigg

Supplemental Financial Report Released

A substantial financial report profiling our Catholic schools is set to be released on Monday, December 19th. This report is meant to supplement the Initial Assessment Report (released last October). When the Initial Assessment Report was released, we were unable to offer full information about school finances. At the time, we were still waiting on the annual submission of financials from some parishes and schools. Most of these financials have now been received.

The Supplemental Financial Report offers some key data about the state of Catholic school finances. The report focuses solely upon parish elementary schools, although the finances of high schools and non-parish schools will be considered in the final vision. Likewise, a number of Recommendations are described to encourage more study in certain areas.

This report will be added to the wider body of data on our schools. It will be deeply analyzed and considered as our vision takes shape. The Supplemental Financial Report will be available on the vision website on Monday, December 19th (select the link for the "Initial Assessment Report").



TASK FORCE UPDATES

Our Task Forces have been extremely busy since the publishing of the November *Lighting the Way* News (see the November edition for a description of the initial work of the Task Forces).

The **Catholic Identity & Faith Formation** Task Force has identified two areas of focus. First, this Task Force will examine how the Catholic identity of each school is reflected on all levels within our schools (i.e. all courses, staff members, communications, etc.). In addition, this Task Force is looking into the religious formation of principals and teachers, particularly those who work with religion classes.

The **Academic Excellence** Task Force is examining how curriculum standards and student achievement data is being used to influence teaching and learning. The Task Force is also examining how our schools can foster a culture of continual training for teachers and principals.

For the **Finance** Task Force, work continues among the three subcommittees (Financial Practices, Private Support for Schools, and Archdiocesan and Public Support for Schools). The Financial Practices subcommittee is developing a list of metrics that will be used to help determine whether a school is financially viable. The other Task Forces are looking at methods for bringing more income into our schools and how best to distribute the extra funds.

The **Governance** Task Force is looking at effective models of school governance and how school leaders can be made aware of these models. Likewise, the Task Force is looking deeply at orientations for school board and commission members, and various board structures.

Several meetings have taken place for the **Leadership** Task Force. This group continues to shape a potential process for identifying, recruiting, and orienting new principals in the Archdiocese. Likewise, the Task Force is examining forms on ongoing training for principals as well as the principal evaluation process.

In **Marketing & Enrollment**, this task force is identifying effective methods of school marketing and how these methods can be spread among the elementary schools. The Task Force would like to initiate a year-long pilot marketing program in a small number of schools to test their success. In addition, this Task Force continues to study the demographic data, and identify areas of demographic challenge or areas of potential school growth.

Task Force meetings will continue through the weeks ahead. Stay tuned to this newsletter for continual updates as we move forward.



Fourth Video Update Released

The fourth video update for *Lighting the Way* has been released on the vision website. This update provides more information about the work of the Task Forces. In addition, the video profiles the success of a senior at a Catholic high school. The video can be found on the [“Updates and Announcements”](#) link of the website.

We're on the
web:

www.catholiccincinnati.org/education/