



Catholic Secondary Schools
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Survey Results
& Analysis**

for

Catholic Central and West Catholic High School Mission and Vision Feedback Survey

May 2010

Executive Summary

This report contains a detailed statistical analysis of the results to the survey titled *Catholic Central and West Catholic High School Mission and Vision Feedback Survey*. The results analysis includes answers from all respondents who took the survey in the 17 day period from Thursday, April 15, 2010 to Sunday, May 02, 2010.

903 completed responses were received to the survey during this time.

Vision Statement	Q1 Right Direction				Q2 Support Overall Language			
	Yes		No		Yes		No	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1. Community of Faith	828	94.0%	53	6.0%	758	86.4%	119	13.6%
2. Culture of Quality	749	91.3%	71	8.7%	689	84.7%	124	15.3%
3. Student Academic Success	768	88.6%	99	11.4%	705	81.7%	158	18.3%
4. Enrollment	755	88.4%	102	11.6%	699	80.3%	172	19.7%
5. Service and Operational Excellence	818	95.0%	43	5.0%	747	87.2%	110	12.8%
6. Diversity, Inclusion and Equity	789	92.2%	67	7.8%	706	83.1%	144	16.9%
7. Financial Viability and Fund Raising	829	95.0%	44	5.0%	784	90.6%	81	9.4%
8. Alumni, Stakeholder and Community Engagement	854	97.3%	24	2.7%	814	94.0%	52	6.0%
9. Facilities and Technology Excellence	861	98.6%	12	1.4%	818	94.7%	46	5.3%
10. Sustainability	853	97.7%	20	2.3%	807	93.0%	61	7.0%
11. Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities	841	96.6%	30	3.4%	782	90.6%	81	9.4%
10. Marketing	841	96.6%	30	3.4%	795	91.8%	71	8.2%

Survey Results & Analysis

School Mission Statement

Grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition, Catholic Central High School is a community where God's active presence in daily instruction cultivates the formation of each student to seek knowledge, know God's goodness, and contribute to society by respecting the dignity of every human being.

Grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition, West Catholic High School is a community where God's active presence in daily instruction cultivates the formation of each student to seek knowledge, know God's goodness, and contribute to society by respecting the dignity of every human being.

Do you support the above Mission statement as the purpose of the school?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	768	88.6%
No	99	11.4%

*Note: 23 respondents did not answer this question.

If you do not support the Mission statement as the purpose of the school, please explain.

While I appreciate the sentiment, I don't feel the mission statement focuses enough on education. While Catholic teaching is important, I think the implementing such a statement with high school students would be very difficult. Also, I think that the Diocese itself has not done a good job of "respecting the dignity of every human being."

I think the phrase Catholic Intellectual Tradition could prove to be troublesome from a marketing standpoint. It could be misinterpreted as condescending or elitist, just a thought.

Other than "High School" and "instruction", one can't tell WC is in the Education business. Religious belief is essential; but something like "understanding the world God made" ought to be in the mission explicitly, given the vision you go on to articulate. Why are educators these days afraid to admit they are engaged in education?

Mission statements are useless fluff, nonsense, and not necessary. What difference does a mission statement make in anything?

I agree with the statement, but it lacks inspiration.

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

Why have two separate statements? It could infer to some that we are not a system and will become independent in the future. The next section (Community of Faith) is a statement that combines both schools. It is not consistent.

Why are the statements separate? First glance, that seems to be a historical concern - the schools are viewed s-e-p-a-r-a-t-e, when there should be strength in unity.

The Catholic school is a means to fulfilling the mission of the Church which is evangelization: bringing people into a relationship with the Living Triune God. As the document THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL from the Congregation for Catholic Education states, 34. Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school. His revelation gives new meaning to life and helps man to direct his thought, action and will according to the Gospel, making the beatitudes his norm of life. The fact that in their own individual ways all members of the school community share this Christian vision, makes the school "Catholic"; principles of the Gospel in this manner become the educational norms since the school then has them as its internal motivation and final goal. 35. The Catholic school is committed thus to the development of the whole man, since in Christ, the Perfect Man, all human values find their fulfillment and unity. Herein lies the specifically Catholic character of the school. Its duty to cultivate human values in their own legitimate right in accordance with its particular mission to serve all men has its origin in the figure of Christ. He is the One Who ennobles man, gives meaning to human life, and is the Model which the Catholic school offers to its pupils.

I feel the current mission statement is much more clear and does not create so many questions as to what the schools are teaching. What is "Catholic Intellectual Tradition"? It sounds like a specific philosophy of education. Certainly we expect the schools to have God's presence in all activities, not just in instruction. In the old mission, the whole body, mind and spirit were addressed, this statement really only addresses the mind. It also sounds like an anti-abortion group's statement at the end. Certainly we want respect of life taught but this wording does not seem appropriate for a high school mission.

The term Catholic Intellectual Tradition may be confusing? Christian or Biblical Precepts and Principles is more comprehensive.

Why are fundamental values and educational excellence not mentioned? This could easily be the mission statement of a friary, let alone a high school.

In addition we feel that the mission statement should include a focus on the commitment to deliver a level and quality of education that is second to none in the area. This is a critical component in preparing our children so that they may become productive and successful Christian citizens of the world.

"respecting the dignity ..." should not be restricted to the "dignity" of humans

I would like to add more emphasis placed on the development of a catholic culture within the community. May these high schools be a place where students and families focus not only on intellectual formation, but to incorporate in daily life.

Completely agree with the essence of the mission but it seems a little wordy. Missions must be easy to memorize for all stakeholders to be effective.

Strike the word Intellectual. It does not flow. Find a different word...

1) "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" is amorphous 2) Catholic is about Jesus Christ and focusing our life on Him; Jesus is not mentioned 3) No mention that the schools will teach, live and propagate the Catholic faith 4) No mention that the curriculum is obedient to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church 5) "Seeking knowledge" is not the first function of a Catholic student or a Catholic school 6) "respecting the dignity of every human being" is a) vague, b) politically charged in our day and age, c) not the only way one "contributes to society"

I don't understand the need for "Catholic Intellectual Tradition". It sounds too egg-headed.

Instructional and academic excellence should have an emphasis instead of intellectual tradition.

I hope for something different and greater for my sons and daughter graduating from a private Catholic school. The first objective of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition is the search for Truth, acknowledging that God is Truth, and that thus the search for Truth will lead to God. Therefore, I would change "knowledge" in the proposed statement to "the Truth". Further, the schools' mission should include the propagation of the Faith. Finally, I hope for much more in the way of a contribution to society from my sons and daughter: I hope their contributions manifest themselves, primarily, in understanding that their purpose is to know, love and serve God.

What comes first knowledge or the faith? I would rather raise children to be faith filled followers of the faith with an average academic record than for our children to be above average academically and less than what God expects of them faithfully.

The message is excellent but I think this should be simplified in language that is less verbose. Also - what is "Catholic Intellectual Tradition"?

Seeking knowledge and gaining understanding are two different things. The Catholic high schools are college preparatory schools and, as such, should have a stronger emphasis on academics, knowledge acquisition (beyond merely "seeking"), and critical thinking if the students are to succeed in college and to become lifelong learners.

While I generally support this statement I think the statement "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" is confusing. I prefer the beginning of the sentence to read "Grounded in Christ's teachings". It is clear, inarguable, and leaves no room for misunderstanding.

But I think the "contribute to society...." is too vague. This statement needs to be stronger.

Drop "Intellectual" I understand what CIT stands for. Just drop the jargon and use the values and ethics that CIT has at its core; rigorous scholarship and a commitment to spiritual and ethical values with an emphasis on the liberal arts, concerned with the development of the whole person while reaching out to those in need and assuming responsibility for making the world a better place.

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

I guess that's a good statement---a relationship with Jesus---knowing Him, praying to Him, having the Bible guide one's life, would be nice to be included.

Yes but-The time has come to join the two schools and enjoy the economies of scale. Bring priests and nuns back into the class rooms. Eliminate duplication of staff and infrastructure. The cost of maintaining two schools is putting a financial burden on all parishes and parents. The mission statements sound good but I question their accuracy.

I think you should rethink your statement. What kind of message are you putting out there with all that has been going on with the Catholic Church and their priest and the sexual misconduct that has run rampant throughout. Being a gay male and Catholic, I have a hard time buying any of the BS that you talk about. Dignity and respect, give me a break. You should talk to me and more like me before you say such things. You are losing clout each and every day with all that has been happening and nobody taking any blame for what hundreds and hundreds of boys and girls have gone through throughout these many years. Shame on you all!!!

It seems incomplete. The contribution to society should include more than simply respecting the dignity of every human being, but should also include evangelizing society itself and spreading the Gospel to everyone that they meet.

What exactly is Catholic "Intellectual" tradition? Sounds a bit snobby to me.

In my opinion, we should change "Catholic" to "Catholic Christian" to be more ecumenical.

But it seems overly religious. Didn't we always think like this?

Respecting the dignity of every human being is too much or a catch phrase. I think "promoting human dignity" or "promoting goodness and holiness" better captures Catholic thought.

'Pursuit of academic excellence,' I am paying to send them to a college prep school with catholic values not seminary.

I would like to see the work serve or service worked into the Mission.

What is Catholic Intellectual Tradition? I think it needs to be defined. I think the main mission is to cultivate our Catholic faith in Christ Jesus, seeking knowledge of our world, and using this knowledge to follow God's will in our lives to contribute to the greater good of society and respecting the dignity of every human being and all of God's creation.

Mission statements are a silly fad of the last ten years. If I would have wrote something like this in an English class I'm sure the good Nuns would have rightfully told me that this was a waste of time to reiterate what should be obvious to any intelligent individual. I would hope one would be able to correlate "CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL" with all the platitudes in that mission statement. Your grasp of the obvious is astounding.

I believe that knowing God's goodness should come first before knowledge.

There appears to be no emphasis on community involvement, or active social connectedness with the environment in which the school exists. The phrase "contribute to society, to me, is a vague, lame reference and perhaps could be strengthened. There is only weak inter-generational connecting, nor is the "respecting the dignity" an active enough phrase that might imply this

What is "God's active presence"? Does He exhibit an inactive presence? "...where God's presence is made manifest to each student as he/she seeks knowledge, experiences His goodness and aspires to be a contributing member of society through the practice of virtue."

Why is the mission statement stated twice?

"Intellectual Tradition" is our problem. We should be grounded in Catholic teaching, principles that are formed by our belief in the in the Word of God - not just our traditions (customs handed down from generation to generation).

Intellectual is mentioned, knowledge is mentioned but humility isn't and "respecting the dignity of every human being", is broad. "where the living Christ leads each student in knowledge and humility as they respond to society by sharing their understanding with every human being they meet."

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

The vision statement would be more complete if there was something stated about the staff's commitment and the students responsibilities.

know God's goodness should come before seek knowledge - faith first, knowledge second.

I would need an explanation of Catholic Intellectual Tradition. I would rather see our schools working toward being or striving to be "a community..." I feel that we as individuals, as well as institutions are always working toward being better people, etc. and that it is the rare individual or institution that can state emphatically that they ARE. In that regard, I don't believe that either CC and WC IS definitively a community where these things thus stated are happening yet.

"Grounded in Christ's teachings, the Catholic Secondary Schools of Greater Grand Rapids will advance the formation and education of each student in spirit, mind and body."

It is not enough to know God's goodness. Our students need to love God so much that in their personal efforts to spread the love of God, they contribute to society and respect the dignity of every human being because it is pleasing to God and his will.

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

I have no idea what Catholic Intellectual Tradition means. I have only heard it as Catholic Tradition. The use of the word "intellectual" makes scan its sound like only the very bright may attend this school. Why are there two separate statements?

how is God's active presence seen or realized in daily instruction? also How about not just knowing God's goodness but "realizing God-given gifts and LEARNING TO USE those gifts for the building up of the kingdom of God on earth... not just contributing to society?

Though I believe this is the mission, I don't believe it is being carried out as the current purpose of the school. I think the leaders are pushing for an elite prep school and have lost sight of the catholicity, dignity of every student, and cultivation of every student. Unless you have money or an elite athlete there is very little consideration of the student.

"Grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition" does NOT say it is a Catholic school. Many Catholic universities have been intentionally twisting their wording in recent years as they have moved away from their Catholic identity. This seems to be following suit. Second, it sounds like the ultimate focus is "respecting the dignity of every human being," rather than knowing and loving God. The respect for others comes with that. Third, it's too wordy for people to remember. How about something like, "The Catholic Central High School community will cultivate its students to seek the truth of God and His goodness, to respect the dignity of every human being, and to contribute to society through vocation and service.

I support it, but have seen in lacking significantly in practice.

See revision below: Grounded in Catholic tradition, the Catholic Secondary Schools, Catholic Central and West Catholic, are communities where God's active presence in daily instruction cultivates each student's desire to seek knowledge, know God's goodness, and contribute to society by respecting the dignity of human life.

I'd like to see at least one specific, concrete outcome (i.e. "one-on-one guidance and a challenging curriculum that ensures students are prepared and positioned for college success," or even more specific, "one-on-one guidance and a challenging curriculum that has prepared our students to achieve a 97% college graduation rate since 19__") that I can expect from sending my child to CC. The proposed mission statement, which says, in part, "... to seek knowledge, know God's goodness, and contribute to society ..." sounds nice, but it doesn't communicate to me as a parent why I should choose CC over any other high school (private or otherwise). How CC prepares my student for the next stage of spiritual AND professional life would be a stronger appeal to me and to any other parent trying to decide if the private school price tag helps contribute to successful students in the real world.

You may also want to add something about academic excellence since that is another important reason why families would want to attend our high schools.

Needs to be more specific about our Catholic Identity, sounds too general. Maybe Grounded in Catholic Tradition, WCHS is a community committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In celebrating the Eucharist as the source and summit of all we do, we are committed to the formation of our students well being and education by active participation of the sacraments, prayer, service, respecting the dignity of every human being, ecumenism and hospitality.

It's not I don't agree, its how you interpreted it...

What is the definition of Catholic Intellectual Tradition? Why is there a need to have a separate statement for the two schools?

The vision is missing reference to a personal relationship with God. Some of the phrasing seems a bit awkward. Not sure that the word intellectual is the right descriptor. For example: Grounded in Catholic teachings and traditions, CC is a community of God's children, where His encompassing presence cultivates spiritual and academic formation by inspiring students to become seekers of and contributors to, knowledge and grace, the dignity of every human being and God's goodness in the world.

This would be acceptable if it included more than just the words "intellectual" and "instruction". "Actively living/practicing" would be more meaningful for me at least.

"Seeking knowledge" does not begin to touch the surface of why most parents sacrifice to send their children to CC/WC - it is because of the education. Being a Catholic, I prefer to send my children to Catholic school; however parents would not send their children to a poor academic Catholic school.

There appears to be no "mission" in the statement. Without "God's active presence", this statement says nothing about what our "mission" is accept to believe that God will be active at the schools.

While concise it does not express a broader understanding, tolerance, or knowledge of the diverse world they will be entering. More emphasis on intellectual growth will pull in other students than Catholic which is important for growth and has been a tried and true method on the other side of the state which supports many more Catholic secondary schools.

Does not mention development of faith. Knowing God's goodness doesn't mean the child attempts to embody or emulate God's goodness. Respecting human dignity doesn't seem to be enough of a contribution to society as a member of a Catholic school community. I think each word chosen for the mission statement should count. Could be stronger.

Liked it better combined. The Vision statement which, I believe, needs some work is missing. My suggestion would be something like the following. 1st sentence OK 2nd Graduates choosing to continue their education will be well prepared to be successful in the institution and program of their choice and complete their program at a rate that ranks in the top 5% of all high schools

It lacks Catholic Identity.

In addition, I would like to see something about academics in the mission statement

It is too long and no one is going to read or remember it.

I would like the mission statement to include deepening their Catholic faith and strengthening their relationship with God. These things are different than "knowing God's goodness." In addition, what is "Catholic Intellectual Tradition"? Seems like a buzzword phrase that at first glance sounds good, but when you think about it, what does this phrase mean?

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

Nice words, but not effective or appropriate for our mission statement. As Sister Margaret from Sacred Heart University realizes, CIT cannot be easily explained. Our mission statement should be easy to explain to our prospects, not difficult. Also, CIT will not resonate with most people. "Seek knowledge" doesn't cut it; we should expect our students to learn not just try. "Contribute to society....." is weak. Our purpose should be much better; respecting sounds passive, and to respect another's dignity (worth) should be a mere minimum, and hopefully already learned before entering high school. Try to be concise and simple. How about something like: Our mission is to have a active Catholic school emplacing academic excellence, and the full development of students' mind, spirit and body.....Note, our marketing visions says were selling faith, academics and successful students. Our mission should mirror what we selling to the public. The proposed mission statement is a little "ivory towerish", something simpler is better. Mission statements are tough to write because forces you to really tunnel down on our core purpose; and to act as a guiding principle.

I believe there needs to be a focus on the formation of the whole human being. To become the person that God intends him/her to be. First and foremost to know, love and serve God. If this becomes our center, then the academics will follow. This is the sole reason I send my children (5) to Catholic schools. Not for the rigor, although academics are important. What sets us apart is the faith formation. The formation of the whole human being. This mission statement seems self-centered and not Christ centered.

I agree with the statement. However, I think that the Catholic Secondary School system should lead by example and show the faculty and staff respect as well.

I would like to more with regards to academic excellence in this mission statement

What is Catholic Intellectual Tradition? What is the focus and expectation or end result of the educational process? The mission statement seems to be passive. What's the role of the student in reaching this mission statement?

Of course I support it as there is nothing wrong with it, but it does not read clearly, it is wordy, and not broad enough in my opinion. The word intellectual limits the statement. I think we aspire to seek truth not simply knowledge, live in God's goodness and grace, not just know it, and while I love the fact that you mentioned the first of the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching by being specific about the respecting of the dignity of every human being, it limits the statement to just one of the seven principles of CST.

Catholic Intellectual Tradition? Is this they are versed in the bible and can quote biblical passages? I find this a funny statement: Contribute to society by respecting the dignity of every human being. Neither high school has inclusive education. They both have entrance exams and criteria which can lead to telling a student on the lower level of performance that they may not attend. Why put a statement like that in when the high schools are moving to an exclusive educational environment.

The Mission is to support ALL of our students not just those who are gifted and privileged.

"seek knowledge" is vague.

NOT SURE ABOUT WHAT THE INTELLECTUAL TRADITION IS

Would like to see a greater emphasis on academics stated. This is especially important for families considering CC vs Forest Hills or East.

What the heck does "grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition" mean? This does not say or summarize anything about obedience or understanding to the Magisterium, nor does it say or summarize anything about building your Catholicism based upon important subjects as Salvation History, root Traditions, Spiritual Gifts, Sacraments, the Catechism, etc. It's more a "feel good" mission statement that you could probably find in any protestant parochial school. It says nothing that would "wow" you into thinking "boy, these Catholic people have it together and know what they are doing". How about integrating into your mission something like "Catholic Central is a superior academic and religious high school modeled on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the living Tradition of the Catholic Church.

What is meant by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition? What does this revolve around? I've been active in the church for many years, and seldom, if ever here this phrase. What about the ongoing development of Catholic tradition? What about the pastoral tradition of the church, rooted in the Gospels and the life of Jesus? Are we going to us the scholastic tradition, theological tradition, pastoral tradition? This statement is in need of much work.

I would like to see clarification of "intellectual tradition" and an incorporation of the phrase "gospel of Jesus Christ"

Catholic education has traditionally involved the whole person--the mind, the moral sense, the body. This is not present in either statement.

The term "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" is a term of methodology not a belief system. It should not be used in a mission statement. While several Catholic Universities use this term to explain their methods of teaching Church doctrine and practices, they don't use the term in their mission statements. [Catholic University of America] Interestingly, when researching CIT, two of the top four school that use this methodology are all-women Catholic Universities. So, if we are making the statement that we are especially going to promote/educate young women for leadership roles in the Catholic Church, then definitely let's use this methodology. It might serve us better, however in the mission statement to actually refer to the Gospels, Jesus' teachings, Christ's teaching, Gospel Values, etc...or some other wording that actually speaks to and/or references Jesus Christ as the foundation to what we are about.

I actually do support it, but is "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" a real proper noun? Is it an actual, specifically written out entity? If so, can we be told what it is? If not, it should probably read "Catholic intellectual tradition".

We are not grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition (whatever that is?) we are grounded in our Catholic Faith, or Christ's teachings.

It's vague, but if it's supposed to be then I support it.

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

Replace truth for knowledge, for not all knowledge is truth yet all truth is knowledge. I agree we should respect the dignity of all human beings. However, I suggest it entail something more explicitly Christian, the statement could be inferred as being spiritually ambiguous.

"Catholic Intellectual Tradition" sounds verbose. It would read better to say "Grounded in Catholic tradition, West Catholic High school is an intellectual community where..."

The student should get more of their Catholic education that simply knowing God's goodness. They should be inspired to remain faith Catholic adults. This Catholic Education should also assist each student in discovering God's will for their future and this understand causes them to contribute to society and strive to protect the dignity of every human life. I believe the goal should strive to make a Catholic high school education affordable to every Catholic family that desires this and we should extend ourselves to the greatest degree to achieve this goal. We should also stress humility be fostered in this high school environment.

Do not need a separate Mission statement for each school. Rather than calling out the individual schools, this should state "Grand Rapids Catholic High Schools are...". It is better they be unified and not separate.

I feel the mission statement is not concrete enough - it seems fluffy. I would like the mission to state that: students will understand their faith so well that they can explain it, defend it and live it while respecting the dignity of every human person.

change to "know God and His church"

can't even understand it and I have a graduate degree

Focus on catholic traditions and education is very important

The term "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" is not clear and obvious to all. What does this mean--Thomism, scholasticism, St. Augustine? This does not relate directly to the overall day o day mission of a school. simply saying "Catholic teaching" or "Catholic tradition" seems more appropriate. I will not be comfortable with "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" until someone can concisely tell me what it means. Also I believe "daily instruction" could be taken to exclude other aspects of school life--clubs, sports, etc. where direct "instruction" is not always present. I was told to read the term broadly--but does everyone read it to the same broad extent?

I am fine with the wording, but I am still not sure that Catholic Intellectual Tradition is the best terminology. My gut reaction when I first read it was "What the heck does that mean?".....it felt a little unwelcoming to me

Catholic Intellectual Tradition is a little heavy.

The mission seems to be lacking a clear statement about the academic program. My children are enrolled at CC for faith and academics. I do expect that my children will have every opportunity to attend college after attending CC.

Does every person mean the parents and staff of our Catholic schools? I think not.

Not Sure what "Catholic Intellectual Tradition" is of means. Why not grounded in our FAITH?

What is the Catholic intellectual tradition exactly? Why capitalize the words Catholic Intellectual and Tradition? The tradition of Catholic intellectual thought spans so many disciplines, schools of thought, and time that I find the capitalization as connoting a specific school of thought, e.g. Jesuit, Dominican, Franciscan etc. I do not think that is your aim. Also, while religion is central to the school I am not sure I would be comfortable with any statement that said "know God's goodness." As administrators are we arrogant enough to pretend to know God's nature? I like God's active presence in instruction. I think seeking knowledge and respecting the dignity of every human being is an extremely noble aim but I would not make any statements about understanding the nature or essence of God. It just seems pompous. Just my 2 cents. I know building consensus on these things is not an easy exercise.

I believe the mission and vision needs to include the Gospel in some ways such as: Grounded in the Roman Catholic Tradition, Catholic Central High School is an educational community where the Gospel is integrated into the formation of each student to seek knowledge, know God's goodness, and contribute to society by respecting the dignity of every human being in one's daily life experiences. (This could be used for West Catholic too.) I believe that the Catholic Christian perspective is clearer in my language.

I do believe it is exactly what we should represent. However, through the shared time program, there are places and people who cannot help a student cultivate his/her faith. In some ways, this double standard misrepresents what we should stand for.

Explain to me just what is Catholic Intellectual Tradition? I am not sure what you are trying to say here.

If this is a change from the current mission, it is necessary to see the current mission to do a comparative analysis. It also would have been helpful for anyone not informed or able to attend the town hall meeting to have a little summary included here of the reasons/thoughts behind the change. I cannot for yes for a vision change without having some background knowledge as to why the change is necessary.

what do you mean exactly by "intellectual Tradition?" additionally contributing to society needs to be a bit more active than just respecting people's dignity.

What is Catholic Intellectual Tradition??

Catholic Intellectual Tradition - makes us sound like we think we are better than others. Otherwise it is okay.

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

What is Catholic "Intellectual" Tradition? Catholic Tradition respects the dignity of every human being by accepting that all people have unique gifts from God, some intellectual and some not.

I thought the current mission is much more concise. This one is wordy and I feel focuses too much on the intellect. I know we are a school and therefore education is primary, still we need to reach students' hearts and souls as well as their minds. I want my children to do more than "seek knowledge" and "know" God's goodness. I want them to learn to love the Lord and thereby be able to contribute to society by spreading His love to every human being.

The term "Intellectual" portrays that the "grade" is more important than the Christian values or why we send our children to a parochial school.

Perhaps the addition of something that puts an even stronger focus on personally seeking an eternal relationship with God: "and to know a desire to attain heaven and to be a witness of God's saving love to everyone," or something...

Not just ground in Catholic intellectual tradition..... say it's a Roman Catholic school

I believe a more forward thinking mission statement would not segregate the schools into separate entities. I recommend that "Catholic Secondary Schools" replace Catholic Central and West Catholic High School

It is going in the right direction, but the wording is horrible, unclear, and repetitive. Combine the two paragraphs at a minimum. Talk to your English teachers about clear writing. Please try again as this is embarrassing.

In four years I would expect my children to come away with a greater understanding and love for God & neighbor through the proper formation of their intellect. They should seek truth in knowledge of all subject areas. They should seek to unite their will with the will of God as well as respecting the God given dignity of each human being. The mission statement needs to be more specific.

1. I am not comfortable with the term "Catholic Intellectual Tradition." I am not sure specifically what that means and I suspect it could be used for different purposes depending on the agenda. Catholic Tradition is much broader and richer than specifically "intellectual" and I would hope that broader tradition would inform all that we do... 2. "All that we do" includes more than "instruction" so that word may be a little limiting unless understood in its broadest sense. 3. I strongly support the emphasis on "contribute to society" and "respecting the dignity of every human being" as being essential.

I prefer the first reference to God be changed to Christ and "know God's goodness" be replaced with "respond to Christ's invitation to love through the practice of the Catholic faith"

I think both schools need to focus on being more Catholic and upholding the teachings of the Catholic Church. Check out Franciscan University of Stubenville for an awesome example of a mission statement <http://www.franciscan.edu/about/Default.aspx?id=61>

So you have intellectual tradition but are you loyal to the True Catholic Traditions with a big T. Out out 264 diocese in the United States we are in the bottom 30 based upon our Catholicity. How Catholic are our high schools?

By having the inclusion of 'Intellectual' in Catholic Tradition, it gives the impression that it excludes other Catholic Tradition.

Yes I do, however, my experience at Catholic Central with my son was anything but. He was harassed, embarrassed by 2 teachers in particular and had to stop taking the bus because of harassment. He also left Capella Choir because of the harassment of a few students. He is a very gifted tenor and was an asset to the group who took his role seriously.

not sure the students understand this message. Some are very decent young people. Others, well it probably falls to the parents but some CC kids don't represent that mission off campus grounds.

I would add that it is the responsibility of the Diocese keep Catholic education available and affordable for all Catholics.

Could we change knowledge to "Truth"? I believe that better represents our Catholic classical educational goals.

I am deeply rooted in the gospel. I am not sure what is meant by Intellectual Tradition. Is this related to the apostolic mission of the gospel rather than an intellectual understanding?

What about academic excellence?

It's a wonderful statement but far from the reality that takes place within the hallways and classrooms. The focus should be on showing the students how to live their faith.

At CCHS I have not seen 100% participation by the "instructor" where God is active & present...therefore the teachers / instructors NEED to agree to this Mission Statement first and foremost.

Take out the word intellectual. It limits the wholeness of our Catholic Tradition.

Catholic Identity, values and traditions should be the first mission, and academics should follow that. The mission should state that we actively seek God in the Catholic traditions and values and this is the foundation for seeking knowledge, etc.

With the word intellectual in the mission statement, is it only for those that are intellect and what defines that?

Not broad enough vision for the holistic person. Does not seem to address discipline young people. It is a slippery slope to develop the head and not animate the heart and spirit.

This vision is out of touch with the reality that is our schools now. We have increasing numbers of students who have special learning needs; the elem school do a great job working with these students to be successful. All but a few are able to continue and graduate from our high schools. This vision surely could not include them. This vision also presupposes that people are generally dissatisfied .

Comments about Mission statement as the purpose of the school (continued)

I don't believe that "know God's goodness" is a strong enough statement in regards to the level of faith formation we should be aspiring to. I would like to see a stronger statement of Catholic identity and participation in the Universal Church than just to "know God's goodness"

This is one of those mission statements that on the surface sounds good but in reality has little concrete meaning. A mission statement should be more than just a string of high-falootin' words and phrases that sound exciting, like "God's active presence," "cultivates the formation," and "know God's goodness." Instead, be more down to earth, specific, and CATHOLIC. How's this? "To provide a intellectual, moral, and spiritual foundation to young Roman Catholic women and men, empowering them to make a positive difference in the world, and play an active role in the Church's mission to win souls for Christ." THAT'S a mission statement of a Catholic high school.

The statement is to academic and knowledge-based and does not focus on developing the relational aspects of faith...just because you know a lot and know your faith doesn't mean you live it!

Community of Faith

In the belief that education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News, our schools will be communities of faith creating environments where all can encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth. Our communities of faith will engage students, teachers, staff, parents and stakeholders in instilling and supporting Catholic moral and ethical values and behaviors that are grounded in Christ's teachings.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	828	94.0%
No	53	6.0%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	758	86.4%
No	119	13.6%

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement

The mission statement as written does not need to include the verbiage...and graduate from higher education at a rate that ranks among the top 5% of all high schools. This sends a message that our priorities do not revolve around Christianity but rather elitism.

I am concerned that ranking among the top 5% of all high schools might cause our schools to exclude students who struggle academically. We currently cannot accommodate many students with special learning needs/disabilities. I would like to see this change. Our Catholic high schools should welcome students of all abilities and seek to help them reach their full potential. We do not want to remain elitist.

I support the "Community of Faith" portion. I do not support the goal in the paragraph above. I feel the emphasize on good education should be the secondary goal. Christian / Catholic morals should be primary.

I think too much spirituality is being expected of teenagers.

I can tell that a lot of time was spent on the wording of this section. Good job!

I think the Vision lacks of a sense of social responsibility promotion, which is more important than the ranking.

The statement mentions 'by 2015' CC and WC will be renowned, are we not already 'renowned'? I'm not sure what this means. Does 'higher education' mean a 4 year degree from college?

I would change it to say "Christian" values in lieu of Catholic

The statement "graduates choosing higher education will be admitted to the college and program of their choice" is not true. Suppose I chose MIT but MIT did not choose me?

No objection to the statements. However the Community of Faith statement comes off as somewhat insular. There is a much broader world around our students that is not Catholic. They should be prepared to recognize, respect and interact with good people of all faiths.

Sounds just a little too "Holy Rollerish" this may turn off some when deciding to attend the schools.

Are we only instilling and supporting Catholic morals or "teaching, instilling and supporting" Catholic morals?

Jesus tells us the work of the Church (and her institutions) in the great commission, "go make disciples of all nations..." We are called to "make saints" who in turn sanctify the world. A faith community is the local parish. "the school is an institution where young people gradually learn to open themselves up to life as it is, and to create in themselves a definite attitude to life as it should be." #31

If you seek to make Catholic Central and West Catholic the beacons of educational excellence, as is articulated above before the "Community of Faith" section, then incorporate it into your statements. Quite frankly, religious teachings and environments "where all can encounter the living God" have nothing to do with educational excellence. There is a direct conflict between what you state you are seeking, and what you are articulating in these statements.

the first or bolded goals are academic and the second is more altruistic ... they are not aligned

I agree partially, I would like to think, that we include peoples of all faiths. So as the song says all are welcome in this place.

2015? I thought GR CC and GR WC is considered as high quality and is already ranks among the top high schools.

Please keep the focus on Catholic moral and ethical behaviors, even maybe adding furthering Catholic tradition and sacramental life

I would add "in the nation" to the top 5% statement or it could be perceived as in GR or in the world.

Language implies non-Catholics unwelcome. Language implies divorced or gays are judged.

Where do the two high schools currently rate? Is attaining top 5% a reasonable goal based on their current status?

Renowned--there must be a better word choice.

"the living God" IS Jesus Christ. That fact should be clearly acknowledged. As should the fact that the schools will teach what the Catholic Church teaches.

It is important to keep BOTH schools open

Our schools will be communities of faith creating environments where all can encounter the living Godlove and truth - very wordy - not concise - the message is still there if this phrase is omitted.

I do not agree with the foundational statement that our graduates will be admitted to the college and program of their choice. I'd much rather that my sons and daughter be prepared to handle the many disappointments and failures that accompany every person's life. Establishing a goal which is not attainable (i.e., that all will be admitted where each has chosen), without a concomitant instruction in the discipline of handling disappointment, is a bad idea.

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

It is great to know that Catholic Central and West Catholic are boldly proclaiming that we are Catholic, and this is our mission.

You still need to address that Catholic education is for students of all intellectual levels and abilities not just those choosing higher education.

What about those students who choose not to meet this objective or cannot meet this objective? Again our responsibility is not above average academics that will turn people away. Our responsibility is to raise our children in the faith. Sounds too much like a college prep school rather than a Catholic school.

Emphasis on Catholic identity will draw far more students from Catholic parishes and other denominations than it will deter. It represents a moral, orderly education with strong academic preparation and cooperation with parents.

While a much smaller school, Muskegon Catholic should be included as part of this process. We are all poorer if another school fails and stronger when our own succeed.

GRCCSS has no control over university admissions. Many of our graduates in the top 5 - 10% of their class have been turned down at the college of their choice.

This is not the Catholic Central I remember. When did it become so evangelical?

I think you could leave it at this sentence (the 2nd one): Our communities of faith will engage students, teachers, staff, parents and stakeholders in instilling and supporting Catholic moral and ethical values and behaviors that are grounded in Christ's teachings. Otherwise I think it sounds dramatic.

What about the kids that don't go to College or seek alternative ed choices?

This seems to be too narrow in mission and vision. Graduates may choose different vocations and not be bound for univ. and "higher education". They may choose vocational or other programs. They should be successful in any and all choices and the mission and vision should represent a quality of education that allows that.

Add after grounded in Christ's teaching--also about the tradition of the Catholic Church. It is vital that all teachers live their Catholic faith. There are teachers in the school that currently claim to be Catholic but promote their contrary beliefs which go against Catholic teaching. This is hurting our students --it would be best to replace those teachers as they are not speaking the Truth. There needs to be a system that will hold teachers accountable with this statement. This statement will be hollow without it. "So now I tell you, have nothing to do with these men, and let them go. For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin, it will destroy itself. But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God." Acts 5:34-42

My goodness, it sounds just great to me. I graduated in '61 CC and I don't even know if there was a Mission Statement at that time. As a Sister of Mercy, I have been writing Mission Statements for many years now and yours is outstanding. Somehow I don't recall too much about my Theology classes but there must have been a foundation from which I have built my faith/belief system....

"Stakeholders" is vague, corporate-speak. Be specific. Could we use Christian instead of Catholic?

The community of faith language is good, but I wanted to comment on the initial Vision Statement. The number one priority of the schools should be to develop outstanding disciples of Jesus Christ and everything else should feed this goal. Achieving dreams and realizing full potential are both admirable goals, but shaping these dreams so that they coincide with the message of the Gospel is also important. Success should also be measured by much more than being admitted to prestigious colleges, because for some people simply graduating from high school is a challenge. The language should sound more inclusive of people of all academic aptitudes and not "elitist" or geared specifically for those preparing for college.

First sentence needs grammatical editing. Is it "faith-creating environments" or "communities of faith, creating environments.."

Stakeholders?

It certainly shouldn't preclude addressing other points of view, and not to be so narrow that religion is influencing politics just as politics shouldn't influence religion.

I have already completed a survey, but wanted to offer a suggestion that could catapult our curriculum and expectations for students: to follow a Classical curriculum. Many top notch Catholic colleges follow this method of teaching. Our schools could still maintain current technology and even advance it. This Classical method would work best if filtered down to the elementary schools.

I am not sure I understand what is changing we always thought like that. And again it seems overly religious. I would like an example of what is meant by this statement and is it different than when I went there. I thought that is what we always believed. How will all this change what we have been doing? I want to know that before I would accept that this is what I want. What will change? or what are you saying will be different?

sounds like a lawyer wrote it...keep it simple

I am proud to say I went to a Catholic School. Will do what I can to better the Catholic Schools.

I fully support the language in the Community of Faith section; however, I don't think it is the high school's responsibility to ensure that its students graduate from college. The school's responsibility ends when its students successfully graduate from its program. Also, I think you set up unreasonable expectations when you say that the students will be admitted to the college or program of their choice. If, for example, the C student wants to attend Notre Dame, how are you going to guarantee him admission? You can have A students who won't be admitted to Notre Dame.

While I agree that Catholic values need to be taught, it should be clear that the schools are open to any student of any religion if they respect the Catholic traditions.

Where does GRCC and GRWC currently rank among the top High Schools?

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

The paragraph above makes both schools college prep only. Is this the only focus? What if they want to pursue Holy Orders, mission work, a marriage vocation etc? Or do we only want those students who are top performers that go only to the top colleges?

AFFORDABLE education should be an integral mission of the Church. After paying to put 4 kids through K-12 there is no more money to pay for college. The Catholic schools in GR are pricing the middle class out of the schools. The schools are quickly become the schools for the rich.

I think we have a quality school now, so the future should be what you are describing, except I don't see how you can follow grads to get the 5 %.

The Word of God is mentioned, the need for social concern is mentioned, Where is the staying true to the magisterium?

very "wordy" "...our schools will be shining examples of faith through which all can encounter the living God via the visible practice and support of Catholic moral and ethical values and behaviors."

How would be the question.

I would like to see sports coaches also listed specifically among those who will be engaged by the communities of faith. This language represents an excellent ideal.

So in a nut shell, you want to make Catholic High Schools college prep schools - more so then they already are. Community of Faith statement is fine, too bad it is not possible to include all Catholic children.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

"Community of Faith" is a strategic priority? The community of Faith language is vague. If you aspire to top 5% of all high schools, the language should contain specific education priorities.

unclear

It sounds like we are promising the every student will be admitted to the college of their choice and while we can give them the tools, but cannot guarantee they use them to attain this goal.

Increase emphasis on social justice.

doesn't W/CC already rank among the top 5%? and it's not realistic that every graduating student will be admitted to their "college choice"

Parts are very unclear instead of a Catholic School that should be accessible to all it sounds as if you plan on making it an elite school for the 4.0 student only. To me this is no longer a Catholic School but a Prep School. Not the same-not acceptable as an example of Christianity to all.

Too wordy.

Giving the kids an education to meet the outside world and to keep up with today's technology might be a little more important than giving them religion

Faith should be first!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This is way too wordy and vague. Secondly, it focuses first on values and behaviors rather than on education. The difference is subtle, but values and behaviors can be accomplished entirely in religion class. However, education about the fullness of the Catholic faith can extend to English, science, history, and all of the other classes as well.

How are we going to measure this? What are numbers currently? and Where does this leave students with learning challenges?

The bolded West Catholic and Catholic Central-specific outcome copy at the top of the page, though not perfect, is much more effective in establishing in the minds of parents that CC is a superior high school than any of the fluff copy under the Community of Faith subhead. This non-specific copy could be applied to any Christian high school in the city and establishes no distinction in parents' minds, lumping Catholic Central in --- instead of positioning them unique and apart from --- all the other faith-based schools in Grand Rapids.

I want to be sure that a Catholic Grade School and High School education is available to anyone who is willing to pay the tuition. I do not support a mission that seeks to make our school elitist or where only the "smart" kids can go to school. My decision to give my kids a catholic education is not motivated by a desire to have them attend a top 5% high school. It is to give them an above average education in a Christian environment. The basis of catholic education is about faith not about being the amongst the most elite of schools.

We still have to pay attention to the less blessed students and admit them and develop them.

Can we declare to engage ALL (non-Catholics, those questioning their faith) in instilling and supporting?

An admirable goal, but at what cost to attain it? Too exclusive In order to attain that lofty goal- you will be excluding too many catholic youth who desire a catholic high school education.

Great to have a vision and goals...but there is no action behind or the right type of counseling to support getting our kids into the right colleges.

It appears to guarantee that anyone who graduates from one of the high schools will get into the college of their choice.

Wouldn't there be other measures of quality in addition to college success? I would say we need to benchmark/measure all along the way before college to attain a distinction of "renowned." I believe it is City High School that is working toward accreditation as an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) program school. Probably the word quality needs a more precise description/measure.

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

Once again, I send my children to Catholic schools to receive a top-notch education first and foremost. Catholics do not need to attend a Catholic school to proclaim the good news, encounter God's love, or any of those other things. Not enough focus is being put on the academics.

So the "strategic priority" is to call a school a "community of faith" instead of a school? Seem overly confessing.

Are we training missionaries or a DIVERSE group of student prepared to take their place in an intellectual world and contribute with creative solutions and learning a broad understanding of the world in which they live. your current language gives no sense of intellectual growth. it will dissuade more than encourage a broad range of student. Economically we must look at CC as a schools of choice as well as a Catholic Community to increase enrollment. Let make the church moral and ethical first.

Would like to see something in here about creating strong individuals who can serve as an example and lead others.

Could be strengthened with direct reflection of developing strong CATHOLICS in our schools.

I am leery that we are becoming too elitist. It is grand to be in the top 5%, but what about our students who not choosing higher ed. ? Are we as committed term as well???

The reality is that today's economics is a high priority for every stakeholder. Keeping two high schools in an area where stakeholders are experiencing severe financial distress is extravagant. As we proceed to 2015, tuition costs should fall, every economy should be realized, and everyone should be focused on how to bring the overall Catholic education experience to more people through a reducing cost rather than keeping the pride of two facilities. Businesses are reducing prices daily. This economic reality is something that will not change quickly. It is apparent that keeping the staffing, facilities, and budgets of the past is not a reality. We will not return to the robust economies of the past so adjustments need to be made now in order to have sufficient enrollment in 2015.

Although the top 5% is a strategic goal it is not my vision of a true Catholic education.

It's fine insofar as "higher education" being the unquestioned objective of all students. You should seriously consider that some graduates would be more productive and likely to achieve their greater potential by pursuing more ambitious careers for which college is ill-equipped to prepare them.

Who are "stakeholders"

The only thing parents want is a better education than the public schools. They will support it only till their children are out of the school

Not all students are college bound, please track the success of these students who choose other paths. I would like to know if they are active in the Church are they participating in their faith in college or in their skills training.

Although I agree, I think that in order to serve the proposed students, the schools need to have higher entrance standards. There is no way that many of the academically challenged students will be able to follow the proposed direction of graduates.

What about those student who do not choose higher education? I like the goal but really do not understand the Strategic Priority. Will an 8th grader preparing for high school understand? Will the HS students?

Discipline is essential for an environment where the majority of the students can develop these values and behaviors. While trying to improve and grow it is important not to lose site of the primary objective.

First, as long as the first statement makes room for the student who is living up to his/her full potential by attending a trade or technical school, I support the statement. Second, I support the language of the second statement with the addition of the word "Catholic" before education. It is its particular Catholic nature and identity that makes it integral to the mission of the Church. The rest of the statement is very well written.

GRCSS does a great job for above average students, but fails miserably at servicing students with special educational needs. In addition, if the goal is to place students in higher education, try evening out the playing field by sending transcripts with a 10 grading scale so they qualify for scholarships.

Is this vision only Appling to graduates choosing higher education. I sure hope not. I could also care less where they rank in college. It is nice to know what percentage actually complete four year degrees. I never go into a professional office and want to know what they ranked in college or what college they attended. The character of that professional is all that matters to me!

This is written in the future tense. Is this not true today?

NO, I DO NOT SUPPORT WEEDING OUT THE LESS PRIVILEGED STUDENTS. MY SON HAS ADHD AND DOES NOT TEST WELL, SO DOES THAT MEAN HE WON'T BE ADMITTED?!!! IF SO, GOD HELP YOU.

I don't completely disagree with the direction/language. I just wonder if we are trying to become an "elite" private school or are we trying to provide a Catholic education? Both may not be possible.

What will happen to the Catholic students who are not capable of such high standards? Will we address the needs of our non-Catholic students?

The plan reads, "...will be admitted to the college and program of their choice..." We cannot possibly control how colleges make their selections, nor can we control the decisions our graduates make in college regarding graduation.

"realize their full potential and achieve their dreams" is vague. Also, none of us realize our full potential in this lifetime.

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

I SUPPORT THE PROMOTION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS THE HIGHEST GOOD I PLACE OTHER PERSONAL GOALS AS SECONDARY

Again, I think a strong academic statement would be beneficial.

What defines "top 5%"? Are we going to compare ourselves to public schools or within Catholic secondary education? High school does not work directly w/ "program of choice" beyond the first year of higher ed. College grad rates can be impacted by factors outside the control of the high school.

The first sentence is real fluffy with a lot of psycho babble good words. I like the second sentence though.

But what about the "average" or sub ave. student and their parents who just want a solid Catholic education?? Are we becoming a Prep School/Elite only?

Too vague, unrealistic, and in need of much work. What do we do with parents, alumni and stakeholders not living the church's teachings because of marriage situations, sexuality issues? We must be careful when looking at moral/ethical evaluations on people.

How can anybody guarantee each student will be admitted to the college of his/her choice? Why not say something where the measurement is actually meaningful: "over the next five years we will increase by 5% the number of our graduates gaining admission to one of the following list of highly selective colleges and universities." then spell the list out. The language of these paragraphs is stilted and clichéd: doesn't "from higher education," for example, really mean to say "from institutions of higher education"?

We need to be very careful about using the terms moral/ethical values when attached to parents and stakeholders. For example, are we going to not allow someone to be a stakeholder if they are divorced and remarried within another Church? What about people who have affairs? Married 4 times? Cheat their employees? Harm the environment? How are we going to check the moral and ethical behaviors of our parents and stakeholders? living God verses a dead God? God is God. Reveals "his" transforming love & truth -- does 'his' refer to God or Jesus? Doesn't make sense. I agree with the concept; whole statement is verbose.

I admire the goal, but I'm not sure I want to be accountable for the part of it which states that graduates will be admitted to the college of their choice. There are so many other factors that we can't control which influence that. I want to make lofty goals, but not promises that we can't keep. We should adjust that wording, maybe something like "our graduates...will be competitive in being considered for admittance to the college...". I realize that sounds less impressive, but I think it's a promise we really can deliver. I can just imagine being sued for false advertising or being blamed by parents when their child doesn't get into Harvard.

How do you know that our graduates will be admitted to the college and program of their choice?

Now, if as a school system we practice what we preach.

I would prefer "sponsors" or "benefactors" rather than the business word of "stakeholders".

I am concerned that this vision will place too much emphasis on the students who are high achievers, and put too much pressure on our students who struggle. Are we not offering Catholic education to all students?

I support the language in the Community of Faith section.

It is a good idea to continue to set high goals for our schools; however, to specifically state that by 2015 we will be ranking among the top 5% of all high schools is not realistic for many reasons. Part of it will depend on the quality of students we all to attend our schools. If we continue to admit students reading below grade level then I'm afraid we will never achieve this goal. In addition, the community of faith statement is vague. And what is meant by communities of faith? Doesn't sound like a school. I am strongly in favor of educating students in the tradition of Aquinas, Augustine, and Cardinal Newman; but the last sentence in the community of faith statement sounds flowery and vague.

We already rank in the top 10% and should always strive to improve. But our most important goal should be to make this education to as many Catholic families as possible with a tuition rate that does not require families to ask for assistance. We should be able to maintain and improve our rank without giving up the ability to extend ourselves to the greatest degree to our community.

The language states goals over which the schools have no control. I do not think you can guarantee a student admission to his/her college or program of choice. The first sentence under Community of Faith is filled with vacuous words that beg for clear definition. What is a community of faith & how does one ensure an encounter with the living God? You need more clarity & definition around these.

I definitely do not support the language used. I do agree that we our students to be successful but we do not live in a utopia. It may not be God's will that our students go to the schools of their choice. I believe we are leaving God out of the picture in the above Vision statement. I would support the Community of Faith statement as the Vision statement.

The biggest exception I have with this language is that young adults should be engaged in exploring their faith - the choice of whether to support it should not be a directive but a decision made through intellectual exploration. So I would strike "in instilling and supporting..." and replace it with "in open, intellectual consideration of the Catholic moral and ethical values and behaviors that are grounded in Christ's teachings."

This statement is very wordy. I read it several times to root out the meaning.

Where do students who have career plans other than colleges fit into this picture.

Your mission focuses on "...rate that ranks among the top 5% of all HS." Your strategy only discusses 'engaging members', not how you will rank in the top 5%. I understand this indirectly, but it does not seem to address it directly (to me).

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

My goodness it is hard to fathom what you are even saying -- anybody have a plain English emphasis?

Quality of education is very important but an open and supportive Catholic environment is also important. I would be very disappointed to find use turning eighth grade students away if they do not have the academic skill set to support the new mission.

Why here are we "grounded in Christ's teachings," when the mission says we are "grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition"?

It doesn't seem like the "Community of Faith" is a strategy for getting into the college or program of your choice. I agree that it is the foundation of the school, and should continue, but I don't see how it will make the 5% difference you are aspiring to. What is our Percentage now? What types of changes would one make to improve that percentage? How can one say that every college bound student can get into the program of their choice? Are you planning on restricting attendance to only those with high academic potential? I don't see how you can make this claim otherwise. Is the plan to make our high schools even more college prep than they are? If so, where can an average student get a Catholic education?

Feels too abstract and preachy to me. "Good News" "living God" "transforming love and truth" These terms feel to buzz-wordish. Personally I feel they distract from the true meaning.

Absolutely not! We feel our children who have graduated from West Catholic were and are at a significant disadvantage for college scholarship funds available. Admission is only one factor to consider when rating your success. We are under increasing financial pressure to educate our children, and for those of us who are not wealthy, scholarships are critical. Your 7 point grade system is punitive in the world of scholarship funds. This was demonstrated and very accurately to your school board last spring. A significant group of concerned parents (Standing room only crowds) attended meetings last spring expressing our concerns, and we were basically told to go home and be quiet.

Can this be simplified? I like the 5% goal, but this is very wordy and might lose impact.

You've left out the bishop's heavy hand steering things his way, not necessarily what the parents/staff want or what is good for our schools.

I guess my concern is with the verbiage top 5%. Are you stating if the kids are not in the top 5% of their class they will not be able to attend a Catholic High School. I agree academics are very important, but I feel a faith based education is more important.

There is very little connection between the language of the first statement and the second. The first statement needs more language about faith linking the two statements

Sometimes it appears that we are stepping in a direction of "dumbing down" in order to increase success numbers and the language "realize their dreams" seems to allow that loophole. On the other hand, does this leave those students who want to have vocational training out?

Seems to me that this is what we have been working on for years. The attention to the Catholic teachings has been sorely lacking though it is in mission statements. Teachers often are not Catholic and if they are often do not support the teachings of the Church. We have a culture not living Catholic values and the school needs to start here to rebuild this culture. We have become secularized - any "good" person can do service projects; we need Catholic citizens who understand God's plan for the human person.

I think that this is a very ambitious goal but I will adhere to not worrying about the how. If I could tweak one wording it would be around "admitted to the college and program of their choice " That goal is nearly impossible given that there is no way to calibrate the expectation to the result. A kid can have a choice that is not realistic and hence the goal would not be achievable.

Excellent!

However, I do believe we are doing all of that now.

The summary of the Vision does not seem to be very 'aspiring' when we talk about 'our graduates choosing higher education'. I don't think that this is a choice. Today's world, let alone five years from now, expects a higher education to be successful - be it an associates, undergraduate, graduate or doctorate degree. I feel that we are setting our graduates up for failure if we say it is a 'choice'. I know that 'Student Academic Success' section mentions the 'understanding the value of choosing', but are we really being honest with ourselves? Paying nearly \$8,000 per year for high school, I hope that the students are also understanding that a higher education is necessary in today's world. A stronger, more aspiring, statement would be to eliminate the 'choosing higher education' from this sentence. Perhaps not every graduate will go down this path for one reason or another, but as it was explained to us, not EVERY student will achieve this, just as not every student will graduate in the 'top 5%' of all high schools.

Why are you waiting until 2015? I attended CC and my kids attended WC and we all received a fantastic Catholic education that prepared us well for life beyond high school. There is nothing new in what you are saying here, it has been going on for years.

While I support the language in the regarding the community of faith section, the statement did not allow me to answer yes because it did not clarify if in answering yes, I was in agreement with the language in the vision...with which I am NOT in agreement. This vision sets up our high schools to be academically elite prep schools..which does not allow for local Catholic higher education for all learners and learning styles. This elitist vision does NOT reflect a true community of faith and does NOT reflect Christ's teachings. I do NOT believe it is appropriate for a faith based school to maintain this vision. I also believe that the community of faith in many of our Catholic school currently does instill and support Catholic moral and ethical values and behaviors. The elementary schools and high schools show preferential treatment for athletes and families with money and perceived power. I was happy to see the stance by Mr. Maj and the West Catholic School board regarding the cross country team. I wish the same stance had been evoked with the students involved in shoplifting during the summer school trip. The instances of bullying and harassment are increasing in our supposedly faith based schools. This needs to stop. We are losing families from our schools and parishes because o it. When evaluating the best value for our children's future and best use of our income, witnessing repeated uncontested ethical and moral behavior wants people to look elsewhere for guidance and education for their children. Perhaps we need to include bully and harassment in the Veritus training..as the results of these behaviors upon the victims are just as devastating yet can be mitigated or stopped with the proper alert attitude, vigilance and follow-up.

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

I'd like to see this really happen not just in name only.

A community includes all aspects, and public school classrooms within our building are a part of the community that do not allow for faith formation.

Exclusivity does not make a good community of Catholic learners. There needs to be room for all of the faithful to attend the school.

We need to remember that our Catholic Schools should first be for all Catholic students not just those who are gifted academically. We should accommodate every child seeking a Catholic education.

Most of the teachers at CC are compassionate, caring individuals who work diligently with parents to ensure that the needs of the students are being met. We have encountered some amazing teachers who see the "big picture" and are more concerned about discovering what a student knows and the best way that student performs - Coach T, Leigh Eriks, Mrs. Marrinam, and Cheryl Lambert of some of those amazing teachers who not only teach with passion, but treat students with respect and dignity. However, we have had a few incidents where teachers do not give the respect and dignity that our mission states. For example, I have a child who twice has been told by a teacher to "sit and be invisible". This was in response to my son asking the teacher where she would like him to go upon entering a study session. He had to come late to the session because he was finishing a test in another class and had a note from the other teacher. This same teacher spends weeks emplacing Catholic social teaching, yet I feel this is a direct violation against what our faith teaches. I am confident that if my son answered her with the same disrespect, he would be punished. Another parent called me to tell me about one of these incidents as her child was upset with how our son was being treated. At the same time, parents and students alike feel that if they try to talk to this teacher, the repercussions would be worse than if they just ignored the comments, so consequently many don't complain - ourselves included. This kind of treatment of students cannot be tolerated if our mission statement is going to have any credibility.

The community of faith statement sounds good, but given the statement before it about where we want to be by 2015, the community of faith will not be true for all. If we want to be among the top 5% than many individuals will be excluded. We have 7 children all who are very different. Some could maybe be in that top 5%, others could not. And that is based solely on how God made each of them. What will happen to our Catholic students who cannot be in that top 5%? How will they encounter the Living God in our Catholic High Schools if they just feel they are not good enough, and their gifts are less important than others. Your vision for 2015 sounds so prideful. Why is it all about being the best, the top? Why is it all a comparison to others? If we truly want each student to reach THEIR full potential, we must first realize that each person's full potential is different. We have an obligation to educate all Catholic students at all levels. We need to quit worrying about our academic rankings and instead be concerned about our Catholic identity and our mission to help all Catholic kids become who GOD created them to be, successful by God's standards not the worlds. Also as a side note, many students are not able to go to the school of their choice because they are losing scholarship dollars because of our grading scale. Students coming from schools with a 10 point scale are getting more scholarship money even though their actual percentages are lower than ours.

What about all those students who can't excel in a school with such rigorous academic programs and standards. Not all of our children fall within the top 5% academically and I am afraid we are moving away from educating all of God's children to only a select few. They each have gifts and talents--not all of them academically--and they each need to be nurtured and taught. I do support the overall language under Community of Faith, just not the goal stated at the top IF it eliminates any students who want to pursue a CATHOLIC education.

I agree with all but think that there is too much emphasis on the "ranking"

I'm a little worried about that "top 5% of all high schools." I hope that, in order to reach this vision, CC and WC do not begin excluding students whose academic capabilities might make this part of the vision impossible.

who are we excluding in this process?

But make sure all students of ALL ACADEMIC levels are included, not just the top learners. Some of the wisest people in the world were not necessarily academic achievers. Sometimes I think the teachers ignore the students that do their best and still get C's.

I think this could be written more effectively.

In the community of faith section, I would like to see more "Catholic" language used. This statement could be any Christian high school up until the last couple of words. Also, I am concerned about being rated in the top 5% of high schools. Are we going to preclude the "average" student and become purely a high end prep high school? There are many well qualified kids who are not top 5%. I could maybe support top 10%, to allow for a more diverse student population. If a student chooses the military and does not go to college, is that a bad thing? My concern is that we drive away students who do not feel they can obtain the top 5% classification, maybe the wording needs to be changed.

shouldn't that already be the premise?

whole lotta BS going on here... say you're Catholic and live up to it - you don't need more than that

Feeling a bit dismayed, as I think the first paragraph sounds very elitist.

I don't see how this differs from the "current state", but agree that it's a strong statement.

You have set a "goal" that I thought was already achieved.

I believe and agree we should push and help our students to reach their maximum potential. However, In the first paragraph, "our graduates choosing higher education.....etc" is a Utopian statement. How can we say a student "will be admitted to the college and program of their choice"? That is plainly not true and impossible.

I do not want to eliminate lower end students from our student body unless they are very special needs students.

Comments about Community of Faith Vision Statement (continued)

Can we really guarantee that all students will be accepted at the college of their choice? Will this make us legally liable if the student does not get accepted to an unrealistic choice? I do support the language in the "Community of Faith" paragraph. The phrase "where ALL can encounter the living God" seems inconsistent with the language of the first "By 2015" paragraph which implies exclusivity and elitism.

West Catholic and Catholic Central need to prepare students for their vocations. Who cares if graduates choosing higher education at a ranks among the top 5% of all high schools, if you are not forming your students to be saints. I'd rather see a goal of having 10% of graduates pursuing a religious vocation.

But does the staff walk the talk or provide just lip service to the statement above?

This seems too wordy. The first sentence is strong alone. Is the second necessary? "Communities of faith, creating environments where..." or "communities of faith-creating environments..." a comma will make this less ambiguous.

Has this not been true for the past 25 years???

Again kids are not always treated in a manner that would be supportive of this statement.

this only seems possible if the student body grows to at least 1500-2000 student schools. The two schools are too small today for a great class offering.

I concur

I do not see a strong enough link to the statement on excelling in the classroom and the "Community of Faith" statement. Not sure one ensures the success of the other.

I would add that to these ends, the Diocese commits to active support in keeping Catholic education affordable.

What do we do with the student's who do rank at the top 5%?

I like most of the wording above with the exception of the phrase "achieve their dreams" which sounds more reflective of pop culture and less reflective of gospel imperatives. I would rather see the focus be on vocation rather than achieving our dreams, which sounds egocentric, in keeping with the larger culture.

I would like to see a more inclusive language...specifically including the poor, marginated, women, etc.

I agree that all students need the same opportunities to achieve their full potential while supporting those students that are not intent on future education and giving them life skills to be the best person he or she can be.

While I support the "Community of Faith" statements, I question the use of the "top 5%" metric. I would not want the schools to focus on this sort of goal to the exclusion of kids who struggle because of learning disabilities, socioeconomic disadvantage, or other challenges beyond their control.

This language sounds like all learners will be welcome at West Catholic, even the students that struggle some. Great!!

However, I only support this statement if it is true where it says "creating environments where ALL can encounter the living God." I don't want our Catholic secondary schools to be only for the "smart kids" rather they should be for All our children to encounter Christ (no matter what their level of academic ability).

I would emphasize teachers - I find some teachers more aligned than others with the faith environment at W/C.

Where all can encounter the living God...what if you are not in the top 5%? Is it becoming a school just for the elite. Jesus did not pick his disciples on intelligence. How does this affect the partner schools that feed into the high schools?

While I like this section, this is the only area of the statement that really speaks to the catholicity of the schools. while "catholic" is used as an adjective or adverb in other sections rthere is no section on catholic identity etc Fully 50% of this statement should be about how you intend to make your students better Catholics

I think the part about our graduates being admitted to the college and program of their choice is a bit far-reaching. It is certainly a goal, but one for which we cannot control. Colleges have their own criteria to satisfy, some of which are known and published and those which are discretionary. In my opinion, this language needs to be reworked a bit since it is unrealistic.

Clarification: What about those students with disabilities?

If we are aiming for higher education graduation rates among the top 5% of all high schools, I'm concerned that we cease to have a place for those students who would like a Catholic HS education but don't have the ability to go on to higher education.

That's better! I would capitalize the "h" in His, but that's a quibble. Might also want to specify ROMAN Catholic.

Once again the focus is too academic and not about developing people of faith...it's not just about how smart your are....if that's all we offer, then families should just live in East of Forest Hills. We need to provide a quality education, yes, but that is not all we should have in our priorities.

There must be consideration that differs from Catholic Rule.

Culture of Quality

We will develop and maintain a culture based on academic excellence and quality service. We will develop a culture of accountability, measurement, empowerment and continuous improvement. We will expand research and assessment capabilities to develop a comprehensive and data driven system to guide decisions that add value to our programs and the community. We will align ourselves with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and apply for the Baldrige Quality Award. We will partner with the community in ways that will add value to our schools and community.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	749	91.3%
No	71	8.7%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	689	84.7%
No	124	15.3%

Comments about Culture of Quality Vision Statement:

I will never support this including merging WC and CC. If this is included in your plan my family will leave WC.

*Please provide the stakeholders with information regarding Malcom Baldrige Principles of Quality. How did you determine this was the method toward achieving academic excellence and quality service?
what are the Malcolm Baldrige Principles.*

A culture of accountability can only be achieved with standards that assure 100% participation from the basement to the penthouse. There must be systems in place that provide for measurement of progress for all involved with absolute transparency. Without the desired transparency the Mission and Vision document will be thought of as a public relations campaign or worse a fund raising opportunity.

I feel the emphasizes sound like we are grooming for a prep school.

I think it is important that you explain the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality. Also how will the school be data driven. Learning is more than statistical analysis

what is Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality

Don't know Malcolm Baldrige

What does concern me a little is the "data driven system." I'd hate to see a student become a number or not receive the kind of attention he or she may need to succeed.

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

What about ISO 9001 instead of Baldrige?

Quality of education is the most objective, marketable and controllable competitive differentiator. We need to measure and provide tangible proof by benchmarking to the most universally accepted criteria both from a peer and from a higher ed perspective. Our standard should to score higher than any other high school in the communities we serve. In my mind you can only deliver this by employing the best and most effective educators. It is neither realistic or financially responsible to believe we can compete in facilities due to obvious limitations in economic and funding sources. My opinion is invest in the earning engine of the enterprise, that which will fuel growth. Academic excellence will justify the financial investment, thus growing our student counts which will then fuel facilities. Higher education has proven this time and time again.

I am not familiar with Malcolm Baldrige.

Lots of "edu-discourse" here, from continuous improvement to data driven system to aligning and partnering. Perhaps it's a sign of the times. Generally, it's the right direction, but it sounds hollow and dependent on others for the real meaning of what we want to say about the education WC gives.

I have not seen the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality.

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles so cannot say whether I support this goal.

I know of the Malcolm Baldrige awards, but am not familiar with the Principles of Quality mentioned above.

a strategic objective should be shorter and more board. This is getting into the initiatives...the detail and it shouldn't. There should not be "how" statements...just "what" statements

unfamiliar with BALDRIDGE

You may want to define "Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and apply for the Baldrige Quality Award." since I have no idea what the Baldrige stuff is - and thus can't say if it is worthwhile.

Be careful what you wish for on the Baldrige award. Significant effort and expense.

I answered "Yes" without fully understanding the success of the Malcom Baldrige program or how it works.

Can't comment as I am not familiar / can't recall the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality. Definition please before I know if I want to 'align'...

Our culture must be based on the very person of the Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. "Unless the Lord build the house, in vain do it's builders labor." If the culture is the foundation shall we build on sand or on rock (Christ)?

an explanation of the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality would be nice. don't know what it is, so I can't say if it's a good direction!

The only way to excel is to have a data driven system that expects quality. I have been very disappointed by some published items from the schools that are not of high quality. It is very disappointing to see websites that are not updated and current at all times knowing that there is a marketing staff. When quality work is published to the stakeholders, the bar will be raised for students to uphold the quality work that the administration produces. Currently I do not see that happening.

We believe that we need to also include a statement speaking to the importance of extracurricular activities and how they assist in developing the whole person

some external award is fine for marketing but is that really worth explicitly stating?

Don't know the Malcolm Baldrige Principles

The Baldrige process requires a substantial investment in staff, data collection, etc. Has this been funded, or will people just add it to their workload?

The definition of quality needs to be verbalized. I'm sure many stakeholders have no idea of what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are or what it would mean to implement them. It is extremely difficult to support something amorphous.

much better verbiage

Do not know what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are and a quick internet search was insufficient to determine the answer. Would certainly want any organization cited in a Mission statement to adhere to the teachings and principles of our faith and Church teaching before stating our allegiance to it.

What is Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality? I don't know, and I'll bet most people don't. What does partner with the community mean?

I do not know what the "Malcom Baldrige Principles". I would have to research this before I can answer yes or know

What is the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and how did this come to be the standard we will align ourselves with?

Cannot reply yes or no. Do not know what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles are.

Will the Baldrige Principles be the only evaluative used - and for how long - are you being too limited by expressing this tool?

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

I will have to look up the Malcolm Baldrige Principles to fully understand.

Don't know what the Baldrige Principles of Quality are.

Not sure the Baldrige award is the right measure for a school.

Would like more info on the Malcolm Baldrige Principle of Quality

I have no idea. Your prefatory statements on the first page admonished me to not focus on the nuts and bolts of what we're planning, but to consider the general, and then you present a statement with a specific set of principles and a specific award.

I would like to know more about the award. It should be explained.

I am unfamiliar with the Malcolm Bridge Principles of Quality and the Baldrige Quality Award, so I cannot answer this question.

We should move to the standard 10 point scale for grades. This would help our students (and parent\$) going on to higher education and probably help with awards.

Sorry, not familiar with the Malcolm Bladrigue Principles.

I'm saying yes without knowing exactly what the Baldrige Quality is. An explanation would be good.

Data should not drive our response to the culture of Catholic education. The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in union with the Sacred Scriptures should drive us not data.

Great idea for Baldrige!

Malcom Bridge Standards of Excellence needs to be explained or rephrased. Assuming general public will know what this means is not valid.

Is Baldrige enough of a stretch?

I like the partnering with the community.

I don't know what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality or the Baldrige Quality Award are.

We need to take in to account the vision & responsibility for those who are recognized with learning disabilities not just be recognized as a Prep school for College.

What are the Malcolm Baldrige Principles and how do they pertain to CC? Lets spell them out and have a time line to achieve them.

I have no knowledge of the "Malcolm Baldrige Principles" or "Baldrige Quality Award" so I can't really comment.

I like the action steps in this section.

I cannot support the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality because I am not familiar with them. I think this should be shorter and more concise.

Not familiar with the Malcolm Bridge Principles of Quality so I would need to review that but assuming it would not conflict with our faith I support a system for accountability

While I support the language of this statement, I don't see much about the student who doesn't have the skills to meet some of these goals. I am sensing that CC/WC maybe isn't the place for that type of student.... Frankly, I believe that if you don't plan to meet those needs it is a good idea to say so right up front. "Special" students needs can probably be met at other schools in GR. At least that is what I assume. Presently I am teaching in a Community College setting and our mission really is about reaching out to those with less Academic potential. It is good to be right up front with our mission. One school can't do it all these days... Academic excellence is very necessary in most segments of our society today...

What do you mean by "quality service?" Please add "transparency" as well.

Since I don't know anything about the Baldrige programs I don't feel qualified to comment.

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality, so I cannot comment on that, but I agree with the accountability and continuous improvement piece.

I do not know the Malcom Baldrige Principles and therefore cannot comment.

I'm not sure what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are.

This section sounds fine as long as the development and education of each student as a person does not get lost in bureaucratic focus on test or standardized results.

? data-driven ??

Malcolm Baldrige Principles???

Are we aligning the schools to the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality just to win award. Why do we need to apply for an award?

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

We need to assure that all students, regardless of academic success and/or potential for success are nurtured and not excluded from active participation in the faith communities of CC/WC.

Unfortunately, I'm not into education matters so am not aware of the "Malcolm Baldrige program"

I am unsure what this Malcolm Baldrige is about. I tried to look it up on the internet and am still unsure. I did not get any info on a town meeting that was held 4/14/10 and my son will be affected by all this he would graduate in 2016. Why weren't all the grade school parents invited to ask questions and listen to all this??

What data collection/measurement methods will be used? Will there be a regular continues improvement process? Will parents and students be involved? I would encourage a process where the students can actually monitor and track their schools performance and post it where it will be visual to the entire student body, faculty and visitors. I would also encourage our schools to adopt a business plan deployment process similar to a manufacturing environment which could be tailored to an academic environment. The principles of Lean Manufacturing have been proven to save cost, improve performance, and monitor safety. The healthcare industry has recently began a push to adopt Lean, and the results are quite impressive (see Mayo Clinic, and Virginia Mason hospital in Washington state as examples).

I am not familiar ithalcolm Bldridge principles of quality. How would you encourage people to attend CC if they don't know what you are talking about.

"Academic excellence" should not be a means to exclude any student desiring a Catholic high school education based on prior achievement/GPA.

What does it mean to partner with the community in ways that will add value to the community? This idea is overly broad and vague. A school's job is to give its students the best possible academic education while encouraging them to become well-rounded individuals by offering them a wide variety of athletic and other extra-curricular activities. If the school does that, then by extension, it will add value to the community. However, adding value to the community in and of itself is outside of the school's proper scope and pursuing such will only dilute the proper focus of the school.

I have no idea what the Baldrige Principles are

What is the Baldrige Quality award?

We should not limit ourselves to Malcolm Baldrige Principles only. For specific disciplines, other measures can be used. Perhaps appropriate measures of quality would be better.

I would have preferred an "uncertain" category. I did need to research the Malcolm Baldrige award and was still uncertain of its place in the statement.

Some may not be familiar with the Baldrige Principles - are these readily available for review or are they clarified somewhere for the community?

And if the school is not meeting its goal than there must be a plan for developing both short and long term countermeasures that bring the programs back in alignment and on a path of meeting its goal. Where will we be able to view the measurements? How frequently will they be updated?

In addition, we need to keep faith the focus. Malcolm Baldrige is certainly a structured quality focused award program. It needs to include our faith aspect. Are there other awards (Catholic) that are similar but have faith as a strong focus in addition to leadership, quality and continuous improvement?

I don't know about the Malcolm Baldrige Principles so I'm unable to form an opinion regard it.

I believe there is too much emphasis on data driven systems in education today... data does not measure the soul or heart, which are just as essential

This needs to include the continuous evaluation of teachers.

My concern with the push toward academic excellence is that the school will not adequately serve those students with learning disabilities and different learning styles. I do have a child in elementary school right now, and we are considering a public high school for him, as I do not see adequate support (and understanding) for his learning style at the high schools. This begs the question--isn't he worthy of a Catholic education, too, just as worthy as my older child who excels academically?

Do not know enough about Malcolm Baldrige to answer this questions well.

We have reviewed the Malcolm balding web site and we like some of what I see and other parts we do not like. So based on that we need to fully understand what areas of this program we will be embracing. so we cannot come to a conclusion as to being the correct direction for our high schools

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles, so can't answer this.

how about inserting "good works" or something to that effect in the culture department??The last sentence almost gets there.

not necessary if the prior statements mean anything

I have no idea what is meant by Malcolm Baldrige

What would be the data driven system and what is the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality?

The culture referred to above must include a balance of excellence in academics as well as other school related activities and programs.

I do not recall what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles are - I know don't worry about detail?

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

Have no idea of what you are talking about - Malcom Baldrige Principles. Sounds like someone is stuck on academia lala land.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

Not sure what the Malcom Baldrige Principles are...

unclear

Data does not give the truth in every case. You are teaching children, not machines. You cannot measure every child thru a test. Some will not prove successful via measurements and data. This is proving itself out in NO Child Left Behind. We as Catholic Schools have been better than that. Let's teach children. Not measure data.

I think it seems to be lacking in the spiritual/moral/respect/values areas. That is the main focus of a culture and how people treat each other when no one is looking.

I am not familiar with the Baldrige principles of quality and would have to investigate them further before I could be sure that I agree with these statements.

I am concerned that academic excellence and quality service are being quantified in only a factual and data driven way. Where does the notion of relationship fall in with regard to customer service? What are the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality?

I don't see the need nor believe we have to align ourselves with the Baldrige Quality principles or the award. We are a school community not a manufacturing commodity.

To be able to answer these questions, I would like to understand what the "Malcolm Baldrige Principles of quality" are and what the award stands for.

In achieving academic excellence, you do not address the needs of students who might not meet YOUR standards of excellence, through no fault of their own.

Unsure on this question I would really have to have a great deal more information. I am not in favor of anything that does not include ANYONE who wants a CATHOLIC EDUCATION. Not just a challenging curriculum for the gifted only. Jesus embraces all not just certain people. No one should be turned away from a Catholic education who truly wants one. Find ways to help ALL students.

Who is going to pay for the MBP of Q award? How can we accept something if we don't know what it is? (MBP of Q award)

what is baldrige principles of quality and award...should already be in partnership with the community

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality

I have never heard of the Malcolm Baldrige ... so how could I agree with it? Culture of Quality??

This is a pat on the back goal for the school rather than a focus on the students. We are currently going for this same award at my work place and we are losing sight of what our first mission is. The customer gets lost in the efforts to win an award on paper. Let our praise for God's presence in doing the work of his will be the focus and our reward lies with him--a reward that is way beyond that of Malcolm Baldrige.

I am not familiar with the principles of quality presented here.

The final sentence "We will partner with the community in ways that will add value to our schools and community." feels out of place.

It is important to each students potential whether they be valedictorian or at the bottom of the class.

Are we heading into the area of exclusivity - where students that are not top tier cannot succeed?

Some of it sounds fine. Other parts of it sound expensive with little added value (e.g. expand research and assessment capabilities...data driven system). I do not know at all what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are.

First sentence should read "quality of service". third sentence should read "content driven system". Specific wording clarifying that this relates to the educator should be added.

Much money will be needed to fulfill this.

What are the Malcolm Baldrige Principles?

The only way you will develop a culture of quality is to give teachers performance ratings, eliminate ten year and pay for performance - and not provide general annual increases across the board. PAY FOR PERFORMANCE!!!!!!

While quality and excellence should be what we are striving for no single process of measurement should be mentioned in a vision statement.

Applying for the Baldrige Award may be politically correct but the performance of our students is a better judge of the achieved results.

Data driven decisions are good, however tradition cannot be overlooked. "Quality" is at times determined by the standard that one would like their child/ren to receive the same great education that he/she did.

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

I support a culture of quality but fail to see how "partnering" with the community will create quality. Who is the community in question? Grand Rapids? Kent County? West Michigan?

Yes, however, I am unfamiliar with Malcolm Baldrige

Baldrige is not the only model and/or learning style and concerns would be raised as to whether or not we are going to meet the need of all children with a perspective that is too narrow.

"quality service" sounds vague. Should mention using evidence-based practices.

"data driven systems" do not measure the full success of a student and his/her experience.

We must focus on quality to survive and show our value, beyond just a CATHOLIC education

Again, this is a strategic goal, but should not be included in the Mission statement of our school.

I especially support the statement "We will develop a culture of accountability, measurement, empowerment and continuous improvement"

But, where are we now?

The parents are self serving and will not care about anything other than being better than the "publics"

I am not opposed to applying for this award per se. However, I am not sure how the award will increase a love of learning in our students. Maybe it will; I look am open to learning more about it.

This "quality culture" sounds cold, unaccepting, and scary. How about a culture of acceptance and encouragement that allows each student to thrive regardless of their skill set. A culture that challenges the gifted and provides thorough and consistent assistance to those who struggle academically. A CATHOLIC culture that teaches our children that their faith supersedes all else and should be relied upon continuously throughout their day and life. A kind, loving, yet disciplined culture that invites each student to explore their God-given talents in a non-judgmental way but still requires adherence to a strict moral and ethical code, which is to be followed by students, staff, faculty, and administration alike.

I'm not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality. Need to agree on a true measure of success.

However, no nothing about Malcolm, so don't know if appropriate.

I agree with this as long as it is in line with the teachings of the Church and we never compromise the Christ-centered component of our school. When we start aligning ourselves with secular organizations, we run the risk of compromising our principles.

I do not understand "a culture of quality of service? What are the "Malcolm Bridge Principles"?"

It worries me that you are focused on metrics. I know there needs to be concrete measuring sticks but I find that should be part of the How. Why mention that and casually mention "partner with the community in ways that will add value to our schools and community". Education is very important, but I remember Catholic as being more about community than about metrics.

I like the language, but I need to become more familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of quality.

Again very noble, but how will it be enforced? It's not now.

Although I do not know what Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are?

I support the statement if the idea of accountability, measurement, empowerment and continuous improvement is meant for all levels of students. This would include low, middle and high. After all, those are the children that make up our Catholic community.

I do not know what the Malcolm Baldrige principles are so I can neither agree or disagree.

It is difficult to answer this question without further research because I'm unfamiliar with the baldridge quality award.

You can be an elite school and still provide services across the spectrum for students. That's been the mission of the Catholic schools for years.

Does this cover "Evaluation".... we don't always seem to evaluate things that we do, we are often reactionary.

I believe that we work hard to maintain a high standard of excellence and that we are committed to constant improvement. However, I believe that we do need a data driven approach for documenting our strengths and weaknesses so that we can continue to develop our strengths and to correct our weaknesses. I am unfamiliar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality. Therefore I cannot comment on its merits or shortcomings.

What about those students with special needs in the areas of learning? What about those families that are not part of the elite, financially well-off set?

DATA DOES NOT UNDERLIE ALL EDUCATIONAL PROCESSES CRITICAL THINKING NEEDS TO BE FACTORED IN SOMEHOW

I personally do not know what the Malcom Baldrige Principles of Quality are .

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

I am not familiar with the Baldrige Principles.

Sounds as if you are only interested in gifted students. Please remember that ALL Catholic students deserve a Catholic education

Only concern- What is the Malcolm Baldrige Award? The rest of the direction and language is appropriate.

First sentence is okay. The second and third sentences are just really hard to believe and is more psycho babble and real nebulous. The rest of it is simply adequate.

What's the Malcolm Baldrige Principles? Are they superior to better than NCA? How much does this cost? How much time will this take? How much extra work on teachers will this demand? Somebody throws this stuff out on the table, and people vote on it without any information provided to people who will have to deal with this.

The Baldrige Quality Principles represent an ideology that no Catholic school ought to embrace: they are based on an old-1950s-style management principal that creates a feedback loop between manufacturing companies and their customers. NO truly Catholic school will ever teach, or act, in conformity with the expectations of helicopter-parent "customers" and "stakeholders." Such thinking is inimical to the very basic principles of Catholic education.

I fear in a "data driven system", many of the intangibles are lost. The arts become seemingly unimportant because you cannot measure the profound impact they can have on our faith, our intellect & our being. What about a child who may not be going to college, but is still capable in other ways of becoming a wonderful Catholic member of society? The best teacher I ever had was a 2.0 student in H.S.

I agree with the caveat that the Baldrige award means nothing to me. I have no idea what it is & actually don't care. Various awards will not sway me to continue sending my children to Catholic Central.

Need more information on MBP of Quality --why the switch from NCA? Does the NCEA support this award? Who is/was Malcolm Baldrige -- is/was he a Catholic, Christian? What is so impressive/important about this award? How much does it cost? If Mr. Baldrige is/was an atheist, Mormon, or Jewish, would we still seek this award? Does it matter? Wouldn't it be ironic if we seek an award named for someone who does not or did not support the teaching of the Catholic Church?

I believe to attain the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality will take a very long time and many, many changes will need to take place.

I am not aware of reference With Malcolm... I say it in the text and leave out references to things other may not be familiar with or agree with. Just say it.

Somewhere there should be a commitment to the safety needs of each student.

If we knew what the Malcolm Baldrige Principle were we could make a decision.

I have to defer to those intimately involved with this process, as I am not familiar with the Baldrige Principles of Quality. I would love to see reference to Christ-like service rather than quality service, as any public school can strive for "quality service". We want to distinguish ourselves from the public schools, or why would parents seek us out ? They can get this culture of quality at Forest Hills.

What is meant by quality service? I agree with the first part of the first sentence; the rest I do not. Why do we want to align ourselves with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles? How much research has been done to exhibit how this is even remotely worth our time and effort, and whether this is even the direction we want to go. I too want to have a quality, high achieving school, but this feels like we have lost our vision. I like the idea of the last sentence, but believe it's too vague. I strongly feel being data driven is a mistake. I think this will lead us in the direction of turning our school into a business--rather than a place of learning. This does not mean that I don't see improvement is needed, but I don't buy in to the theory that we can effectively evaluate our success with a data driven system; nor do I believe we should base our decisions on this data.

It sounds great except for the line "We will align ourselves with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and apply for the Baldrige Quality Award." I had to look this up to see what it was. I don't feel it's necessary to name a certain organization or foundation in your "goal." What if "John Doe's Principles of Quality" or "John Doe's Quality Award" are the "in thing" in five years while you're trying to get the Baldrige Quality Award?

Malcolm Baldrige? Are you kidding? ISO 9001 would be more attainable.

My concern is that we may be continuing to move in a direction where our children are tested more & more & therefore may begin see their value or lack thereof through test results. Where in this system does it help an individual to seek their God given gifts at their God given level? This system seems it may create an atmosphere where average children will feel inadequate. I do not want an elite school system though I want to continue the quality education that is CHRIST CENTERED.

Will this include all students? Even the ones that are not the top 5%.

Why would you waste valuable tuition money applying for the Malcolm Baldrige award? Ultimately, if you were to win, how would that translate into more kids moving on to the trades (not everyone is meant to go to college)or college; more importantly, to earning a higher income than they would if you did not win this award? I certainly would not get any warm fuzzies if I knew my tuition money was being spent in this manner.

Define "quality service". Does this mean quality service to others hurting or in need or service to students?

I have scanned over the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality for Education and am in strong agreement with the section that deals with the Faculty understanding that students may learn in different ways and at different rates. This is a must because has a Catholic school we are called upon to educate all students. I also agree with the Organizational and Personal Learning section about educating The teachers and staff to better understand the student's different learning styles. If we can expand our excellent, academic services to include the right brained visual learning style we would actually gain more students. I am very concerned about getting too bogged down with the other criteria that we lose the students.

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

I have no idea of Malcolm Baldrige Principles.

It needs to be made clear to people that this the Baldrige program and award are about operational excellence and not academic excellence.

Do we need to include the adaptive learning methods used for our academically struggling students. This may be when we have to decide are we a college prep school or focus on differentiated learning.

Way to impersonal. What's next ISO certification. This is a school not a manufacturing operation.

This here seems to fully support your strategy from the prior page.

Getting better

I am somewhat familiar with Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and I do not believe this is the way to use our limited resources

In order to properly answer this, Malcolm Bridge should be defined.

You keep asking the question, "do you support the language" of your mission statements. Language means nothing if it is not executed. Your 7 point grade system is punitive in regards to scholarship money available to our graduates, and you have refused to provide a reasonable explanation as to why you maintained your position. Over 90% of high schools in the state are on a 10 point grade system. Those students have a distinct advantage over our graduating students. This is not debatable. You will continue to lose students if you do not address this grading anomaly. A very large group of concerned parents gathered last spring to debate this issue, and the debate was shut down by the leadership of Catholic Schools. Why?

Implementation of a Baldrige Award objective is: expensive, time-consuming and requires dedicated resources and personnel. The overall objective implies a great deal of change and documentation. As of this point, we have an established, experienced staff; we are under-resourced for school physical resources. This would indicate more of a "best practices" approach and a general improvement of educational resources prior to even thinking about something like the Baldrige Award. Also, "empowerment" is difficult in an environment where there is no assurance of job continuity. Our faculty does not voice a lot of strong opinions or interactive discussion -- that would need to change. This can be a Pandora's box -- many people have wasted a great deal of resources on quality programs (more resources than what we have) and have failed and fallen short. I am not saying that this is not possible -- I am saying that it is a lot more difficult than what a single paragraph in a vision statement would indicate.

No, no, no! You are wasting money by reinventing the wheel. WE ALREADY DO THESE THINGS AND DO THEM WELL!!!

Why is uncertain not a choice? I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and therefore and unqualified to make a judgment.

But I am not sure what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality and Baldrige Quality Award are.

What is Malcolm Baldrige . . .? What about language referring to Christianity and our Catholic faith?

Who decides what "adds value" and is the Baldrige Principles of Quality the best choice?

We already have a quality school. Awards are meaningless if we do not live up to our mission to be Catholic.

What is the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality? Why does this matter?

Very nice section.

I do not the criteria for the Malcolm Baldrige award. I do not believe we should make decisions for our school based on the criteria for an award

This seems very business-oriented, rather than student-oriented.

I strongly agree with establishing the high standards of the Baldrige Principles.

This "culture of accountability" is presumed intended for parents, students AND staff? Accountability to teach and to reach individual students based upon their individual NEEDS--not for the convenience educator/student/parents.

are parents educated on what the Baldrige principles are?

I think I support this statement...who is Malcolm Baldrige? Again, nothing that we haven't seen before. You are not developing anything new.

I agree with the principles set forth by Malcolm Baldrige, especially the strategy driven performance and have often lamented that our schools need better benchmarks for showing the value they provide to our community and students. I have concerns (as mentioned in my prior comments) that in the movement to align with the quality principles, only the academically gifted students will qualify for inclusion in the high school programs. This again leaves a large portion of the population without an option for local Catholic secondary ed.

every child can achieve success but some are more challenged than others academically - I don't want this to become solely a prep school leaving behind those that struggle.

I am not familiar with the Malcom Baldrige Principles of Quality education so I cannot answer that question.

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

Culture based on academic excellence? How is that Christian? Based on Jesus Christ!

I do not know what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality is, so I don't feel I can answer to its value. However, while we encourage and applaud the high standards that CC and West strive for, we feel that sometimes we go too far and create unnecessary stress for students and parents alike. For example, we have a son with a learning disability that was discovered freshmen year. He worked hard each year to improve his academic performance. We spent thousands of extra dollars for private tutoring. While his GPA continued to improve, it never could recover from his freshmen year. He was just a fraction of a point from earning an academic scholarship from the university he was attending, but missed it because you must meet or exceed their GPA criteria. If CC had a 10 point grading system rather than the 7 point, our son would have easily exceeded the university's requirements. I'm not sure everyone understands the emotional and financial pressure that some parents/students experience. Not only did we pay in excess of \$20,000 for his high school tuition, but spent thousands more on tutoring, and then because of our 7 point system lost out on academic scholarships for college. CC is perceived by many as only being concerned with high academic performance - at any cost - even if the means might be detrimental to students and parents.

What are the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality? We need more information in order to answer this. What is the Baldrige Quality Award? How will this award benefit our students? Or is it just another recognition to make our schools look better?

Don't know the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality?

I do not have any knowledge of the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality of that award, therefore I do not feel qualified to comment on such an alignment. I do agree with the first 3 sentences.

I'm not crazy about this but I don't strongly disagree. It just seems so "business" as opposed to "academic" or even "religious"

Agree that applying for the award but for that not to supersede the teaching of the Christian foundation. Academic excellence is a full circle, not only are students considered but teachers, who are able to actually excite the students to learn and really want them to succeed are just as if not more important. Teachers should be held accountable in the same fashion that the students are.

I realize that Dave Venekase stressed that the language is in the working phase, but it's too full of ambiguous phrases and big words that are so overused they hold potentially little meaning. Simplify! I also have big doubts about the Baldrige award. I went to the govt. website and read about it. My questions could fill a few pages, so I'll stick to a few comments. Are we abandoning the "Top 50 Catholic High Schools" award given by the Acton Institute and, if so, why? Is being a recipient of the Baldrige award, which seems geared greatly towards businesses, more important than being a GREAT Catholic high school? Not for me and my family. I worry that CC & WC, by striving for the Baldrige award, are forgetting why they exist. Don't they exist primarily to provide a CATHOLIC H. S. education for people who desire that for their children? The \$1,000.00 fee to be considered for this award, combined with other possible expenses, could be better spent in MANY other ways, perhaps. Now, if this were a process to help CC & WC better form our children's souls AND minds AND hearts, it might be worth it.

I don't know what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles are.

Not sure what is the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality? Maybe informing and educating parents of what your measurement base is before questions such as this are asked. Please make sure the teachers are made to be accountable as well as the students.

Not familiar with Malcolm Baldrige

Get rid of the Baldrige nonsense - anyone working towards the award screws everything else up.... work to be good because of Jesus - forget the award or striving for it - your reward is in heaven

My only question would be whether or not the Malcolm Baldrige is the most contemporary benchmark. Years ago it was highlighted as a premier target...but haven't heard much about it in awhile.

Please practice and follow as your statement above.

Who the heck is Malcolm Baldrige? I like the ideas of getting better, and partnering, but I can't support going after some goal I have never heard of. Get out of academia and deal with the real world.

I'm not sure what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles are but, overall, I like what was stated above.

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality. Therefore, I do not feel qualified to answer this section. I imagine that most people answering this survey are not familiar either. maybe you should have included info on this M.B.P.Q. Also what is meant by a culture of empowerment? What is a data driven system?

I think that you need to hold the teachers just as much accountable and have the highest of standards as the students. Teachers should be evaluated more rigorously. We have experienced some teachers who have had unrealistic expectations of the students and yet don't even get grades posted on infinited campus for weeks at a time. The teachers need to "walk their talk".

I have no problem with a "data driven system"; however, I would like to see something like "informed by experience" included since data alone without the wisdom to interpret and apply it can lead one on a futile pursuit. I'm not familiar with the Baldrige award or the advantages associated with it. Would it be primarily status? I support the "partnering with the community" concept.

Was this taken from an MBA text book?

It is unfair to insert a proprietary Quality program without explaining it. I do support Quality in concept for sure.

A culture of accountability, and measurement for both students and admin. is a must.

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality therefore cannot agree or disagree with this statement.

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige philosophy or the Baldrige Award. I feel this should have been explained for an effective question on this survey.

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

I don't believe that the "moving target" (changing every two years) of the Baldrige awards ought to be the be all and end all metric for measurement of success. The GRCSS need to measure what they are doing, to be sure, but is this HOW they want to measure? I would be much more comfortable with measuring by standardized criteria that many more schools in the State and the Nation use to get a broader picture of where our schools stand.

I am not well versed in the Malcolm Baldrige Principals of Quality, so cannot speak to that, but agree with the rest of the language of this section

Great!

Will these be for BOTH WC and CC?

Not sure what Baldrige is???

What other options have you considered?

I am not sure that I can answer yes to this as I am not familiar with the Baldrige Quality Principals

I do caution on focusing so much on the quantitative that you lose the qualitative. Don't lose what makes you special right now in the pursuit of percentage points higher. You must keep what makes you CC or WC and improve on what you currently have that makes you unique.

Technology is a very small tool in implementing an effective educational process. If a student, through a good, well rounded, classically based education(Socratic method, critical independent thinking, broad exposure to classical literature, and sound math, science, history and theology) learns how to learn, technology becomes a useful tool, instead of a crutch one reaches towards as the solution to every problem.

I just want to be certain that there will always be a place at CC and WC for ALL learners--not only the brightest. Our schools must be a place that each individual student may reach his or her full potential, whatever that may be.

I think it is vague. What is a data driven system? Can the Malcolm Baldrige Principle of Quality be described?

While the BNQP is an excellent standard, I would caution against adhering to just one set of criteria. To be a truly nimble educational institution, we should use this as a base, but allow for the introduction of other measures as our institution evolves and grows.

Too wordy and specific - do you need to mention Malcolm Baldrige

...but I am not familiar with the "Malcom Baldrige Principles of Quality" so can neither affirm nor disavow this portion of the statement. I also question the emphasis on "data driven" decision-making. Data can be deceiving, and can be distorted. Overemphasis on data can also blind people to individual differences.

How/why did you choose Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality?

I am not familiar with the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality so I cannot answer the question.

You should have explained what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are or provided a link to them. It all sounds good but we really don't know what we're agreeing with.

Not sure. I think we need to be accountable to something and need follow through. I'm not sure this is the right test/award.

Describing the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality here would be helpful to answer this question, as I do not have any idea what it is, or how it fits with Catholic traditions and values.

Again, our schools need to include programming and opportunities for ALL our children not just those with higher GPA's and intellectual abilities.

As a partner school elementary principal - I am all for "developing a culture of accountability, measurement, empowerment and continuous improvement"...but not at the expense of restricting enrollment by becoming "elite" high schools where only the top 5% will be admitted. It is "easy" to show improvement/growth for the "top" students - but also keep in mind that with best teaching practices (i.e. - using accurate data to drive instruction through Differentiated Instruction and/or Response to Intervention, etc...) you can just as easily show continuous growth and improvement for ALL students. Think of the marketing capabilities of highlighting the continuous growth and improvement of EACH student entrusted to us!!! If you move toward a "Top 5% ONLY" school - you are quickly going to realize a downward spiral of doom for Catholic Education in Grand Rapids.

Need more details on Malcolm Baldrige principles - why these vs. others

How many will know what the Malcolm Balridge Principles are when reading this?

Data driven...I would hope these young people are honored for who they are. As it read, there is an emphasis on functionality rather than human development.

Not sure what the Malcom Baldrige Principles of Quality and/or Aware are.

No one can argue with quality. But while striving for quality you should not be eliminating children/students who do not measure up- Nor God help us, should your solution involve removing those "special" students and schooling them in another location or program- unacceptable Integration of all kinds of students should be the goal.

Comments about the Culture of Quality Vision Statement (continued)

We also need not lose sight of partnering with our feeder schools, public and private.

Not everyone knows what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are. These are principles developed in business and industry for "for profit" companies. Education deals with people. While data etc. and achievement are important this sounds like all we are interested in. Are we going to be Catholic High Schools or is our goal to become elite preparatory schools for the rich and only those who have an above average IQ?

I can't really answer this because I don't know what the Malcolm Baldrige Principles of Quality are...and if we are SOLELY measuring decisions on data that is gathered that limits teachers to their creativity and also drives schools to "teach to the tests."

How will those who don't measure up, or are not able to meet up, to these standards be assisted? What is the real focus of the culture of quality - quality for the students or awards for the schools?

Student Academic Success

Our graduates will realize their true potential. Our schools will rank among the top 5% of all high schools in the nation and the best in West Michigan as measured by applicable standardized and specialized tests. We will develop and advance programs to engage our students in and out of the classroom. Our graduates will understand the value of choosing higher education and will be admitted to the school and program of their choice. We will identify and address barriers to college admission. We will track our students successes after graduation and benchmark against our peers. We will assess on-line learning environments to enhance academic programs and prepare students for success in higher education.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	768	88.6%
No	99	11.4%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	705	81.7%
No	158	18.3%

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement:

Do not support on-line learning.

I believe you also need to include how the schools will help students with learning disabilities to achieve their success.

Again, the statement regarding our schools will rank among the top 5%...is not necessary if you develop truly to each students full potential.

Refer to previous comments about providing a Catholic education for students of all abilities.

Again, I do not feel the measure of success is strictly our rating in the nation.

The grade scale should be changed; colleges don't take this into account, and it makes it harder to compete on an unlevel playing field. Also, honors and AP classes should be credited like they used to be. My daughter has a full schedule of these classes this year (junior) and a 32 on the ACT, but GPA is lower under this system. Students are penalized for trying harder.

Please due address issues with college admissions like sending transcripts based on a 10 point scale a 7 point scale only hurts the kids.

My concern is that only the so called brightest and best will be admitted. What about Catholic children that do not excel in a lecture, test driven format?

What about the students who are truly not meant for higher education? Will they be considered failures for not "realizing their true potential" as determined by the schools? As for the on-line learning environment, I hope it is truly to enhance programs and not replace them.

Same as previous comment. Top 5% will not differentiate our product to the point of justifying the financial investment. We need to be courageous and in my opinion owe it to our kids and communities.

How are you going to do this?

We have had this goal before, but as yet I have seen very little data.

I love the first sentence.

It implies that if a student chooses not to attend college they're not realizing their true potential. I believe an advanced degree is preferred. I am more realistic in believing that college is not for everyone.

I insist, this lacks of a social goal. Academic success is the only important objective.

I do not agree with tracking the student's successes after graduation and benchmark against our peers. Who sets this benchmark? What purpose will it serve? Are you trying to separate or create a class system between alumni? It goes against our Catholic teachings of God accepts everyone regardless of what they do and how much they make.

same as last...way too much how. this should be short and sweet and only be the "what" or "where" you want to go.

Too much emphasis on "higher ed". Trade/skilled labor is a wonderful vocation that seems to be ignored. We should not compare ourselves to others (5%) but rather focus on maximizing our potential.

Excellent. One other potential measure would be college preparedness (e.g. AP achievement).

To maintain a top 5% standing in the nation based on standardized and special tests means that students who score below average will be a detriment to that goal. Does this mean that academic requirements will be required for admission? If not, too many average students will make the 5% goal unattainable. This smacks of elitism which I cannot support.

This statement is completely focused on attending college. Not all Catholic educated students will attend college and the schools should provide for those students who will work after high school or attend a trade school. While most of the students will attend college, taking the focus of both high schools to college prep only is missing a key component of education, being well rounded. When I attended CC, it was well accepted that WC could provide hands-on learning with drafting classes and home economics, even having a day care center with students learning to work with the kids. CC had a college focus. I believe having a system that encourages work situations would benefit the schools. We see many charter schools opening with specific career foci. Most recently the aviation school that will open in the fall. If the church wants Catholic schools to succeed, it will need to embrace the trend in education to provide for career education. Universities should not be the only focus. This statement would also preclude many children with special needs that would not be college bound. Using a school-in-school concept or separating the focus of WC and CC, the schools should look at ways to be inclusive not exclusive and elitist, as I see happening in this document.

What is in the plan to help non-college bound(talent wise)students to reach their true potential?

Our true potential MUST not just be academic but again, we are forming people of character and virtue first and foremost who will help build up the kingdom of God as Catholics.

What is the school going to do to address the learning community as a whole and integrating students with learning disabilities and/or different learning styles?

We need to go to a 10 point grading scale for our students to get the best possible advantages and scholarships when applying for college.

Continuous improvement, makes sense tracking when a student is not improving recognizing that each student is different , in skill level and helping them attain great heights, so that they will want to go to college or a higher institution

This is an admirable mission, however, as a parent of a student who is an alternative learner, I would not want to see this vision of academic success negate any of the resources that have been implemented at the high school this past year (i.e. tutoring, after school help, 504 plans)

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

What grads will you be tracking? only the successful one? What about the average students?

meaning that ALL students would be given the appropriate resources they need to have our institutions reach this goal

This seems a clear increase in "college prep" focus. Are technical school/military choices outside the CC/WC mission?

1) "Our graduates will realize their true potential." Over stated and unable to ensure 2) "Our graduates will ... be admitted to the school and program of their choice." Ultimately impossible as everyone does not get into his/her choice of school or program.

Where do our schools rank now? Are we going in the direction of being elitist? If yes, then what are we telling our young people for whom school is more difficult? Shouldn't we be embracing the whole child and not just the academically gifted child?

There needs to be stronger language regarding technology and the critical part that it is in economy today. Our students should be getting a strong introduction to basics of technology. In the real world of business, technology is critical, we need to recognize that and include in the curriculum.

On-line programs should not be a substitution, but a supplement

This on-line learning, are they college or college prep courses?

I would hope that we have a program for students who struggle with higher academics and can get the help they need to advance. Not everyone is a genius.

My concern is that CC/WC become simply College prep schools and not diverse in their academic approach.

Just please do not forget those students who may not be at the "top of their class" academically because they need some special help, in the quest to be the "top." They deserve a great Catholic education too.

What about the type of curriculum? We should strive for both 1) leading curriculum practices, and 2) the ability to tailor the curriculum to individual needs of students to at least allow for a below, average, and advanced curriculum/ support level for students

I think online learning is over-rated. Assessing online learning to see if it really does help or hinder learning is very important. If it does help, great continue with it, if there's no obvious benefit, then I think we need to go back to students with live, qualified, motivated, inspirational teachers.

I have the same comment as I had several pages back regarding a goal of all students obtaining the first choice of school and program. The penultimate sentence has two grammatical errors: "students" should be plural possessive, not plural; "our peers" should be "their peers". And, I do not agree that it is a good expenditure of resources to track the successes of other, non-CC/WC students.

Going to Catholic Central was one of the best decisions I ever made. Catholic Central prepared me well for college and in some way was more challenging than college.

Again, the 10 point grading scale would help with university admissions as well as scholarships.

Potential to be what? and according to whose standards? Let's focus on the faith! If we do this they will come!

We should utilize the resource of Aquinas College as their mission and goals are consistent with these.

In my opinion, a first class teaching staff will help our students rank among the top 5% of the nation's high schools.

I don't support on-line learning environments.

Your assessment team will be challenged by this, but in an appropriate (I feel) way.

We need to track the progression of our students during their track toward college admissions not just after the fact. How will the students with learning disabilities be addressed?

What standers are you going to use? What test will work? How do you plan to track students? and what are the benchmarks you plan to use?

Good goal but wonder if making it a statement of fact "will rank" does not lend itself to problems. VERY IMPORTANT Again "graduates will understand the value of choosing higher education" limits our graduates and makes the school elitist. There should be a broader understanding of "further education" and not be limited to college admission. We should prepare students for success in their chosen field not limited to "higher education". Please Catholic Central should serve all students no matter their choice of vocation,

"out of the classroom" I would not want to be creating more work in addition to school, homework, sports, other extracurricular activities to take away from religious activities, family and the small amount of free they have.

"Success" at what cost? Economics matter and aren't mentioned.

Wish one's potential had been the focus directed toward me when I graduated in 1968---I had to fight for every college prep class I wanted to take, and what I really wanted to be when I grew up---was laughed at---but I would have been good at it.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

These are lofty goals and question the ability of reaching them.

I see language that supports the brightest of our students. This statement must address the needs of students with learning differences and non-college bound or trade school students who desire a CATHOLIC education.

Elitist language. We should want to be the best, but the language, or maybe even the vision, excludes too many good students that may not be great at studying, but are great people.

The first sentence is spot on, but after that there is too much emphasis on standardized tests and higher education. College admission, while important, should not be such a strong indicator of students reaching their potential. There needs to be greater recognition that many students achieve their goals without attending higher education.

You can't KNOW the schools will rank among the top 5%. Also, not all students are bound for college. What about vocational schooling? also note should be "track students' successes..."

Do not forget the average children of God!!

Your are addressing the top 10 % of the students. Are we to leave the rest of the student body behind? What do we do with the C and D students that may not help us to rank at the top 5% but are good kids that struggle in the classroom. Does this mean we teach the students on how to test to score high, so we can achieve this top five%? Doesn't sound like an education but a way to take a test.

This statement guarantees cherry picking students and disregards the abilities of students who may or may not have the wherewithal to compete in postgraduate (high school) academic arenas. It should be taken very seriously that post-diploma training can and should be in non-academic areas.

Haven't we always thought this way? I am still concerned with the students that are doing their best and not the in the top. Are we trying to be elitist? I feel like I have too many questions about all this and was not given good explanations of what this is supposed to mean. I want to know what will change. I have a very good student now but I do not like some of the language in these statements when I do not know what they are trying to mean by them or what they are trying to change.

You are focused only on college bond students Hum..that is a miss.

Keep it positive by deleting..."benchmark against our peers"

This statement leans towards elitism. It is admirable to strive to be the best. Our main objective is to provide a Christ-centered education without excluding anyone because there grades may hinder the oversell ranking of the schools.

I also believe that we need to support students that do not seek a higher education as I also believe that college is not the right route for all students

You need to talk to students after a year or two in higher education to find out the strong and weak points of your programs.

In general, the language and goals stated herein are overly broad, vague, and outside the proper scope of the school. For example, when does a person realize their true potential? How does one measure potential? I graduated in 1983; have I reached my potential? Moreover, if it could even be determined that I have reached my potential how can one argue some 27 years after graduation that it was CC's influence that caused me to reach my potential and not my college or my graduate school or anything else in my life, including faith, family, and my life's experiences? I think the proper scope of this section is the measurement of standardized and specialized tests as well as the number of students who go on to higher education. I also think it is very beneficial to the students for the guidance department to seek to identify and address barriers to college admission.

"Best in West Michigan" will be tough to measure. From a grammar standpoint, the phrase should read "schools and programs of their choice". Also, as an educator, I would tread lightly about on-line learning. Reviews of on-line programs are mixed at best and many positive reviews are written by the company's marketing the products.

I don't understand what happens if we do not rank in the top 5%. Does that mean we close the schools?

I like the wording on the first sentence but beyond that I find the wording very optimistic and competitive. What do you plan to do with the kids who are there for the Catholic School experience who don't score well on standardized tests?

It is the out of classroom programs that you will develop that is most intriguing to me.

I'd like to see the addition of programs that will help those with special needs and learning abilities. That everyone will improve and reach their full potential and that's just not for those that are academically gifted, but also those who struggle academically that their success is measured and that they are a valuable asset with other gifts and talents that they bring to the table.

I find the phrase "understanding the value of choosing higher education" a bit too vague. It seemingly implies that the degree (i.e., "higher") of education is a goal in and of itself and that it outweighs the nature of the subject matter studied. I think that high school students need to better understand the pro's and con's of the fields they intend to enter rather than seek academic success (magna cum laude) in some irrelevant field that provides little long term benefit to society or themselves personally. This could be achieved by improved guidance counseling.

Need to increase meaningful assistance to those students who struggle academically, but have chosen CC or WC to deepen their faith and surround themselves w/ other role models(besides parents) of their faith. Currently we are dissatisfied with the "assistance" offered/provided by some staff members.

No one is telling us where we are now. We already know we are one of the best in WestMichigan, where do we rank now and how far do we have to go? Our concern is that we are going to begin to turn away students that have gone through our catholic grade school system if they do not fit this new higher standard? are we reading this correctly? also are we just going to focus on their testing skills?

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

I am concerned that an overemphasis on college prep may not serve our Catholic community as Christ prescribed through his ministry. However, excellence in education is certainly a wonderful goal, even for those who are not college-bound.

Should "both common and individual" barriers be mentioned here?

The goal should be to under-promise and over-perform. Use language that implies rather than explicitly states expectations; CC & WC have long standing traditions of academic excellence and these will be maintained and, if possible, enhanced.

Much more support at WCHS is needed from the guidance dept and teaching staff. Refusing to write any letters of recommendation should not be allowed. Counselors should be on top of college transcripts needing to be sent & should encourage multiple applications and to top schools. This has not been our experience yet.

Are we going to a 10 point grading scale then?

I understand that the "how" of the vision is yet to evolve. I feel this will necessitate change and improvement in the operation of Catholic Central's Guidance Department.

There must be an improvement in the counseling in preparation for college. I had to inform them of sports related Division I fees and there was no help in obtaining scholarship for college that was sports related since it was not football.

You folks are really beginning to scare me. Guess those that don't fit that perfect student driven template should look for a Catholic faith based education somewhere else. How about a Catholic alternative school for the not so smart?

Very ambitious.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

Not every current student is in the top 5% on standardized test scores. Where do you plan to "find" all those students who will score this high? What will happen to all those other students who may be interested in a Catholic education but will come nowhere near the top 5% in test scores. How will you measure "success" among your graduates? Income? Possessions? Initials after their name? Address? This has a very elitist feel. However, that may be what you are pursuing...

Yes, as long as on-line learning is used to enhance NOT replace traditional learning.

Sounds elitist.

I am very excited that we are teaching the advanced students. What happens to the lower end and the middle? Not all Catholic kids are advanced. This is very elitist. There is a place for this, but not at the exclusion of the others. Higher education does not exclude lower and middle kids anymore. Why does Catholic education in Grand Rapids have to?

It seems a bit over the top as far as tracking barriers. I would say more focus on lowering tuition to attract more students would be a better spent energy.

What about those folks who are not college bound? What could we do to assist them?

Is there opportunity here to speak to the needs of a broader community of learners? Is there a commitment to those who have equal intellectual capacity, but non-traditional learning needs (i.e. reading and math disabilities, social/emotional challenges)? Or are the contributions of this population not valued in the Catholic secondary schools?

How can we know what is anyone's true potential? How can you guarantee that our graduates WILL be admitted to the school and program of their choice? That is a promise that is beyond the control of CC and WC.

Student academic success is not always measured by standardized tests. Is this a guideline to limit access to Catholic secondary education for academically challenged students? I missed a reference to faith based or Catholic faith in this section.

It all sounds good especially the "addressing barriers to college admissions" but I believe a committee attempted to change the point system to allow more scholarships but didn't progress very far.

You do not address the needs of students who may not be able to contribute to the goal of top 5%.

Tracking student success after graduation and benchmark against our peers would be very interesting data. Has this ever been approached before?

I am in favor of everyone reaching their full potential. However, everyone's full potential is different. Not everyone will be in the top 5% so what happens to those students that fall below that. The paragraph above is possibly the most arrogant statement I have ever read. I don't believe Jesus was so concerned with elitism as he drew sheep to His flock. Sounds like you only want the smartest sheep.

No way -- How can you guarantee students will be admitted to the school of their choice? Real life doesn't work that way.

need to keep up with the public schools because the kids will be competing for the same things

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

I am struggling with everything being for the smart kid. What about the ok student ..don't bother sending that child to Catholic school.. only the smart ones? What about academic programs to help all students? Is this measurable in any way besides college success? (I don't know if it is).

Please be careful that this is a focus only on those students who are high achievers. Every student has special talents and special needs and the focus of the school should be to develop everyone and not just opportunities for the elite as the school presently seems to operate.

Punctuation should be corrected (our students' successes), if we are going to talk about academic success.

AS stated before we need to provide for all Catholic high students not just the best as true Catholics

Concern of elitist attitude.

Being the best involves more than standardized test scores. How are we going to define "successes after graduation" A college degree doesn't guarantee success.

Second sentence, why only west Michigan, all of Michigan.

I think the copy needs some finessing by a professional copywriter for maximum response, but overall this is fairly good value-added copy.

For some families and students, attendance at one of the Catholic high schools will be to have a safe environment in which to attend school. They may not all be candidates for higher education, and may keep the schools from being in the top 5% of all high schools in the nation. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THEY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM ATTENDANCE AT CC OR WC. If they so choose, they deserve a safe environment. Please do not commit all of your resources to the gifted and talented (elite) students just to have a top 5% rating by some group's arbitrary standards. Focus on the individual student as a person with individual goals and needs. Jesus Christ never looked at the "marginal or down-trodden" as ones to be ignored. Rather, he focused on those individuals. That is the true basis of Christianity and Catholicism.

Again, how will this be measured? Where are we now? Do you really think that on-line learning we help us achieve our goals? I think that our goals should be more teachers, building, environment oriented. We can't control our students' thoughts, achievements, successes, etc. However, we can control their environment instruction, programs, etc. and hopefully after we have done this, the rest will follow.

Incorporate, into the transcript program for colleges, a revised grade point system conversion so everyone understands that our grading system is more stringent.

I do not support online learning. I want to see that we will put our children on a level playing field with other students vying for admission and scholarships. This can only happen if our kids have GPA calculated like other schools. Keep the 7pt scale to use internally. But use the standard scale externally. Suppressing our GPA's leaves our students disadvantaged. I am all for academic excellence and high standards, but there are better ways to achieve that than what we do today.

Again the measure should be to be among the top 5% of schools in the nation at DEVELOPING students to be THEIR best. This may be a slightly different measure. Different than an Ivy League Prep School, for example, which we would be measured against!

I like the idea of post-high school evaluations. Is tracking of enough graduates possible? I remember trying this in the past, and not many graduates responded to the survey. Do other schools do this in order for us to make a statement of benchmarking against peers?

Tests do not fully determine a student's skills or abilities. Did anyone watch "The Blind Side"?? And though I extremely value higher education (I have a master's degree), not ALL career choices involve that.

I would clarify that we intend to be the best in West Michigan. It was not clear to me what the word "among" in that sentence is intended to modify. It read to me that the intent was to be "among the best" in West MI.

See previous comments Too exclusive

Identifying college admission barriers would be beneficial, but "and will be admitted to the school and program of their choice" presumes a guarantee that is unlikely to be achieved. Also, what exactly does "enhance" mean when referring to on-line learning environments and academic programs? If it means "replace" the more traditional classroom setting of student/teacher, then we strongly disagree with the proposed direction of CC, in particular, in the future. Other considerations exist, as well, and we are much interested in further discussion in this area of on-line learning.

Need to add language around add using and training with technology.

Again it appears that there is a guarantee that not only will the student achieve their true potential but again get into the college of their choice.

As long as it is realized that our children are currently handicapped in their college endeavors because of our 7 point grading scale. If we adopted a 10 point scale (like almost every other high school in Michigan) our children would be on equal ground when competing for the top colleges. It may 'sound' more rigorous to say we have a 7 point scale, but colleges neither know nor care. While they may unweight weighted GPA's or refigure GPA based on core classes only, they NEVER recalculate the student's GPA to correct for the huge difference in the grading scale. Our students are disenfranchised, to a degree, every time they apply for college! Our grading scale also causes our students to lose out on possible scholarship money - and in this day and age, with the cost of our tuition, they need every penny they can qualify for.

How can you guarantee that students will be admitted to the program of their choice? This is not realistic.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

Clear a straight to the point!

Concern about the emphasis on testing as major measurement of student improvement. How will you address barriers?

Students being admitted to the "school and program of their choice" is an unattainable goal. This is limited by a student's ability and college admissions policies that are beyond our control.

Again, what makes us Catholic???? Where is our catholic identity?

Our graduates will realize their true potential. Our schools will rank in the top 5% of all high schools in the nation and among the best in West Michigan as measured by applicable standardized and specialized tests. Advanced programs will be developed to engage students in and out of the classroom. Our graduates will understand the value of continuing their education and will be admitted to the program of their choice. We will identify and address barriers to college admission. We will track our graduates success and benchmark against our peers. We will assess on-line learning environments to enhance academic programs and prepare students for success in achieving their goals.

We may want to strive to be a top 5% but again, it is not a good decision to state this as a mission of our students. Will this turn people away because those that may fall below the top 5% will feel that they are not welcome.

"Higher education" is not universally and objectively good. Recognize that all institutions are not beneficial, and may be financially, morally and ideologically harmful to that which you, the Church, and families have worked so hard to establish in your graduates.

I also believe it is the responsibility of our counselors to help with the college admission process and use all information and resources that are available. I will give you an example regarding this, my wife and I are both alumni, my wife is a Certified Financial Planner, and her company has a college planning division available for parents to help review aid and admission options and more. She called and emailed the Diocese and school counselors and received nothing back at all. No call, no email. Yet this was an alumni offering her services to our children and did not even get a courtesy response. I bet if she included a check with it for \$5000 they wouldn't have sent the check back? If we believe and invest in our children we should have faith in our alumni for more than just donations

You're only blowing your own horn to survive.

I would like to see that the school uses the 10 point scale when a student is a senior and applying for college. Many students cannot compete with the scholarships out their due to the 7 point. We need to give all students the same advantage to earning a scholarship especially with the cost to go to college

We should be working with our peers and not benchmarking against them. I will send my children to Catholic school because of our desire to help them grow in faith. Knowledge and education can happen anywhere. Prayer is the factor that makes the difference. We should NOT claim that students will gain admittance to the college of their choice. That will not increase our numbers or raise the esteem of our school in the eyes of our Lord. It is unlikely that our schools, or any schools, can make that promise without risking our priorities, which must remain spiritual over academic. They go together, of course, but this statement makes it sound like academics trump spiritual growth.

I was a gifted student and my children are trending in the same direction. Of course I want them to be successful academically, but I don't want a less intellectually gifted student to be denied a Catholic education in order to magnify my students' success. I am all for academic success, but when you become obsessed with "ranking in the top 5% of all high schools in the nation," it begs the question "What happens to the marginal student?" Will these students be refused a Catholic education because they are not gifted and may bring our numbers down and hurt our testing scores? Do these students not deserve to learn their faith and be educated in a faith-filled, catholic environment? Will our teachers be "teaching to the test" as you often hear about in the public school swith MEAP testing? Will there be a measurement of the strength of the students' faith...after all, the purpose in sending my children to a Catholic school is to develop their faith and relationship with God. Will this focus be overshadowed by the drive for academic success? Will the schools strive to develop morally sound students with outstanding academic success or simply students with outstanding academic success?

Why not say best in state or best in the nation? Let's say the Notre Dame of Catholic high schools.

The true potential of every student does not reach the top 5%. I strongly disagree with this as a vision for our Catholic school. We must be committed to educating every Catholic child with a Catholic education. The true potential of students differs for every child because every child is unique. We must as a Catholic community give everyone the opportunity to be educated in the faith. Research shows that adults who were educated in a Catholic school and formed in their faith are more likely to be active in their faith community. This is the investment we must make to ensure the future of the Church. I cannot emphasize enough how the focus of this school must be in educating every child who desires a Catholic education.

As long as you weed out the students who go to skills, you'll be great with this goal.

You can only create an environment where a student has a chance to strive for his potential. We can't control university admission decisions. Many students will be disappointed by rejection.

Wow.

Explain to the future college student that in Europe higher education is basically free because they don't spend billions of dollars on defense systems.

Yes only if higher ed includes trade and technical schools. Also, what if a child's true potential does not help the school reach its academic goal because he/she can't possibly score in the top 5% in the nation. Standardized tests are only one small measure of a schools overall effectiveness. Hopefully, this is why the word specialized was also selected!

Please address the 7 point scale barrier. I have been told by 3 colleges that converting the 7 point scale to a 10 point will make the difference between my daughter qualifying for scholarships or not. Most colleges will not convert it. Please stop sabotaging your students.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

I am not sure how much on line learning this entails, so I am not sure how to answer.

It is known throughout the community that the academics are strong. If you are in the top 5% or not, does not matter to me. I would assume that the words develop & advance programs would be for students at all levels of academic abilities. If you are hoping to build your school, you would be moving towards programs that include inclusive education. You would be implanting more programs & staff that addressed multiple learning styles. I'd support this if the developing programs where programs that help students realize their potential and remove barriers to college not just identify them.

The language regarding the students being admitted to the school of their choice sounds unrealistic.

We're not Detroit. We don't need a "Grand Rapids Country Day". I'm a HUGE supporter of Catholic Secondary Schools of Grand Rapids, but I will pull my kids from Catholic schools and actively recruit others to do the same if you go this direction and weed out children like my son. I will make it my number one priority in life.

If we develop programs, will we also financially support this process?

Again, top 5% seems high. Language is bold and families who have many children where one may not meet the criteria may just pull all their children from the system. What is going to be done at the partner school level to help those students who struggle but want to meet the criteria here academically? Students are good enough for the partner schools but they may not be good enough to come here? That could really hurt enrollment in the future.

This is a lofty goal. It sounds like a systemic change involving all stakeholders. How will this affect our admissions policy? Can we really promise that students will get into their university AND program of choice? It also sounds like a good deal of documentation for each student (even after they have left our system). Will we hire new staff to track down all of our past alumni? How will we define "the successes" of our graduates?

Again, language regarding being admitted to the school and program of choice. We can address how to better position students, but I do not like the language of "will be admitted..."

Our students "will be admitted to the school and program of their choice". A lofty goal, yes, but is this achievable? And, tracking every student after graduation is not possible.

What about those students who learn in alternative fashion? Education is best done when there is a formative teacher-student relationship, which is part of the Catholic school tradition and the teachings of the Church; how will that be fostered in an on-line environment?

STUDENT GOALS MUST BE REALISTIC TO BE REACHABLE

I would like to see more research in the advantages for students being graded on a 10 point. It's all about getting funds for college. West and Catholic Students are at a disadvantage to getting money based on their GPA. I strongly feel that when applying for colleges their GPA should be recalculated so that they are given the same opportunity as a student graded on a 10 point. Colleges will not recalculate for them. I understand Davenport does but all other colleges I have contacted will not. This does not seem fair to me. Most parents are struggling in Michigan to send their child to college due to the cost. Shouldn't we as Catholics want the best to help our students go to college. If a child misses a scholarship by one point due to being graded on a 7 point, he or she should be allowed to submit their GPA on a 10 point to compete with others.

How do we achieve this when we have varied academic levels at our school.

Here is the deal with student academic success, no matter how much we say there is no special interest/favoritism with certain families there is. Some students will be served by this vision and others will not know that they are entitled to be engaged. Like in any other This language sounds dynamic and marketable. If that is what you are shooting for you got it.

Again, please remember that all Catholic students cannot achieve such lofty goals. You must include programs for the academically challenged.

Rather than "online" reference- please consider technology-based learning. Also, see comments in the second part of the introduction re: top 5%, program choice, higher ed grad rates. There are no concerns w/ tracking grad rates only using those results as a measurement of success for the high school.

Nice job of simply stating facts without being hazy and without the psycho babble.

But, what about those Average or Sub Average students and their who simply strive for a Catholic Education?? Should they skip WC or CC because they are not elite??

We need to take in account students with an IEP.

How will this be accomplished? By whom? By what standards? We seem to be in competition with some public schools that may offer better academic programs, but can't offer the one thing we offer, the Gospel teachings of Jesus, and how to live them out in the world.

The phrase "admitted to the school of their choice" that seems dangerous. If a student does not do the work, and does not get into his/her school of choice, is it the schools fault? Is it the teacher's fault?

How can you get a school to increase its ranking among a large group of schools by any dramatic distance. This is nearly impossible to do. Think of an ordinary club-pro golfer, who finds himself among the top 5% of all golfers in the nation, in terms of handicap. He knows that he needs to get into the top 2% or 3% in order to play on the PGA tour. Virtually impossible to get there---even though it seems "only" a percentage or two.

Online learning? I am not a fan because we are cutting down personal relationships; relationships are among the things we should be working on to strengthen our society. Also, not every Catholic student wants to go to college. I also think that tearing down barriers for our students will increase their sense of entitlement which is already a problem with today's youth.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

I feel like this language will move our schools in a direction that excludes students from a Catholic education instead of looking for ways to become better at meeting the needs of those students who struggle academically.

I don't see how we can guarantee students acceptance into the college of their choice. Are we going to help all students? How are we going to help students who don't learn in traditional ways? Will we accept them into our school? Is our goal to be 'an elite' college prep school? What truly is the mission of a Catholic school? I am invested in Catholic Central High School, not East Grand Rapids High School or Forest Hills High School. I truly believe we need think about all students -- their backgrounds, learning styles, financial situations, and languages they speak, when setting goals for our school. We need to remember that some of our students are 1st and 2nd generation students here in the US -- What are we doing for them? Is Catholic Central the place for them?

Two wording issues: 1) In sentence #2, the part after "and" is unclear. Do you mean we will be the best high school in West Michigan? Maybe it should be in a separate sentence. 2) I don't think we can promise that graduates will be admitted to the college of their choice. That wording needs to be changed to something deliverable, something that we can control.

I think having students understanding the value in higher education begins at home and parents need to help their children understand it. I also believe that ALL children do not ever fully understand this concept until well after college graduation. And although parents want their children to attend the best of the best schools, their children may not be as accepting.

By stating (and working toward) our goal of being the best, we will be role modeling for our students what it means to work relentlessly and strategically towards our goals rather than settling for mediocrity.

How will you evaluate success: morally, personally, academically, and monetarily?

Does being in the top 5% force us to focus on the top students. It sounds like we are focusing on the top of the class, whether we are or not.

I feel that everything in the Mission and Vision should be addressed to the clients you are there to serve. In this case it is the students, and the parents who support them. If our vision is to be a school that ranks in the top 5% in the nation, we are establishing a vision that serves our school and their reputation, not the students it serves. I would like to see our Vision directed at helping each student develop their God given talents to the best of our ability as a school community and a community of Faith.

In general I agree, but how do we ensure our graduates realize their true potential? I've already stated my opposition to the top 5% goal and the measurement by standardized and specialized tests. I do NOT think we should use on-line learning programs. This will completely take away our unique calling as a Catholic school.

I'm afraid that this will put pressure on the admissions process to not admit the more academically challenged students. Are we a High School providing a solid Catholic-based education OR are we a scholar's academy?

To constantly rank among the top 5% may mean we have a smaller school and take students that don't even care about the institution being Catholic. In that case we are not fulfilling our obligation to the Catholic Community as was originally intended when establishing Catholic Central and West Catholic. Again, our top priority should be educating many, no matter their economic status and making the first priority a thorough understanding and strong belief in their Catholic Christian faith and then a strong quality education. Again are we going to many standardized tests? We don't support this method.

Where does this leave the child that is not called to higher education? That child should still have the opportunity for a Catholic education.

What tools do you have that will permit students to identify their "true potential" so that it can be realized? It is awfully difficult to find something if you do not know what it is you are seeking. "Potential" is an awfully indistinct word. Are you saying the Catholic high schools exist only to prepare kids to attend college? What about those kids who would prefer to go into the trades or the military? I see nothing in here that addresses the needs of students who are not college bound.

Explain the role of faculty in achieving student academic success. There is no mention of their involvement, which will be key to setting a challenging environment of success.

In an ideal world this would be a great goal but in reality in a Catholic school this shouldn't be our goal. We are here to teach all students with the goal of teaching to their learning style so they may reach their highest potential. There are a lot of students who don't test well and to use that as a measurement would be a mistake. I don't think we need to add more specialized and standardized testing unless in school we do a lot of test prep. I agree we need to identify and address barriers to college admission. I am not sure how productive it will be to track students if they will not respond to surveys that we have done in the past. Great idea to assess on-line learning environments. I know it sounds awful but the only way to really accomplish this goal is to eliminate the bottom 95%.

Admission to the school and program of choice should be removed. We will work to prepare you to be ready to apply for and support you in selecting the school and program that best fits your abilities.

We should recognize the "transformative nature" of Catholic education. Tracking future success is important, but establishing a baseline and showing the transformation of the individual is more important. This approach is also more inclusive. It would allow you to take a struggling student and show how much our school helped develop that individual to achieve his/her "true potential" without being put in a position of not accepting them into our school because they don't test to our high standards.

Again, not all students will reach this academic potential. This does not address success in the arts. What about students with academic needs. This looks like a GR version of Country Day and I do not support this concept.

Don't get hung up on the 5%. You'd see your enrollment drop much faster than is already happening.

CC does a phenomenal job of this currently. I am so impressed with aspect of CC! This is certainly the 'right direction'.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

*Need to add: "We will identify and address barriers to college admission *and funding*.*

High goals are great but, if taken too far this will create an unhealthy environment for our students.

I understand the idea to have lofty goals and aspirations, but I don't see any sense in having impossible goals. There is no school anywhere that can have all students "admitted to the college and program of their choice." If 30 students have Harvard for their first choice, there is no high school anywhere that can make that happen.

Again, where are we now? Where is the room for the average Catholic student?

Our students shouldn't understand the value of choosing...all of our students must choose higher education if they are to be successful in the world today. This language is too complacent.

Our experience to date is that you have done very little this. We are not interested in what you are doing in the next 5 or 10 years... our time for our children is now!!

It sure sounds nice. It also sounds like our admission requirements are going to get a lot tighter. "Admitted to the college of their choice" also sounds nice, but as the parent of two National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists, I know from experience that this is wishful thinking. Students could be admitted to the quality level of college, but not the specific college of choice. Other than that, I like the direction of this paragraph.

I thought the importance of a Catholic education was for ALL the students. If you do this, you/we will lose half our students. Think about it!

again the word top 5%.

I believe "the best" is not necessarily determined by standardized or specialized tests.

It needs to be more than just education, where does the faith come in or is the vision for an elite school for those with money.

Need to be on the same measuring systems as the competitive schools so all things are equal. The current AP or Honors system is broken.

Academics in a Catholic high school should include a Christian, faith-filled perspective. Anyone can find a high ranking academic school.

I appreciate the value of higher education but does this leave vocationally minded students, those students who will inherit their parent's business, the students who will become full-time parents, or students who want to serve in the military- does this leave them out. Should they be denied acceptance at our Catholic Schools?

Already do most of this. Tracking graduates is good. Do we track what kind of citizens they become? what kind of faith leaders? what moral character they display? number of vocations? courage to stand against an anti-life, anti-Church culture?

How will you guide students who may not make it thru college? i.e. vocational training.

This is a much better way to phrase the college choice section. There are barriers to admissions. While an obvious statement to me I think people end up thinking schools solve those issues. They don't.

Does this mean Catholic schools will be only college prep?? What does this mean for our students who are not college prep? I understand we do not have a program for special needs but where do the students between special needs but not college prep fit?? Shouldn't they be welcomed at Catholic Central/west Catholic?

We do now.

I think that we need to make sure that we provide quality services to those with special learning needs, also, to be more inclusive.

Seems to be a little unrealistic. I think our guidance office pushes too much for students to attend univ. right after 12 grade. A lot of students might not be ready for this step.

As stated earlier, this section is 'good' but it is the summary of the vision which only states 'our students choosing' that is wrong!

Doing an on-line (anonymous) 'freshman survey' (post graduation) might be an informative tool. Asking questions such as: Did you feel prepared for the rigors of college academics? Did you feel that the writing requirements at CC were: poor- adequate-good-above average-excellent in preparing you for college papers? Did knowledge of your Catholic Faith & your relationship with Christ help you in decision making throughout your freshman year? Did you attend mass: no, occasionally, regularly? Why or why not?

Who wrote this statement...obviously someone who has not experienced CC or WC. Our success has been ongoing for years.

I have serious problems with this language!! Only the academically gifted will provide you with this benchmark! This exclusionary attitude deeply troubles me as a parent of a 6th grade student at a local Catholic elementary. My son is intelligent and intellectual testing in the 99% percentile in vocabulary, and social studies..but he would not qualify for acceptance at West (our future school of choice [and I use that phrase deliberately as Catholic education is a school of choice!]) because his test grades in math and science are much lower 40th and 75th percentile respectively. I believe having high standards for staff is important..I question such high universal expectations for our students...especially when standardized tests are the measurements. I applaud the more general 21st century learner standards which are more in keeping with a general populous.

my daughter will be going to college in the fall and I feel like we are weak in our guidance office. I think more info and better info should be communicated to our kids. not everyone in that office is weak but the overall tone needs to be much more solid.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

How much on-line learning? I would not support a program like the one the Grand Rapids Public Schools are currently considering.

We need to provide a rigorous program for all kids, but that is not the same for everyone. The top 5% rankings are only good measures for the academically gifted. We need to worry less about that and more about providing quality for all students. So every child regardless of their gifts can reach their full potential.

I feel that CC is already an outstanding academic school, and while we can always improve, need to be careful that how we rank is not more important than the quality of character of our students. I am afraid that if more emphasis is place on academics and not on creating well balanced kids who love God and are passionate about their faith, it won't really matter if we are ranked the best or not. In subtle and not-so subtle ways, we keep reinforcing the same "values" that our secular culture promotes - that in order to be deemed worthy/successful, you have to be ranked academically at the top. I believe that is important to strike a balance between maintaining strong academics and creating an atmosphere where every student feels that they are worthy.

Helping our students realize THEIR true potential is great. However when our goal is to rank among the top 5% of all high schools in the nation and the best in West Michigan, then many individuals will end up being excluded, because their true potential will not be good enough for grcss. Isn't our true mission to all Catholic students no matter what level they are at and what gifts and struggles they have? With the wording of these statements, great Catholics such as St. John Vianny, St. Bernadette, Fr. Solanas Casey and many others would not be good enough for Catholic Central and West Catholic. Is this really what we want? Is this really what God is asking of our schools?

Verbose - Good God - get a news writer to make this succinct.

Second sentence: Will STRIVE to rank...top 5%. The wording as you have it sounds egotistical and prideful and puts the goal higher than the students.

Not everybody is going to be in these categories.

Again, who are we excluding from receiving a Catholic education?

I only agree with this if it applies to ALL students, but I already know families who are afraid their students will not succeed at CC because of increasing academic rigor and "cookie cutter" requirements (one size fits all). In order for our school to rank in the top 5% of all high schools in the nation as measured by standardized tests, we need to somehow eliminate those students who would "pull our scores down." I do NOT agree with this at all. I feel ALL students are both gifted and have special needs and we need to address them all with the learning styles that best engage them and promote successful learning. That isn't always measurable by test scores. For example, I have a daughter who successfully graduated from CC with a 3.6 or 3.7 and is doing extremely well at college, but suffers from severe test anxiety and NEVER did well on standardized tests, despite special preparation. And what about students who aren't "smart" and struggle in school and average in the 50% across the nation. How do they fit in? All students need to realize their true potential. So, let's look at developing better ways of reaching and teaching all students, not just the elite top. (And I say this knowing that my next student to enter CC will be in that elite top percentage.)

What I question is what is happening to the arts. Is that included in our "greatness"? or are we losing many areas where we now excel to attain the "academic greatness"?

Again the ranking seems to be stressed, which seems to translate that only the top students are what the Catholic schools will be pushed to achieve that ranking of top 5%. The main problem with the college admission is the failure to not recalculate the grade point for the transcripts on a 10 point system.

This is the right direction for our schools as long as we don't forget why God created each of us. I support this overall language as long as "top 5%" and "applicable standardized and specialized tests" include students of all intellectual and academic abilities whose parents desire a Catholic education for them. We don't want an academically elite high school for our children - we want a high school that is Catholic, academically enlightening and challenging for them (no matter whether they are capable of the "top 5%" you mention repeatedly), and assures them of their self-worth simply because they are created by an all-loving God.

Ok so all of Catholic Central and West Catholic students go on to college, become doctors, lawyers, etc. But what about the average student who needs encouragement to maybe pick a trade instead. Can the doctors and lawyers live without plumbers and electricians?

Our schools should still be able to benefit students who need extra help and not exclude anyone who desires a Catholic Education.

You are already doing this. I would hope you keep it up. What are you planning to do to improve?

I believe Catholic education should be available to students of all academic abilities. I do agree that all students should reach their highest potential, but not all students are capable of being in the top 5%. Will those students not be eligible to receive a Catholic education? As parents, we choose to pay tuition because the education is supposed to be faith based first. Christ didn't choose the most educated men to be his followers and to lead his church. If the goal is to be an "elitist" school, many families will be turned away. Currently, we do not have a teaching staff capable of bringing our students to the highest level.

You cannot promise a student will get into their college of choice. It is the decision of the college, you are making false promises.

I agree with the first and last sentences. However, as a Catholic school we must take students who may have difficulties learning but need a Catholic education. For example, I have kids who take tests very differently. My son got a 32 on the ACT with a 4.2 gpa. Definitely in the top 5% of high schoolers in the nation. My daughter after 3 tries got a high of 21 on the ACT and a gpa of 3.5. She would not qualify in the top 5% of the nation nor did she come close to getting in to the colleges of her choice. Yet she is a wonderful student and a good, clean representative of what a Catholic high school student should be. Are we to cut out kids who aren't the brightest?? Also, I think we should look at dual enrollment with CC and GRCC. In OH, my nieces can take classes their jr and sr year at the local comm college and be getting college credit paid for at the expense of the public high school. CC should look at something innovative like this.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

Shoot for 5% but that may not be realistic

Again, where is this elitist philosophy coming from?

As mentioned earlier, I am concerned about this top 5% ranking based upon standardized testing. I think we need to think more broadly, do we only accept super smart kids into our Catholic high schools? The rest of the language looks fine.

You need to especially work with the average student who will require the extra push and tutoring to excel. You also need to make sure that you have the highest quality teachers in place to reach these goals.

Overall, these are worthy goals. Again, is giving an assurance of admission to the school and program of their choice something anyone can do. I do not want the school to become so exclusive that our mission is only to those who are academically gifted.

Does it matter if the school ranks in the top 5% in the nation if students have no idea about morals, philosophy, Catholic teaching, theology, etc.

To identify and address barriers to college admissions includes our grading scale.

This is a big change from the past treatment of graduates

Catholic Central - with which I am familiar - has not done a good job of identifying barriers to my student's success or (with notable exceptions on the faculty) of helping to motivate him to achieve his true potential. Many of the teachers are just "putting in time" and refer to him as a nice, well-behaved student - which he is - without looking very hard at all for ways to reach and motivate him academically.

I think the school needs to do a much better job exposing high school students to possible higher level job opportunities to help prepare them for college course selection.

I am unsure what "on-line" learning will entail, especially when considering the cost of tuition. I am looking forward to my sons attending the Catholic high schools - not to have their education substituted with a computer. I believe technology can enhance, rather than replace education. This paragraph does not clarify what is planned. The rest is strong and clear. Are alumni surveyed already? How is that information used?

AS I agree with this, I am concerned that with our current 7 point grading scale our children will not be able to compete on equal ground in pursuing higher education

Isn't this in place? Likely not since both student bodies are too small to offer the courses selection to meet this challenge.

I would like to see some language relating to the acceptance of all students regardless of race, national origin, and capabilities, such as special needs (ADHD etc.) and capabilities. For example I would hope we would be able to have a psychologist on staff to encourage all children.

Yes, although see prior comment on striving to meet statistics while losing what makes your students special. Please don't get to a point that "checking the box" for the school or the student means success.

What do we do with the students who are not the top 5%, or do not measure up on standardized tests?

This is a good goal. My concern is how as Catholics and Christians we serve students who are not academically gifted. I think the Catholic school system has a long way to go in terms of serving children with special needs and learning disabilities. Where is this reflected in our goals?

Although I appreciate and support rigorous learning, I fear striving to attain these standards will leave behind average or slow learners, who will then be unable to benefit from learning and growing at a Catholic high school.

Academic success can't always be measured. High test scores don't always create the best students.

I don't believe every person is meant to go to college. I encourage my children to go on to a higher education but will also give them the freedom to seek what and pray about what God has planned for them.

I checked yes with reservations. It is a commendable goal for very high achieving students and CCHS has a very good track record for motivating young people. I think there is a delicate balance between helping them reach their best potential and burning kids out with pressure the "be the best". You want to make sure that by the time they get into college they aren't just too pooped out from achieving so much in high school that their experience in college and beyond won't be hindered.

It may be the wording that causes me concern, but this statement sounds like that the two schools will seek to be in the top 5% of scores on standardized exams. This seems to run contrary to the mission of Catholic schools. The goal should be to educate all students to the extent of their God given gifts. Each student should be evaluated as a unique creation of God. Benchmarking against just standardized tests looks only at the ability of a student to take a test. Some students do not test well, but do well in classes. Similarly, others can take a standardized test, but not excel when they are put in a position that requires them to apply knowledge in a practical sense. Academic success should not be linked to a single measurement, but rather to several measures, including community involvement. This statement should be clearer on what is defined as college admission. For some a four year (or more) degree is the goal, but we must not overlook those who choose two year degrees or seek to further their education through journeyman and apprentice programs. Post-graduate success should be measured not by degrees, but rather what each graduate contributes to their family, their community, and their world.

Comments about the Student Academic Success Vision Statement (continued)

Last sentence: should you point out that you will assess on-line and "other" environments to enhance academic programs? I think of things like work study programs, Junior Achievement programs and other community opportunities beyond those that are "on line."

but this means we cannot have students coming to us under 9th grade level!

Measures that depend solely on standardized tests are not a true measure of success for all students.

We will identify and address barriers to college admission - what does that mean?

Again, as a partner school elementary principal - I am all for "developing a culture of accountability, measurement, empowerment and continuous improvement"...but not at the expense of restricting enrollment by becoming "elite" high schools where only the top 5% will be admitted. It is "easy" to show improvement/growth for the "top" students - but also keep in mind that with best teaching practices (i.e. - using accurate data to drive instruction through Differentiated Instruction and/or Response to Intervention, etc...) you can just as easily show continuous growth and improvement for ALL students. Think of the marketing capabilities of highlighting the continuous growth and improvement of EACH student entrusted to us!!! If you move toward a "Top 5% ONLY" school - you are quickly going to realize a downward spiral of doom for Catholic Education in Grand Rapids.

I do hope all graduates realize their true potential but the 5% contradicts this. My son graduated with a B- average and has moved up in his company because of character and work ethics. Those are important and I would hate to see these become a school for the elite.

I believe traditional teaching methods are superior to on-line academics and don't necessarily agree that is the right approach for students. Some homes do not have the Internet and this could hinder their participation and education if on-line classes became mandatory.

If performed in a holistic approach to the human person

Let's just not lose sight of teaching to students who may not be the highest achievers. Not everyone can be at the top of their class.

What about students with learning disabilities?

I support tracking students' successes after graduation, and preparing them for success in higher education. But if success will be measured by standardized tests, we will be excluding a segment that struggles in that area.

How will you measure true potential? What gifts has God given you that don't fall in the academic realm. Will you be prohibited from attending Catholic High School because you can't pass an entrance exam? Is Catholic High School education for Catholics or for those who only care about high academic achievement?

While this is a very lofty and admirable goal I believe that by saying 'our graduates...will be admitted to the school and program of their choice' misrepresents the desire to help the students achieve this and instead states it as a fact; when in fact this is not something you can guarantee.

I agree that we should strive for each student's success, but the wording sounds like you are trying to create an "elitist" prep school, and I would like my child to be in an environment with many different learning abilities whether or not they fall into the top 5% in the nation.

Enrollment

We will develop strategies to increase enrollment of students who are motivated to reach their potential and eager to meet the rigorous standards of our curricula.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	775	88.4%
No	102	11.6%

I support the overall language contained in this (Enrollment) section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	699	80.3%
No	172	19.7%

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement:
<i>As long as it does not include high school merging!</i>
<i>I believe you need to include what you will be doing to make this an affordable option for families.</i>
<i>Strategies should be developed to increase enrollment to motivate students to reach their full potential to become lifelong learners.</i>
<i>In regards to enrollment, I think the Mission is going to hurt enrollment. I am speaking as a Parent with "average" children, academically. The Mission only addresses above average, high functioning students. I have one at West and another, maybe next year. I know my daughter is getting much more from West Catholic than you display in your vision. People send their students there for more than all this college acceptance. The Vision encompasses only a small group of individuals that are blessed with high academic markings. I think some people with average, below average students, may view this statement as above their children. As part of the vision and boosting enrollment, I think word needs to go out there how West Catholic/CC embraces all students and their further development in becoming successful, functioning adults. This includes the self esteem of every student, how it is a small community, that everyone is very much a part of, in and out of the classroom. I just feel West and Catholic offer so much more than you are providing and enrollment will decrease due to the fact of the reality is, it is the average student that makes up the majority of your schools. Maybe a future goal of WC/CC is to only accommodate those higher functioning, honors students, I do not know. But in reading the vision, which all of us parents want all those things for our students, I get a feeling maybe my children are not ones West/CC really wants attending. They are grade level appropriate and have a great deal of growing to do during their four years of high school to create them into successful adults...and so far West is providing that for my Daughter, but I do not think you encompass those things..I am paying for her to attend there with hopes that she will grow into a confident successful adult, not so much that she absolutely attends that top college...</i>
<i>I fully agree with rigorous standards, but there also has to be a place for students who may have difficulties with academics. We need them to be able to reach their highest potential as well.</i>
<i>Are there going to be opportunities for kids who may not have the ability to handle a rigorous curricula?</i>
<i>I strongly feel this is not in keeping with the original intent of the Catholic Education. What happens when we are selective about enrollment based on academic achievement versus Catholic goals and morals? The "average" student that may struggle will no longer be accepted?</i>
<i>How will rigorous be defined? Will the teachers be able to meet the needs of the various students so that they can achieve their potential, not the defined potential</i>
<i>Only if they can pay. Look for ways to contain tuition cost for all. Not free education for some.</i>
<i>Does this mean you want to leave the "typical" teenage boy who is minimally motivated behind? and only want the "high" achievers? what about the kids in the middle??</i>
<i>So are you saying that a person with a learning disability would not be welcome?</i>
<i>No more athletic scholarships for Catholic Central.</i>
<i>I'm not so sure the average 9th grade student has the motivation to reach their potential. I think you would be reaching the parents that can financially afford to pay the tuition and want their child to successes.</i>
<i>would like to see more effort for diversity</i>
<i>How do we determine if they are motivated to do the work expected at our schools?</i>
<i>Increasing enrollment from current levels is probably good; not admitting the problem of cost right here is ducking behind the "develop strategies" phrase. To attract more students, we have to make it possible for them to pay for school. Say that.</i>
<i>Stride to make better efforts supporting students that may have learning challenges.</i>

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

This is a proper strategic objective.

We need to do the motivating too! Not just prospective students.

The "who are motivated" wording almost sounds as if we may not allow anyone that wants to attend our schools to do so. Sounds as if we are going to be selective in the process.

Will these strategies include giving our admissions people the tools and/or staff needed to succeed?

Academic elitism. This will eventually make the school a Prep School that includes religious and moral instruction. Some students will be very motivated but not have the ability to score high enough on the standardized tests to achieve the 5% goal.

YOU NEED PROGRAMS TO EMBRACE KIDS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES. THERE IS A LARGE AMOUNT OF STUDENTS BEING LEFT BEHIND IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT DOESN'T APPLY TO ALL OF SITUATIONS, BUT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE AS THERE IS SERIOUS NEGLECT IN THIS AREA!

We want students who want to set an example of living a Christ like life while striving to achieve high standards in our challenging catholic atmosphere. I think it's vital that the emphasis is on God first and excellence second. The school is suppose to support our faith and then our success in living a Christ like life to evangelize and honor God through our actions.

Again, will non-college bound students be attracted to attend C.C./W.C.

formation might be a better word than curricula as it points to the development of the "whole person."

Catholic Education should be an option to all those who want it, ability to pay tuition aside. Catholic Central and West Catholic should be inclusive, and not just for elite students. students of all abilities have the right to a good catholic education. the wording is snobby and elitist- not following in Jesus' footsteps.

Once again, the schools should make sure that the curricula are inclusive and welcome students of all abilities and desires. Creating and elitist, exclusive school will not help increase enrollment.

enrollment as a goal? ... seems more like a money grab

Question is how as the Catholic schools, is very cost prohibitive, he Catholic student , cannot afford going to these schools, how do we welcome all Students

It sounds like you only want students who excel? You are not going to increase enrollment that way..

As long as the strategies include a fully Catholic curriculum and environment, not diluted in any way

Devil is in the details.

What does this mean for the students who are not intrinsically motivated? Will the WC/CC teachers only address the rest of the students? As a Secondary certified teacher and the mother of 4 gifted students, I question this ideal. Not all students do well in academic settings because they are, oftentimes, waiting to be challenged.

Let's get tuition rates lowered so middle class families have the opportunity again to educate their children in a Catholic High School. With the tuition so uncommonly high, both schools have become elitist for only the very wealthy.

Again, I support reaching potential but there is no acknowledgement of students who might struggle academically, but daily demonstrate Christ's teachings.

We should be open to ALL students and help to motivate them to reach their potential.

I think tuition is a little out of control and families are having a hard time in this economy paying it

I believe that we should strive to have all students motivated to reach their potential; but like in my previous comment, not all students are academically gifted.

Too much focus on this can bring the wrong students. We need to be sure that the kids we are bringing are well rounded and not just type A personalities.

What happens to the children that have gone all the way through catholic grade school, but are unable to meet these rigorous standards? Does their catholic education stop at elementary school?

I support increasing enrollment, but please remember the "debacle" of a few years ago when CC was at its capacity, and try not to repeat that.

What is the target for enrollment? based on either 1) demographic information, or 2) a natural enrollment level based on facility capacity, I suggest you set a specific target

Some key language here is, "motivated to reach their potential." I think we are cheating many students out of an excellent education if we go solely on test scores. Some students are very motivated and willing to work hard and will do well, but may not have the best test scores in middle school, yet are smart, motivated, and will succeed. I think we need to look at the whole student, not just test scores.

...as well as have a desire to be educated in the Catholic faith principles and traditions.

What about the child who can't meet this standard? Will they be allowed to reach their "full potential?"

Excellent.

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

Strategies DO NOT have to be developed. Many Catholic schools in the country have already developed extremely successful programs to build enrollment in both the high school and elementary systems. The wheel has been invented we just have to utilize the formula.

Perhaps this should say something about helping students afford the education.

I hope that this is taken beyond "develop strategies" to actually implementing and testing them.

What are you going to do? Will you support the feeder schools? They are our life blood and we need to help them grow.

Will this strategy include help for the students who need financial help?

You are forgetting about the mission statement--Christ-- where is our faith in this statement? If we aren't thinking about God in our marketing then we must only be giving lip service to our faith in the other statements being made here. Our marketing must revolve around God otherwise we are just another private school. We want families who are grounded in the faith, striving to become grounded, or open to our faith if not in it.

I'm now getting the idea that you prefer to only have an elite population rather than a Catholic population or population who desire a Catholic/Christian education. Too elitist for me.

Simple, concise, clear. Maybe add, "in our faith-based community"?

Foundations should be formed at each parish to subsidize those students who are motivated but who can't cover the cost.

I appreciate setting the bar high, but I would caution against developing an "elitist" attitude.

We have a commitment to reach all students. How do we select only motivated students? The best teachers can motivate hesitant students. 14 years-old is too early to label as unmotivated and to give up.

Does this mean W.C. is becoming an elitist school environment. and do you pick and choose the students who "qualify". Will the average student be able to attend as in the past years?

I am extremely worried about this part of the new "vision" for the school. It sounds like only gifted students will be welcome. I believe you have to welcome all students, even those with challenges. I understand the desire to be "the place to be" if a student is motivated to be at the top of their class. However, that CANNOT be at the exclusion of others. There are too many average students, or students with learning challenges, that have a lot to contribute to the community. They CANNOT feel they are not welcome here. How can we say we are Christ based, and exclude someone because they may not have the perfect grades. Do you know how many wonderful kids will lose out? Do you know how much the school will lose out? This whole statement sounds elitist, and not what anyone envisions for Catholic Central High School, or the Grand Rapids Diocese! I'm so disappointed in the bishop.

This is a good start, but it should also include strategies to increase the number of students who wish to grow and be affirmed in their faith. Too much emphasis strictly on academics and curricula.

So you want to go exclusive and only recruit the top test-takers, and reject middle-ground students and have no concern in assisting struggling students?

I feel this statement makes us an elitist leaving no room for average students. I strenuously object

Their potential!!!

Develop a strategy to keep the tuition cost down which will have an effect on the enrollment. The statement 'students who are motivated' who gets to decide that? What is the measure for an incoming student? Teachers have seen many students start slow and finish highly motivated. Again this section only speaks for the very intelligent student.

Assuming that all potential areas of study are incorporated, not just academic.

What about the kids whose parents, grandparents, went to the school and want to go there too. Traditions are important. I again want to know what is meant by this statement. Haven't we always tried to increase enrollment? Why do we give scholarships to have diversity but not more to children and families who have been involved with our schools for decades. Whatever happened to anyone who wants a Catholic education can have one?

You should consider adding language that addresses respectful, Christian behavior. The recent incident at WC is not what we expect to happen, not to that degree. No expulsions as a result leaves suspicion in many minds about the will and ability to move these kinds of kids out of our schools.

DO NOT compromise our academic standards just to increase enrollment.

It is good to have academic standards and goals, however we are a Catholic School and being top 5% should not be a focus. We should not be focusing on how rigorous our standards are but yet where Jesus is in all that we do. With Jesus as top priority the people will come and those that come will succeed!

I would hope that diversity is considered in increasing enrollment and that 'faith' whatever it is not a deterrent to any student.

There should be accommodations/programs in place to assist students who may need extra help in reaching their potential.

There needs to be an outreach to all students. Perhaps the phrase should read "enrollment of students of all economic levels" instead of simply "enrollment of students".

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

I understand the need to recruit high caliber students, especially if one's stated goal is to be ranked in the top 5% of high schools according to standardized rankings, etc. However, the language here suggests that you're only seeking the high achieving student. Hence, I think this statement is rather exclusionary, and unnecessarily so. I would rather see an attempt made to increase enrollment across the board and then see the school attempt to meet the academic needs of all its students--those who struggle, those who are average, and those who are highly gifted. Catholic education is as much about evangelization of the students and the families as it is about academic excellence.

To do this you may have to tone down the "church" aspect of your program. I mean this in a way not to scare away non catholic people.

This area is really important. I feel that Catholic Central should market itself separately from West because of our unique downtown location. We should market ourselves as THE quality high school in the heart of downtown. We can aggressively market to Spectrum, law firms, and corporations that bring in new families to Grand Rapids. Many people have been sending their children to private schools in their previous locations, we need to make people aware that CC is the place to send their children to go to an urban, diverse, and academically challenging school. They won't get that at suburban schools...

This should reference students who are motivated to develop their understanding of our Catholic faith and reach their full academic potential.

Also keep in mind that there will be those who have special needs and may not reach the academic benchmark, but will excel in their own way.

Although I appreciate this sentence, standing alone it sounds "elitist" - what about helping those who haven't had the opportunity to become motivated about their future, helping them to realize their potential?

We must increase paid enrollment. I believe that many would choose CC or WC but can no longer afford it.

Strategies to increase enrollment---- That an easy one. You need to lower the cost!! 7 K to send a kid for one year,, really!

I would like to focus on the students that choose a public/charter high school, after attending catholic elementary school. I'm not real excited about recruiting children from public schools, while we lose families from the catholic elementary schools.

None of this reflects back to your mission statement at all. so we are just looking for smart kids? the elite? again you do not define the current standards and where they rank and where you want to bring it? very difficult to answer questions without background information

Again, I see an elitism developing in this survey that makes me uncomfortable.

This strategy statement, currently, is headed for failure right out of the gate because the diocese is not developing the feeder system for the high schools, namely the parish elementary schools.

Tired of sports "scholarships" to students who have not been a long time part of our Catholic community, while long time members struggle to make ends meet.

Let's watch the overall cost, if we lower the overall cost, we would increase our numbers.

Is testing part of the strategies? and where does the increase of students come from? How do we intend on meeting rigorous standards?

I particularly support the idea of "student's who are motivated..."

Need to be cautious in causing parents to think this is an elitist school. Parents should feel comfortable feeling that their child will receive necessary help.

Yep, you have gone off the deep end.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

How do you spell "recruit"? How will you "find" these students? How will you respond to those who do not meet your new criteria? Again, this has a very elitist feel.

The language is somewhat vague.

losing a part of the population here, again sounds elitist

This should be linked to (a) diversity statement and (b) need to draw from Catholic middle schools other than the North end region.

This assumes that kids in the middle or at the lower end are not motivated students. They also have a potential to meet. IT is a potential established by the same God who made the more gifted student.

Yes, I support that we are aiming to grow with hard working students, not just that we will accept "anyone" (I hope this does not sound harsh) to get our numbers up.

How do we assist those that have not had the proper training to sustain their efforts and motivation to do well and succeed?

I think that there is a place here for mention of support of and partnership with the Catholic elementary schools that are instrumental in preparing the bulk of the students that attend the secondary schools. The success of the secondary schools and their students is closely tied to the foundation provided by the elementary schools. The more we work together with shared vision and goals, the stronger the full k-12 Catholic education system will be.

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

Who chooses our schools? Students or parents? Are students motivated to reach their true potential or are parents motivated for their children to reach their true potential? Don't we want to enroll students who are capable of meeting the rigorous standards of our curricula, not just motivated and eager.

Do we want to deny students who have learning difficulties, but want a quality Catholic education?

We may reading too much into this - will students of Catholic families who want to attend, regardless of academic ability, be welcomed into this type of environment? We strongly disagree with any attempt to limit access to supposedly faith based education based on academic ability as this contradicts basic Christian teachings.

Would like to hear more on the "strategies" especially with tuition going up.

Not all students who desire a Catholic education may be able to meet your "rigorous standards". You need to develop a policy that indicates that "no Catholic child will be left behind".

We need to introduce elementary students at an early age to Catholic Central. Junior high is too late!!

Again it sounds like you are interesting in only the status that goes with this. You are not interesting in educating every child. This does not sound like a Catholic school. This school should no longer bear the name Catholic it will be a College Prep school only. Which is fine if that is what you want but not under the guise of a Catholic School.

Motivation yes but strategies to seek out only motivated students?

I think that too much money is being spent downtown more needs to be put to west. that where the population exists and both high school could play on one field instead of putting money in cc fields especially since west is established one plays at home every other week

I would rather try to get more students by reaching the Catholics we already have to encourage them that the faith-filled, teacher-caring environment is worth paying for compared to the public school environment.

If this is a goal to become an elite school for those with high abilities and we are not eager to attract all who seek a faith filled education why even call it a Catholic school any longer???!?

Nothing related to the Catholic faith is mentioned, and yet this is about enrollment at a Catholic school.

We need to reach out to all those who wish their children to have a Catholic education and how best to help all those students including those who are less motivated....how can motivate them.

There is nothing wrong with this as a goal, but it can be overdone, cause burnout for the student, and provide a less than optimal learning environment. See my response again to the previous question.

Let's increase enrollment of students who are eager to follow in Christian values as well.

Again, this statement could be applied to any high school in the city (or the country). It's simply too vague with nothing specific to differentiate CC/WC from its competition. Here's a suggested rewrite: "We will develop strategies to increase by ___ %the enrollment of students who have demonstrated a superior spiritual and academic motivation throughout middle school to reach their full God-given potential and are eager to meet the rigorous standards of our curricula."

Our goal must be to increase enroll meant for all who desire a Christian education providing they can pay for the tuition. We should not seek to limit enrollment to only those students who are gifted or excel academically. I have a son who is not naturally gifted and works hard to get mediocre grades. It sounds to me like you are looking to weed these students out since they will hold down the overall standardized test scores. I do not support this direction.

We will develop strategies to increase enrollment of students AND Motivate them to reach their full potential.

Excludes too many great catholic kids who are average learners but successful in their own right and wonderful community members

Increasing enrollment is a given if we are to survive and thrive. However, we don't think finding students that are motivated and eager to succeed is the problem. Financial roadblocks continue to be key.

You need to hire true, training and experience marketing professionals to help increase enrollment

Whatever happened to giving every child a chance. And if they are not motivated coming into a school, is it not the job of parents and teachers to find what motivates that child and help them grow. What happed to the true Cat holism of WC? Just because a child isn't motivated right now doesn't mean they don't want to be and don't want to find that help.

What about students who aren't capable of meeting such rigorous standards, are they welcome too. And once again, rigorous standards are great as long as they don't 'cheat' our students out of scholarship money and getting accepted to the college of their choice.

Not all incoming freshman will be mature enough to meet these standards of a rigorous curricula. Children mature at different rates, ages, pace, and levels and denying them entrance at this young age if they are not ready to meet the strict requirements means that the schools may be permanently losing out on a student who would have been an A++ student in a very short period of time with natural maturity. Not ALL students know what they want their career choice to be at the freshman level.

I support the "general" language here ; however I do recognize this as generally being a vague statement

Students that need to be inspired (i.e. not "motivated to reach their potential")... are we going to turn them away or discourage those Catholic students? Not acceptable language at all.

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

Would this be the curriculum that the teacher decide or are we going to let school boards (as in Texas), religious untrained in education or parents reverting to censorship and ban the books mentality to decide. If we are forward thinking and align more with the current educational standards and ideals great. If we are letting the parents ban the books and stop advanced thinking comparative religions etc then we are very wrong and narrow in our thinking. Let's move forward not back.

As long as the strategies involve lowering the cost. Take a look at what's going on around the area. This should be the utmost goal.

Language is too influenced by goals. What is our true mission for enrollment, to be the top school or to be willing to provide Catholic education for any and all seeking this concept.

What does this mean?

It is a matter of concern to me the rate at which our grade schools are closing. I would hope that the students that are displaced from their grade school are able to enroll in another Catholic grade school. I believe that it is important for them to graduate from a parochial grade school and then enroll in one of the Catholic High Schools.

Your only survival depends on more students not on any motivation.

I would like to see the cost to attend the Catholic Schools is more affordable.

How does this match with Catholic Social Teaching? Teenagers who are motivated are a small portion of the population. As Christians, we need to serve more than that small portion. If we start turning students away from our school, we risk turning them away from our church and their faith.

Again, what about the marginal student who desires a Catholic education? How about we strive to increase enrollment of all students in order to produce strong Catholics who will go out and change the world for the better?

Words OK, but would delete "to reach their "" and replace with "to learn at our school.'.....When use too many words, you just lose the reader and the message.

As long as the rigorous standards are scaled to meet the needs of every student. The class offerings must be diverse enough to allow each student to reach his/her potential. Allowing different levels of course offerings allow for a curriculum to work around the needs of all the students.

"Develop strategies" is a bit vague.

Need to develop more resources to provide academic and tuition support to more culturally and ethnically diverse students who are motivated to obtain a first class, Catholic education.

Will rigorous admission standards prohibit the average intellect student from getting a religious education?

If our programs are successful we will not need to develop strategies to increase enrollment. We will simply need to be all inclusive and make room for those who would like to participate.

No mention of the Catholic or Christ-like base of students we want to enroll in the schools? I think that is the most important part.

Does the rigorous curricula include options for most levels and abilities of learners? If so, this statement is fine. If it is accompanied by the statement, "We will develop strategies to increase enrollment of students with diverse learning needs by providing programs and services designed to support these students in reaching their potential." Many Catholic students who are motivated to reach their potential and eager may not have the ability to meet the rigorous standards of the curricula if there are not programs and services designed to address their individual needs. All through the vision statement there seems to be an implied leaning toward the academically elite. Do we want Catholic Secondary Schools to be a ministry of our entire Catholic Community to all of our young people of good intention or just those with particularly high academic gifts? Catholic Social teaching actually calls us to have a preferential option for the poor and most vulnerable. There is an implied tone, it seems to me, throughout the mission and vision documents that implies a willingness to leave these students of lower academic ability behind in our vision toward 2015. I believe we are not the complete body of Christ when we exclude certain groups of diverse individuals from our population who are also called and gifted by God for the common good, but there is a limit to their academic capacity regardless of how hard they try. This seems equivalent to a hospital limiting its mission to just those blessed with the best health. Seems kind of silly, but it is a similar idea. Schools are for good education, just as hospitals are for good health. As an educator of 21 years, the students who are in the top 5% academically will learn in spite of how good or bad instruction is because of their self motivation, it is the other 95% where good teachers and school programs lift students 5-10% beyond where they thought they could reach.

How are "students who are motivated to reach their potential" determined? If they have an IEP they're not "eager to meet the rigorous standards of our curricula"? Students who struggle also benefit from a faith based education, they just require more work from the administration and faculty...something GRCSS doesn't seem willing to do.

Students may be motivated, but the tuition is very costly.

Educational rigor is so different from person to person. What I think is rigorous is very different from what you think is rigorous.

not completely...I worry this leads to say all students must have good grades...low achievement doesn't all mean they aren't reaching their potential.

The enrollment strategy must go beyond the curricula and focus on emphasizing the importance of catholic education in the lives of our students.

I definitely support stricter standards for admission.

As long as children aren't "weeded out", I'm in favor of increasing enrollment and setting certain standards for students across the spectrum to reach.

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

Again, is there a place in our system for Catholic students who cannot meet the academic demands of a rigorous curriculum?

As a Catholic school, we should be open and welcoming to all students, especially those who need motivation, direction, and encouragement. It's easy to be successful if you're only serving the upper 10%, but Christ did not come for the healthy and well-off. Our mission as Catholics is to serve the poor and lost, helping people find direction and purpose.

THE RIGOROUS STANDARDS MUST INCLUDE ATTENTION TO BOTH JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

What do you mean?? Do you only want students that can handle the Rigorous standards. I would hope that the Catholic goal would be to educate all students, all Students have a right to a Catholic education, even if they struggle and cannot handle a rigorous schedule. Shouldn't it be that we will increase our enrollment based on all types of learners. That we welcome students who perform at high level as well as the student that struggles. I hope you are not only looking to increase your enrollment to those students who are able to maintain a high GPA. As Catholics, Teachers and administrators, we should want to educate all students. Even a student who struggles can show motivation to reach their potential and meet high school standards.

Not all students are "motivated" or "eager" as freshman. A statement that "encourages and supports all students to reach their individual potential" is a more inclusive statement.

This translate "we want only a certain "type" of student. This is not the place not the place for anyone who needs to exposed to what we offered or mentored or inspired or given a chance to our educational experience. "exclusive"

Does this statement mean that only students who are "motivated to reach their potential and eager to meet the rigorous standards of our curricula" need apply? What about others who are not motivated to reach their potential but still want to attend and cruise by? All students are motivated at different times of their lives you know. Also, don't in any way shape or form believe this statement. Increasing enrollment is really easy, but this diocese and its representatives in this arena over the decades just are not willing to take the needed steps and work to make this happen. There's diocese across the country that enrollment is not a problem--why not emulate them?

We will never increase enrollment if we only cater to the "elite." It won't be worth \$7000 for an average or sub average student. Poor marketing rationale. We simply will lose students, which we cannot afford to do -- period.

What is meant by "motivated"? How will this be determined in the admission procedure that we use?

I still want to increase enrollment for those who want a Catholic education, not just a desire for rigorous academics

The problem here is that the vision statement--and, one assumes--the action plans and fundraising schemes that West and CCHS devise to try and appeal to brighter kids around the region who are not in our schools--and raise the money needed to make them truly excellent schools--puts the two schools into an unhealthy competition with each other for money and for kids, and one of them must inevitably lose this competition. The bishop's new superintendent needs to decide how many college prep high schools the diocese can support--and then devise plans, with specificity, that get each of the two high schools where they need to be by 2015. If, for example, the new super shall have decided that Catholic Central needs to become a high-flying college prep on a par with top private and Catholic prep schools in Chicago or Detroit, then the master plan will need to have specific goals in it with regard to new faculty, state-of-the-art science classrooms and labs, and physical plant overhaul (ask yourself, for example, whether the yuppie parents of preppie grammar school kids will want little Suzie or little Billy to go to school in an un-air conditioned building!)

It should say something about "Catholic" students. I don't think our schools should become schools where Catholics are in the minority. Then it becomes a prep school, not a Catholic high school.

What about motivating student athletes to reach their potential.

I support this language if we are looking to recruit students and families that truly desire a Catholic education - not just those that are of above average wealth and intelligence.

Once again, I believe that parents want this for their children, but many children are not ready for this and if you eliminate the chance for a child to discover his/her true potential, then many people will be eliminated from your program. And if you believe in the mission statement then the belief of spreading the good news is lost.

This is in conflict with the community in faith section. There will be kids who want to go here that won't be able too.

Will you also help those with learning disabilities?

Again, I feel this statement is self-serving and will lead to our demise.

are we looking for all leering styles and is our faculty, guidance counselors, and administration going to be prepared to creatively engage the students of the tomorrow?

No mention of religion...such as "...meet the rigorous standards of our curricula and catechism." or "increase enrollment of Christian students..." It could very well be the enrollment strategy of any public school as written.

This is fine as long as we're not shutting out students who may not be among the most academically talented.

This sounds like an idea more fitting for a college level institution. Maturity is an issue here that may only be partially developed for some.

Increasing enrollment is wonderful but not if it excludes members of the community that want a faith based educ.

There is that word "potential" again. How do you measure the motivation and by when will their "potential" be realized?

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

As a Catholic School we need to open enrollment to all those who want to enter with the understanding that they need to be motivated and eager to meet the rigorous standards of our curricula knowing they will receive help along the way if needed.

Is there a conflict between the wording of this with and the language of "Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity" Are all families and students being served by this vision? or only the best, brightest, and wealthiest? I can't say whether this is the right vision or not because the statement is so vague.

Again, not all students who are catholic would be eligible to attend our high schools. This concerns me.

We are about inclusion not exclusion. Be very careful here. Sounds like the direction is not consistent with our faith!

You need a maybe instead of yes, no. In this case I agree with this, however I believe that it should be further clarified to be tied to our Catholic faith. We should not cultivate the best students of all faiths or we lose who we are.

Does rigorous standards of our curricula imply a change from current

What about those students with low motivation that enroll?

Does this mean you will restrict enrollment of average students? If so, why would someone spend all their money putting their child through Catholic elementary school, knowing that they may be declined entrance to High School.

I agree with having rigorous standards but what about our kids who have needs that will not be addressed with AP classes, etc?

Rigorous Standards? What about we will enroll students that choose to grow in their Catholic faith as well as academics?

You need to provide the leadership of high rigorous standards by expecting the same from your administration and faculty.

Again - sounds like the admission standards are tightening up. Do we need to run both of our high schools this way, or should we identify one of the schools as a serious college-prep institution and run the other as an opportunity for Catholic high school education?

Great. Simple and straightforward.

Do you not see the problems people in the state and locally are having with jobs. Where the hell are you going to get more people, especially with the tuition as high as it is?

I think it is important to touch on the faith and religious aspects as well. I think that a passion for Christ is just as important as a passion for grade points. Do not forget those students that are driven spiritually when trying to increase enrollment.

Enrollment strategies need to motivate the parents as well so that they will be willing to send their child(ren) to Catholic schools and pay the tuition.

Language sounds exclusive.

How is motivation defined? Grades may not always be a true reflection of a Childs motivation.

While I am not a huge fan of the ambiguity of "rigorous standards" I think this is passable.

I agree we need to increase our enrollment but the emphasis on college prep. does not represent the catholic (universal) part of our school names.

Very nice!

I agree as long as our strategies are not just with a increase in mind we have to have the plan for teachers to be educated and paid to handle the increase too.

I agree, the overall enrollment may not increase, but by aspiring to enroll 'motivated' students we are not just accepting bodies, we are becoming a school that is sought out.

Creating a culture where students are motivated is a key to our success. This culture does not currently exist.

It sounds like the community we know now will not be in existence with this new vision. Learners come in all abilities and each adds a very important component to a school.

What about those who might become motivated if given the opportunity to attend? Do we just 'write off' students in their 8th grade year? Perhaps there should be some sort of 'disclaimer' based on individual situations. (as need basis) It seems rather 'rough' to figure that at age 12 or 13 a child isn't worth trying to engage and pull out the 'best' in them. Perhaps I'm just a dreamer...

Most people would like to know the strategies you will use.

Sounds great! But talk is cheap. Let's see your strategies.

NO NO NO! see previous comments regarding the "rigorous standards" approach.

really...even the individuals that are "recruited" to come to cc to play sports that don't really ever seem to be held to that standard or your star athletes?

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

Again it sounds like we only want to educate certain students those motivated and gifted to excel academically. We need to reach out to all those seeking a Catholic education and remember the original mission of Catholic schools--to educate all kids.

we want to include students who may not realize their potential -- we need to help them become motivated for the future

So what about the kids who have a difficult time being motivated because they have a learning disability or come from a dysfunctional home. Maybe they have been put down so often and failed so many times, they struggle to believe in themselves. Are these students not also made in God's image? Are they not worthy a Catholic education also?

We definitely don't support this language. It feels very much like you only want the best students, not all.

I'm not sure that there is enough balance for all the activities that High offers. I'm not sure about the use of the word "rigorous".

Language should contain some measurable numbers.

The more I read this survey, the more I realize I do NOT support the direction you are going. It sounds like you want both CC and WC to become Ivy League Preparatory Schools rather than high quality CATHOLIC institutions of learning. The word catholic, after all, does mean UNIVERSAL, should we not try to educate ALL of God's children who seek a quality Catholic education, not just those who can meet the "rigorous standards of our curricula." Some may be motivated and eager, but unable....

We better.

Great statement but what is the underlying message? That the only students that will be sought for enrollment are the academic elite students?

The direction and language are too vague. Increasing enrollment of students motivated to reach their potential is great, but increasing enrollment of previously Unenrolled Catholic students would be better. The "rigorous standards" could be cutting out many of the students for whom CC and WC originally existed - Catholic students of all abilities.

Attract academic achievers vs. attract athletes

Making sure to include all levels of students.

I believe you are only targeting students that only do well in school. What about students that may try hard but due to a learning disability are unable to fully meet all the standards that the school requires.

Not sure the word "rigorous" is the right word here. Maybe we use words like "high moral, ethical and educational" or something like that.

I think the main focus should be on the Catholic grade schools. It is much easier to keep someone in the Catholic school system that is familiar with the program than to sell it to a new "market" of students. Offer a loyalty program to those families that have supported Catholic grade schools throughout the years. Maybe this could be a % discount off high school tuition for each year a student attended a Catholic grade school. Hopefully this would be a "win win" situation for the grade schools and the high schools. There would be stronger Catholic grade schools, and therefore a bigger pool for the Catholic high schools to draw from. If people were rewarded for sending their kids to Catholic grade schools with a high school tuition discount, they may be more likely to keep them in the Catholic school system.

Emphasize that your exist to educate Catholic children - and your strategies should be to keep as many Catholics in the school - and in the church

I'm looking for specific target numbers.

The schools should still be open to everyone who desires a Catholic Education even if they have some learning difficulties. Acceptance letters should be welcoming, not opinionated, by stating that you are accepted with conditions. That is ridiculous and hurtful when you are looking forward to your next phase of education and then you get your letter of acceptance and it states "with conditions".

Duh!

Yes, we want to increase enrollment, but how are you going to do that if you exclude the average student? Having a large family, we have kids with different aptitudes. Does this mean that only some of our children will be eligible to attend a catholic high school? If the curricula is intended to be "rigorous", then the issue of a seven point grading scale should be revisited. Is it rigorous because of the seven point scale? Ultimately, the seven point scale is a disadvantage to our students.

Do not forget the importance of a catholic education for all. We do not want it to strictly be a school for the academically elite. We want even average students to find success in their learning and reap the benefits of a catholic education.

A Bishop' Promise to pay 30% of the tuition cost provide if the family is active in a parish in addition to parish support.

"eager to meet the rigorous standards" is fine as long as we are not excluding students who have learning differences.

I hope those strategies involve praying for both schools during Eucharistic Adoration.

Cost?

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

What strategies, are the essentials of the Faith being taught in the school? The bishop has closed many Catholic elementary schools. Many "catholic" parents are practicing birth control. So families are smaller. We have less children/students to fill our schools. Few Catholics means fewer dollars for Bishop Walter. How is he going to fund Wally's World, i.e. Cathedral Square?

Although I feel it is lofty to appeal to all students, I feel the primary focus toward increasing enrollments should target the Catholic community first and fore-most. This may keep tuitions reachable for Catholics

It is elitist and not appropriate for Catholic schools to only look for the striving and motivated beginning student. The schools need to look to ALL the Children of God and not just the mature and highly motivated. This throws the late bloomers and those needing a little extra help on the garbage heap and consigns them to an inferior education (maybe sentence would be a better word) in the public schools. Jesus didn't just reach out to the high potential, high achievers. The GRCSS shouldn't either.

In the right direction, just too vague.

I think the school needs to realize that students learn differently and be accepting of this - not everyone is a Notre Dame candidate. Be willing to listen to how a student learns best and accommodate.

This will be extremely challenging if the yearly tuition rate increases continue at the rates they have been.

It would be nice if the stress for excellence extends to those in Music and in Academic excellence not just sports.

Tuition increases/costs will be the overall detriment to enrollment for those that are 'on the fence' when choosing their school.

Again, isn't this a priority today?

Please see my last comment. These students also have a right to a good Catholic High School education.

Develop strategies which make Catholic education affordable, appealing and attractive to Catholic families within our Diocese.

I am concerned that we will spend too much effort attracting those who are already successful in our society and pay too little attention to helping those who are not.

Yes, I believe increased enrollment is necessary; however, I wouldn't want to only market to a particular type of student. I also am somewhat puzzled by the fact that the head of marketing for CSS does not send her child to Catholic schools. This certainly gives me a mixed message.

Once again this statement has the feel of elitism. We should motivate each student to reach their potential, but not link it to the rigorous standards of the curricula. For some young Catholic students a high grade point may not be something that is possible for them. As a Catholic school we must seek to serve all Catholic students, not just the ones who can achieve in college bound classes. We must seek to educate all Catholic students who wish to attend and devote themselves to being the best they can be, not just those who can achieve academic greatness.

Not sure if it should be embedded at this level, but should a specific, identifiable goal be established in order to measure success?

Need to develop strategies to increase enrollment across all income & economic levels so that the school does not become elitist and only serve the wealthiest families.

In addition to developing strategies you need to execute those strategies.

Is the goal to become a college prep school? If a student doesn't meet the rigorous standards set, then their desire for a Catholic centered high school education cannot be met at this school? Is this Catholic Social teaching?

Rigorous standards may not be attainable for ALL students. Are you moving in a direction in which some students will not be successful at West?

Will there be a place for the average student who desires a Catholic education? This sounds like it will only be for the most gifted students.

Where do students who deserve an education grounded in the Catholic faith, yet have learning differences fit into these rigorous standards?

As long as ALL of our children are admitted. Not just the more intellectually gifted children. A Catholic education should be available to ALL Catholic families!!!

Holding each other accountable to utilizing accurate data to drive instruction and student improvement will assist/support each student reach their potential. I believe our vision/mission should be the realization that ALL Students CAN Learn!

Hiring a third party to handle tuition management, charging by the amount of payments you can afford, and passing that cost directly to parents doesn't help with increasing enrollment.

Sounds like selection process of certain type of students only

If you only take the brightest and those that have money, you are not going to see an increase in enrollment. Teachers are also responsible to help motivate students.

This narrowly defines who can access a Catholic education, only those able to compete in an academically rigorous atmosphere.

Only motivated students. Completely disagree, when you have waiting lists & are turning away students THEN you may want to head in this direction. I disagree and am disappointed that you want to become elite when the numbers have not been strong. If you think an elite direction will improve numbers you will lose a great deal of solid catholic families not just from your schools but your churches.

Comments about Enrollment Vision Statement (continued)

These statements sound as if we will be recruiting high achievers only and may bar admission to students whose God given individual differences do not fit with the academic performance levels we desire. Our goal should be to help all students achieve their highest possible potential while still accepting that learning style differences and academic ability have a wide spectrum. The mission of the Catholic Church should be one of universal acceptance not "Only the best and brightest need apply"

Will there be admission criteria? Develop better and consistent admission standards with our feeder schools. Let's make sure when we give out scholarships to meet diversity targets, that those students meet the same rigorous academic standards as those paying full tuition - and that it is not based strictly on athletic abilities.

For those student with learning disabilities who are eager to learn and want to reach their potential, will they be accepted?

It sounds like an elitist boarding school to me.

We want to help students and parents who desire a Catholic Education attain it. Your suggestion does not say anything about Catholicity.

Increase enrollment - yes. However, does this exclude those students, or families, who desire a Catholic education but do not possess the academic gifts to meet the rigorous standards?

Financial support seems to be everything.

Service and Operational Excellence

We will be chosen by talented and diverse teachers and staff based upon a culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith, inclusive decision-making, empowerment, accountability and employee development and recognition. We will establish and exceed benchmarks for communication and service excellence, both internally and externally, and measure our performance through annual surveys.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	818	95.0%
No	43	5.0%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	747	87.2%
No	110	12.8%

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement:

However, currently surveys do not seem to make any difference with teachers who are not doing well in the classroom.

The wording on this is confusing. Who is being chosen, and who is choosing?

The statement does not define any parameters for this to be achieved.

good to know different language

Establishment of communication benchmarks for staff is noteworthy. Let's start there and try to meet those benchmarks. It is difficult to exceed benchmarks that we do not yet have.

Would like to see Chris Kreslins(st. Anthony's old youth leader) as a religion teacher at West... ones their now can't relate to the kids and confuse their faith.

I certainly hope this becomes standard practice and applies to teachers already working in the schools. I can think of a few examples of teachers who were teaching classes in subject areas they were not qualified to teach, and that severely impacted my ability to learn the material.

How are you doing this as well?

not sure the staff and teachers are all that diverse, and could be seen as a misrepresentation

There is no statement here about the current excellent teachers. There used to be money to repay the teachers who chose to keep taking classes and attending conferences.

It would be easier on the reader if it is specified who "we" are in the first part of the statement.

Quality education is only possible with quality teachers.

too much how again. could read "attract and maintain the best teachers and staff in the state(or country)"

So what is the "culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith"?

I do not think we should exclude teachers of other faiths! I think our students should be taught by the best teachers.

Eliminate "diverse" from everything. It is the popular and politically-correct language du jour. I don't care if all teachers and staff are of the same ethnic background as long as they are good people and preferably Catholic. All the rest is nonsense.

How are we going to market this "culture of excellence"? Will the schools address the issues at hand to improve our current employee's perception of the schools?

PAY THE TEACHERS MORE. FIND A WAY.

"We will be CHOSEN BY...." ??? Rather - We will solicit/recruit/ or invite

I would love to see this happen as we are light years from it right now.

What does "We will be Chosen by" truly mean? It appears to indicate a selection process.

Who will be chosen and why? This part is confusing.

this statement must include adequate pay for staff to retain staff and high standards

If our teachers benchmarks are "exceeds" we must pay them as extraordinary teachers. As of today we do not even come close.

Annual surveys should not be the sole measurement of our performance.

There needs to be a statement that teachers will be reviewed on a regular basis to assure their performance. This is too group oriented and doesn't recognize the fact that there can be some individual teachers that need to be eliminated.

We will be chosen by - doesn't extend the responsibility of administration to choose the talented and diverse that fit the mission.

I would remain this goal to Staff/Teacher Excellence or something that focuses on the them. Title is too vague, wasn't sure if you talking about the staff/faculty or the students, but the content is right.

The staff has no doubt found the Diocesan structure to be a bit stifling with respect to accomplishing "inclusive decision-making". I'm fine with that.

I think "inclusive decision-making" is ambiguous. I think teachers and staff should advise, but administrators should decide, and the burden should rest on administrators alone.

We will do all in our power to educate those of all abilities to prepare them for success.

Inclusive decision making? Who's in charge? Who developed this mission and vision? Seems very exclusive and elitist. I would never have been able to attend either school with this in place.

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

I understand service learning and civic responsibility. Does it need more explanation here due to its strong value for Catholic school students?

Creative plans for compensation including but not limited to, discounts from Catholic businesses, etc. to move our teachers to a level at or above their contemporaries.

Incomplete - Who are the surveys going to? Students? Parents? Staff? Administrators?

Your teachers need an actual contract, not just an agreement, to show that they are actually valued as educators. If you demand professionalism of them, they should be given the same treatment in return.

Staff should also be committed to excellence in the major literacies expected of college freshmen: reading, speaking, numerical, and information literacy.

"We will be chosen by," is this the correct wording?

I don't know what you mean by "diverse" teachers so I don't support that part.

See previous comment.

This is where the prior "service quality" comments should go. I think.

As stated before, the nuns and priests need to be brought back into the schools. That plus uniting the two schools would solve a number of problems.

This is schmaltzy language...almost a dreamscape.

There are currently too many ineffective and lazy teachers at Catholic Central High School who seem to take joy in failing students. This should have been addressed long ago.

Empowerment - what does that mean exactly? Too vague. Accountable to whom? What benchmarks?

but be sure to value the teachers input!!!!

Having great teachers is always a plus. Fact our teachers are underpaid and overworked. In order to retain our teachers their pay has to increase. To increase the pay the tuition has to increase which results in less students attending the schools. Hence the vicious circle continues. What we have is a training ground for new teachers to come in learn and when they can no longer afford to stay they leave. Those that are a second income to their families tend to stay longer. Who is going to do the annual surveys? A non Catholic organization? parents? peer teachers?

Again, recommend changing "catholic" to "Catholic Christian"

I am unsure what this means? What are we changing?

Expand the use of Focus Groups for decision making. I think you need a process that will involve a good cross section of parents, students, etc. maybe you could utilize a diagonal slice type of process to ensure that others have an opportunity to become involved. Those in authority need to be open minded, and receptive to others becoming involved.

You are missing the importance of diversify.

Diversity in staffing is a must.

annual surveys may not be the best evaluation tool, rather evaluating outcomes, teacher success may be better than a survey

Again you may chase away some great teachers that are non-catholic.

Our teachers are our greatest assets. We need to make sure that they are compensated well. We also need to remove teachers who are not performing up to standards set by the school.

Instead of "we will be chosen" a better phrase would be "we will recruit and maintain".

I am not sure what "We will be chosen..." reads correctly.

So how will our educators and staffs be measured? And if a department fails to reach a benchmark what is the consequence?

I think the measurement need to be more often the annually. I think 3 times during the year will keep us on track instead of waiting a whole year.

Measuring teacher performances through surveys is a very poor ineffectual method.

Diverse as in non-Catholic or diverse as in gender or race? Will these teachers set the standard in being faithful practicing active Catholics?

We have several teachers that should have been removed years ago. They are very intelligent, but cannot teach.

not in full agreement are you saying that we will be such a great high school that people will stand in line to teach here? Again this sounds stuffy

This statement is unclear. Who is "we" and what are "we" being chosen to do? This statement tries to cover a lot of ground, but I'm not sure it has been properly worded.

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

<i>Teachers and staff need to be chosen, not vice versa. All employees of the schools should be well grounded in the Catholic faith and be willing to affirm their allegiance to the Magisterium. No room for political correctness here.</i>
<i>I'm not sure I understand what you are going for...are you saying that talented and diverse teachers and staff will choose to work here? Also - you need to add language on staff being trained in cultural competency...something about being culturally inclusive.</i>
<i>Extreme caution must be used when evaluation teaching staff based at all on student performance, as it (st. perf.) is a huge variable, not always dependant on teaching.</i>
<i>I'm not sure what inclusive decision-making is about unfortunately.</i>
<i>a better measuring stick will be the results with the students achievements</i>
<i>Sounds promising.</i>
<i>As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.</i>
<i>Missing is the responsibility to the staff for a pay structure equitable to the public schools...</i>
<i>How will these teachers and staff be recruited and compensated?</i>
<i>Catholic schools have never been considered too diverse. I am curious how you intend to now become diverse, especially when it comes to teachers</i>
<i>does not address a fair and living wage</i>
<i>This will work if teachers are also held accountable for their performance. We have great teachers for the most part, but some poor performers need to be dealt with too.</i>
<i>And will you pay them accordingly?</i>
<i>It is critical to the success of CC/WC that it recruit the BEST teaching staff possible</i>
<i>Yes, I like the idea of having "diverse teachers" as long as they support the Roman Catholic Church 100 percent especially if they work in the religion departments. In order for our students to encounter Christ, they must see in their teachers and parents first. We are on our way, many of our teachers are there, but not all.</i>
<i>Hiring culturally diverse teachers should not be rated above qualifications. (background of teachers)</i>
<i>I would like to see teacher who don't meet this standard to be let go sooner. At this time there are teachers at CC that really don't teach. My sons have had to get help from other teachers than their own at different times.</i>
<i>There needs to be more accountability for teachers & staff, especially administration. Have an annual survey on administrators and how they are measuring up?</i>
<i>This page makes little sense to me. Who is the "we" that will be chosen-CC and WC? And chosen by whom--talented and diverse teachers? Lots of buzzwords--empowerment, accountability, etc. Who will fill out the annual surveys and the performance of whom and what will be measured?</i>
<i>Merit pay for performing teachers would help attract talented teachers</i>
<i>I'm not sure I understand the opening sentence. We will be chosen? or We will chose?</i>
<i>So far not much I have read sounds like it is founded in the Catholic faith.</i>
<i>Ensure our teachers are true Catholics</i>
<i>surveys can be adjusted and don't always provide a correct overview</i>
<i>must meet current standard the public school teachers meet. background checks and random drug testing</i>
<i>Too costly for every year surveys but bi-yearly is more reasonable if broken into surveying certain areas like sports, education, social activities, faith-based activities..</i>
<i>What I don't like is trying to "interpret" Catholic faith as allowing those who do not share in our faith in the teacher roles. We need to be biblically correct, not politically correct.</i>
<i>The "culture of excellence, etc., are paramount rather than the Catholic faith.</i>
<i>You have a lot of work to do.</i>
<i>Who will be chosen? I do not understand the statement below at all. We will be chosen by talented and diverse teachers and staff based upon a culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith, inclusive decision-making, empowerment, accountability and employee development and recognition.</i>

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

I have been disappointed with a few of CC's teachers. My daughters really struggled with one of English teachers. She is really nice, but not the best teacher. My oldest daughter struggled in Chemistry and didn't think that teacher was very good. On the other hand she loves "T" and is getting an A in anatomy. My oldest has been disappointed in her economics teacher this year. She has had Mrs. Warmouth 2 years and thinks she is a good teacher.

Accountability should maintain a higher order of precedence in the wording.

"We will attract the most talented and diverse teachers and staff through our culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith, inclusive decision-making, empowerment, accountability, and employee development and recognition. We will establish and exceed continuously higher benchmarks for service and operational excellence, both internally and externally, and measure our performance through annual surveys."

Yes-- communication, communication, communication!

Great statement, but until we move to a performance based pay system in the academic world, it will be difficult to change our current talent pool.

Section is wordy.

What does 'diverse' mean? Let's hire the best qualified individuals and those that hold CC/WC near and dear to their hearts.

I do not need diverse teachers. I need catholic teachers that are well grounded in their faith and communities - Catholic role models for our students to emulate themselves after. If they happen to be diverse then all the better.

I support it if it indeed is truly going to be carried out and respect for good educational and dismissal for those not is an objective model in place

I hope this means that students will be given the ability to rate and evaluate their teachers. There are some underperforming teachers and the students (and parents) know who they are. Nothing ever changes, though.

Again, strategies....but not our mission.

An effort should be outlined to present both sides of an issue. The film An Inconvenient Truth was promoted at Catholic Central a couple of years ago. This film was not only promoted by the science staff, but also showed in other subjects like choir. The topic of this film is not only is disputed, but there is also significant debate denouncing the claims of this movie. The documentary Not Evil Just Wrong should also be just as prominently promoted. One sided arguments should be avoided and presenting the students with competent discussion on both sides of a subject should be the goal of operational excellence.

Are you going to get the very best teacher available if you are only looking at Catholic teachers? What does diverse mean in this case?

We will seek and retain excellent teachers and administrators and provide competitive compensation.

Teacher are only at your place because they cannot find a job in the public school for more money and better health care and better retirement

Are we marketing ourselves for teachers looking for recognition and an awesome career? Let's make ourselves attractive to teachers who love children, teaching, and our Lord. Having administrators that are approachable and compassionate is better than any survey, in my humble opinion.

Work to expand our teachers training and accessibility to tools which will empower them to educate and motivate our students.

Not sure what the last sentence is saying.....Again simplify by saying like "The best teachers will want to work here and we monitor them to be certain they continue to excel."

If every teacher embraces the faith and truly integrates it into their teaching every day, the potential at this school is unlimited. It is when teachers pray at the beginning of class as to "check it off their list" that we lose the essence of this school. The students must see the teachers living the faith. Only then can they teach the academics.

Could you start this positive attitude toward the teaching staff now? It would be a great way to gain the support of the current talented staff.

How will you balance this with the financial needs of those teachers and staff? Limited resources will be a severely limiting factor?

What are you trying to say? Are you only accepting Catholic teachers & service personnel? That's how I read it. Don't get upset; you asked for comments. :)

Communication has a long way to go to exceed benchmarks. Communication requires not only providing info, but also listening.

I agree, but remember, these are still young adults who need to enjoy life also and not just work driven success makers.

I commend those teachers who put faith into everything they do. When a math teacher has kids going to mass and the adoration chapel to earn points. Awesome. When a teacher takes his class to chapel to pray before a test. Awesome. When the science teacher has the kids doing a 40 days of lent book and spends the first five minutes of class sharing those entries; Valuing that assignment. Awesome! Those are teachers who realize what a privilege it is to teach the faith. Who knows, some day that freedom could be removed.

How do you plan to recruit these teachers? Even if tuition increases I believe a competitive salary is a must.

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

I think this sounds excellent --- I hope we do it!

I don't like the passive voice. I had to re-read the first line. It would read better as: Talented and diverse teachers and staff will choose us based upon ... What will the surveys ask and who will be surveyed?

No quite sure what this means. Who is "we".

"Measure performance through annual surveys" would be more suited for the goals and strategies to follow.

I loathe this whole first sentence as it's just more psycho babble, second sentence is not much better. I'm not even sure what the first part of the first sentence means. Taking a stab at it instead of saying "We will be chosen by talented and diverse teachers..." why not say Talented teachers molded in the Catholic tradition will desire to be chosen by us...". I also loath the word "diverse"--which to me means nothing but a teacher or staff that will water down the catholic faith as it pertains to the particular subject they're teaching. Also, this statement says nothing about a teachers and staff being Catholic.

I agree overall, but reality is with sub standard pay scale, we will NOT attract the very best and talented teachers and staff. What would you do????

Diverse?

This is such a loaded statement. There is so much unsaid in this statement. How will this be followed? Whose standards will be used to judge this? This statement needs to be broken down into parts, with each individual goal/objective needed to be looked at.

No harm in making sure a school's brochures, fund-raising letters and other documents are professionally written, but even the slickest communication---slick enough, presumably, to get survey approval, won't all by itself make one scrap of difference in the overall quality of a school. Schools need two things to become excellent: a principal devoted to genuine (not to public-relations) academic quality, and a faculty of high intellectual development, in their subject-areas.

I applaud the idea of a diverse staff but at what cost? Are we saying there will be quotas put up of how diverse our staff should be. Are we going to hire based on race, background, neighborhood etc.?

I agree with statement but it cost a lot money to hire and retain the best teachers/coaches/admin.

Hope you can find the finances needed.

A good teaching staff is always welcomed.

It would be nice to see the staff empowered and truly have a voice in the direction of the schools

Not sure what you are trying to say here. Who will be chosen?

It is difficult to believe there is inclusive decision making at the diocesan level. How does this affect our schools' inclusive decision making policy?

I know many people spent many, many hours on this. The premise of this document is not what I want to see. I mean no disrespect to the many involved, but I feel I must respond at your request. The teachers have been squeezed with the budget crisis. Salaries are frozen, medical benefits reduced, job responsibilities increased. My suggestion... We will nurture the teachers that have the immense responsibility of guiding our children. We will show our gratitude and respect as a community, and structure our finances to support them and respect them; as they are key to this process.

Sounds like a business, not a school. I agree with the culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith- do not like the rest.

Measuring performance through only surveys seems to be limiting your opportunity for improvement in this area.

Overall, we hope we can attract talented and diverse (does this mean diverse teaching styles so students will have the option of teachers depending on the students style of learning). I am unsure how the words inclusive decision-making and empowerment will apply to our school.

We will be chosen...?

I am a former CSS Board President and the only way I found out about this survey is through a friend. Communication is already an issue. We have donate significant amounts to the CSS and will no longer do so if this is the direction our high schools will be taking.

When we pay 70% you are dreaming that we will be chosen.

I would like to see surveys more frequently than annually. 'Excellence' typically surveys more often. Average typically surveys annually.

Cannot understand this sentence: "We will be chosen by talented and diverse teachers and staff based upon a culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith" is there by chance a typo? We will choose talented and diverse -- and by diverse we don't mean diverse in all planes ... teachers should be actively practicing Catholics -- which maybe we pick up with "founded in the Catholic faith".

Finding teachers has to be an active process, not necessarily a wait for the best to come. I want to know that you are going after the best teachers, as well.

How about collaborative decision making? Other ways to measure performance other than annual surveys of which response rate is low?

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

Something is missing in the first sentence--compensation. No matter how attractive our schools are in other ways, we cannot attract and maintain the best teachers with our current compensation and benefit levels. I agree that the idea of "inclusive decision-making, empowerment, accountability and employee development and recognition" is attractive and beneficial, I am suspect as to the sincerity or reality of this statement. Given that 8 of the 17 members of this Strategic Planning Committee are currently administrators in our system and that the current evidence of any of these practices in relation to teachers is next to nil, I question if this goal will really be implemented as stated (or are these just nice words?)

Let's make sure our teachers are paid a fair & just wage. An endowment for teachers pay & benefits - Can we talk about this?

You need to improve the evaluation process of your administration, faculty, and athletic staff. Nothing is more important to our students than their experience they get from these individuals, and without top quality individuals in these areas, mission statements mean nothing.

And pay them enough?

Measuring performance through annual surveys is one way to measure our success, but they are others. This feels limiting.

Again, you're reinventing the wheel and wasting money. Have you taken the time to look at the percent of kids who go on to college and those that attend elite colleges? We are already doing this! Do you sense a pattern here?

Does "recognition" refer to pay? Realistically this issue needs to be addressed here.

I had to read a few times to understand this one: We will be chosen... to do what? - language is confusing

We will be chosen or we will choose quality teachers?!?!? They are lucky to be chosen and should be held to Catholic standards vs. we being happy they chose us. Most teachers have little catechetical training and this deficiency shows. Catholic Faith should be the overriding principal in every class otherwise, we are no different than EGR.

Again, very ambitious statement. It does not speak about an issue that is very important however and that is compensation and tooling. What tools are you willing to put in place to assist teachers to achieve this? A short sentence about that would be helpful.

Do annual surveys mean annual teacher reviews? I think this needs to be done to make sure that our teachers remain top notch and current.

Staff who are rewarded for their sacrifice, dedication and success.

Teachers should be Catholic.

Community service is a valuable part of the Catholic community. The key word here is inclusive, not exclusive

I wonder if the title of this section should be changed to Operational Excellence. I don't think the language includes enough about a commitment to service to be lumped in the same section.

"Open book" is the way to go! Teachers must be open to new ideas/techniques/technology rather than relying on the same teaching format for all students. In fact, simply put the teachers need to teach. This learning should be an active, collaborative relationship between students and teachers based on mutual respect and high expectations for teaching and learning reciprocally.

You hope you will continue to be chosen by talented and diverse staff. Again, the right direction for our schools has been going on for years.

YES! Quality staff = quality student education

The language is confusing and wordy.

I agree with this. Accountability, inclusive-decision making, development, recognition, and excellent communication are all important to success.

Need more survey opportunities for poor performing teachers.

Teachers such as Leigh Eriks and Coach T represent the kind of staff I think we should be holding up in high esteem - compassionate, communicate well with students & parents, encouraging, and love to teach all kids - not just the ones who learn easy. Several of my children has had the private of having Mrs. Eriks as a teacher. I knew how impressive she was, but about a week after my son's class started, I ask how he liked her. He said he had never had a teacher like her before - he said "she teaches her students how to think." He has had her for several classes and still thinks she is one of the most brilliant and talented teachers at CC. I would like to see our Catholic schools work to incorporate these qualities in all our teachers so that parents can count on a more consistent Catholic educational experience. That inconsistency was very evident, for example, when Tim Rogers was hired by CC. I was dismayed & horrified that we tolerated Rogers berating and degrading some of his athletes. It was reported more than once that he would call football players that also played rugby "dumb asses" in front of everyone. While I applaud his dismissal, I am sorry that it took a financial scandal to do it. The fact the he treated some students in such a non-Christian way should have been enough to fire him.

Teachers should be reevaluated every year to make sure that they are holding up their end. There are some amazing and talented teachers but seems to be the teachers who have had issues for several years continue to keep on status quo.

That's good: "a culture of excellence founded in the Catholic faith..." That alone makes rest of the paragraph a wonderful vision. The benchmarks for communication are a necessary part of this section, especially both internally and externally. Thank you for recognizing that. Annual surveys are great for providing every stakeholder with an added means of communication.

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

What kind of surveys? To whom will the surveys be sent?

Not sure of the beginning wording - "We will be chosen by talented and diverse teachers and staff..." who will be chosen? Be clear in what and who you want.

I think the quality of teachers should be looked at each year. A teacher should not be hired merely because they graduated from WC, CC, or are a coach. There are teachers that were unable to teach well 30 years and are still teaching in the school today without any improvements in their teaching abilities.

be stewards to our funds and of our children and you will be excellent - and emphasize Catholicism

This sounds like marketing BS and doublespeak instead of a real goal. You need to measure your results, but most 'annual surveys' are carefully designed to be positive instead of measuring real results.

The intention above is fantastic, but evaluations should be obtained from students, parents, fellow teachers as well as administration. We as parents are the customers. Our voice should be valued!

Here are some questions I have: what is meant by a diverse teacher? what is meant by inclusive decision-making, and empowerment? Why will we establish benchmarks that are to be exceeded? Establish a high benchmark for communication and service excellence to begin with and meet it. It might make more sense to have semester surveys to head off any problems and many classes are given on a semester basis. Or just have semester surveys for those classes that are semesters in length. Lately, I have been told by two parents that they don't want to complain for fear of retribution to their child. Semester surveys might help with this issue.

...as long as "recognition" does not imply "merit pay."

Diversity is way overrated. I think it should say the staff will uphold and stay true to the magisterial teaching authority of the Holy Catholic Church.

We will be chosen by talented and diverse teaches and staff??? Who will be chosen????

some of teachers my children had did not live up to these goals

What does "We will be chosen mean? Who is the "we" who will be chosen and for what? This needs revision to express a vision.

Chosen by teachers?

I think the school should make community service opportunities much more available and known. Shy students are not as aggressive at seeking these out.

Although we support it, it sounds a bit like the language of liberalism, with terms such as "inclusive," "empowerment," and "excellence."

Boy this would be a change from our experience, when Sister Robert Ann and Mr. Billings were allowed to humiliate students in front of their peers. I also do not feel that they were academically the best teachers, tried to be buddies with the in crowd and gave special attention to athletes.

We think the communication at CC is too slow. The website is not current enough.

There may be a great teacher who isn't Catholic in faith, yet an excellent instructor and human being...don't short change your students with that bias.

We need to increase faculty salaries to attract top talent.

Who will be "chosen by talented and diverse teachers"? Catholic faith - does this mean our teachers will be catholic? Will our catholic teachers be permitted to attend mass and other faith based activities. I think this needs to happen.

I firmly support communication between parents, teachers, staff and students in as many ways as possible.

Any need to reference not just the academic side of the house, but also the "back office" and the need - for all aspects of the school - to operate as a service and operate as efficiently as possible?

not sure I completely understand this

These two sentences do not communicate a cohesive idea. Do you mean that you will attract talented and diverse teachers to your staff because you are going to cultivate this culture of excellence? Does the communication and service of which you are referring relate to the teaching staff? This needs clarification.

not certain that you your measure performance through surveys---- there are other means of measure performance

I am nervous about the word empowerment in this statement because I think that there has been a history of secondary educators in the diocese sousing their power by failing to cooperate with middle school teachers or be open to professional development opportunities. For some of the high school staff, the collaboration time they were given with the middle school teachers this year was treated as a time of blame and finger pointing. "You're not teaching them this." or "They aren't coming to us with enough background." I watched as secondary teachers rolled their eyes and openly confronted presenters during professional development this past year. I was embarrassed for the diocese and angered at the arrogance of these "educators". I think that there needs to be accountability from the staff to join the direction of the diocese and not have a mentality of "It's my classroom, I've done it this way for twenty years, and nobody's going to tell me how to run my classroom."

Is this a yearly employment situation "We will be chosen"?

Comments about Service and Operational Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

There needs to be some type of performance reviews of teachers, with at least some recognition of parent comments. There are some instructors that totally ignore parental concerns on a consistent basis and keep doing the same old thing. We need more dynamic teachers.

Teachers grounded in their CATHOLIC FAITH should be of the first priority. Our "culture" will be excellent if we lead with our Catholic Faith.

I believe select students (perhaps those who achieve a minimum grade) should complete anonymous surveys of their teacher's performance, and those surveys should receive careful consideration by the administration.

You have not define culture or excellence. Does it mean helping all students be successful? or does it mean we will look for teachers who want/can teach only high academically gifted students?

What exactly does this mean? Who "will be chosen by talented..etc."

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

As a Catholic community, we respect and celebrate multiple perspectives and, diversity of thought that reinforce Catholic social teachings. We will engage in global and inter-cultural experiences to enrich our students' worldview. We will actively promote full participation of all students and stakeholders, with an acknowledgement of the challenges faced by people from historically marginalized groups.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	789	92.2%
No	67	7.8%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	706	83.1%
No	144	16.9%

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement:

Consider adding language that recognizes the diversity and inclusiveness within the student body.

Students should be accepted and treated equally. There is no need to put on a show of diversity at the expense of other students.

You will actively promote full participation in what activities?

This is going to be hard to achieve, although not impossible.

Excellent!

I like learning about other cultures but the term "historically marginalized groups" should be struck. It's a statement of PCBS

However..I believe our FIRST responsibility is to educate CATHOLIC children

IMO, diversity needs to extend beyond diversity of thought that reinforces Catholic social teachings

I hope the marginalized groups do not eject otherwise qualified students from attending.

"historically marginalized groups"??? Is this the area to include physically handicapped.....

The language is crucial here. While we do respect "diversity....." as indicated in your paragraph it needs to be clearly stated that our firm conviction comes from what we have learned through divine revelation as #36 states, "Christ is the foundation it works towards this goal guided by its Christian vision of reality "through which our cultural heritage acquires its special place in the total vocational life of man"(13). Mindful of the fact that man has been redeemed by Christ, the Catholic school aims at forming in the Christian those particular virtues which will enable him to live a new life in Christ and help him to play faithfully his part in building up the Kingdom of God(14).

Everything in that statement except the language "historically marginalized groups." While the affirmative action ban in the State of Michigan might not apply to private institutions such as West Catholic or Catholic Central High Schools, I still do not support either of these fine pillars of education engaging in such practices. Race, demographics, socio-economic statuses should not factor into ANY decision-making processes at these two high schools on any level.

But not at the expense of those families who also struggle with the cost of Catholic education.

fancy language for affirmative action? bad idea, quotas are not good

We need to teach our children that all people are special. This is complicated with all the turmoil on this earth.

however, I believe that a student from our school should accept Catholic teaching and fundamentals and be an active participant - CC/WC should not be a spring board for special interests

I think there should not just be a focus on the global but on the particular culture at Catholic Central. How does the school help each student to respect and understand other students of different economic and social backgrounds and ethnicity.

Make sure scholarship programs are given to middle class Catholic Families or overall lowering tuition rates to make more affordable. Giving scholarships to non-Catholic students should be suspended at this time with the economic difficulty facing everyone.

1) The first sentence is politically correct but void of meaning. What, exactly, is the "Catholic community"? Or, more pointedly -- "who" is the Catholic community to which you refer? The Bishop? The teachers? The students? 2) What are the "Catholic social teachings" you want reinforced? Can they be found in the Catechism? Are they at all debatable? To which ones are you referring? 3) Who is "historically marginalized"? Can you list them? Would your list be the same list everyone would agree is "historically marginalized"?

Does this statement mean that we will have a minority quota as far as enrollment? I don't believe a child's race should ever be a factor in enrollment.

Diversity and Inclusion are not just a compliance topic, they can be a source of strength and competitive advantage for the school. Suggest you add a clause to the end of the first sentence to the effect of "and believe it strengthens the development and formation of our students"

There should be more language about admitting students of all backgrounds - all races, religions, ethnicities, etc.

I think we need to start at home and provide our students with diversity by embracing the diversity that we have right here in our city and community at large. We need to encourage and assist families with diverse backgrounds to apply to our High Schools, and help them in whatever way we can financially so that they can have their children attend our schools. I do think it's important that these students come in with a catholic upbringing, and not just come to our schools to escape the other options, or lack thereof, in our city (obviously, I am talking about GRPS).

A study of history will yield an understanding that there's not a single group that has not, historically, been marginalized--even Western Europeans, at the hands of various raiding Saracens, at the turn of the last millennium. The problem with the language is that identifying a group as "historically marginalized" is a subjective, and not an objective, standard, and so is vulnerable to the relative prejudices of curriculum shapers. Also, the phrase "diversity of thought that reinforce Catholic social teachings" should be changed to "diversity of thought that conforms to authentic Catholic teaching and reinforces Catholic social teachings"; so as to tame the otherwise politically explosive phrase "diversity of thought". Finally, it is again disappointing to see a reference to "global and inter-cultural experiences" in this survey prior to reading anything about studies grounded in the great Western humanities tradition (unless that is what you meant by the somewhat amorphous "Catholic Intellectual Tradition").

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

Grammar of this statement needs to be fixed.

I am not in favor of using the historically marginalized context. If you keep using it the issue will never go away or be solved. I.E. slavery...it is used all the time when certain groups don't get what they want...all you are doing is creating an underclass

Let us not bow in the wrong direction, however.

But as a Catholic school we will hold true to the teachings and traditions of our Faith.

What does the Roman Catholic Church teach. This is the diversity of thought we should seek to achieve.

This should be a focus area.

I'm not sure "marginalized" is right word. I understand what is being said, but don't want to talk down to the same population you are trying to court. Does this include those who are financially diverse as well?

Who determines the "marginalized groups"?

Will you accept those that are pro-choice and the lesbian/gay community? Will you let groups that support these endeavors form groups on campus?

I think that this is probably the greatest challenge.

This is way too broad and opens the door for inappropriateness. It is a struggle already to keep our kids from being influenced by the secular world and this has secular teachings written all over it. I cannot tell what you are trying to do with this or exactly how you will do this and I am fearful of misinterpretation, abuse and excessive focus. This is a time when we need to strengthen our students in their own faith and culture so that when they go to college, which by previous points has been made to be the goal of our school, they can then face the challenges and attacks upon their faith, esp in the context of their studies with clear and firm Catholic direction.

"Marginalized", you're really going to use that word?

Acceptance of peoples of all colors is one thing, but other diverse groups and beliefs should be handled very delicately. Teaching the true history of the Church and the nation should be a primary goal. Our young people need to learn about the past as well as the future.

How will you plan on engaging in global and inter-cultural experiences?

What are your thought on gay Catholics? Any chance for them?

But... please remember slow learners and those with learning disabilities are marginalized groups... Let's not forget these students.

I would like to see actual diversity by making it possible for minority students to attend WC and not feel isolated.

Diversity is a chimera. It is not essential to a well-rounded education and shouldn't be striven after for its own sake.

There should also be a qualifying statement that indicates that diversity and multiple perspectives must also respect the truth of Catholic Faith as taught by the Authentic Magisterium.

Edit note: "multiple perspectives and diversity." No comma needed.

Stakeholders???

I like things how they are now. I like my children going to school with people in their neighborhood. With children of the parents I went to school with. With people who have the same morals and traditions.

Again, DO NOT compromise our academic standards so we can be more diverse.

The last line needs to be restated!

It is important that we not lose our identity as a Catholic school while embracing diversity.

This is a Catholic school. Parents who spend a small fortune to send their children there want them to have a distinctly Catholic education--not an education that "celebrates" non-Catholic perspectives. As Christians, we are called to be kind and respectful of all peoples, including those of different faiths. In short, we are called to love and mercy. However, the language and goals stated above clearly suggest a relativistic perspective that is ultimately very harmful to the students as it teaches them that there is no ultimate Truth if all these little truths are of equal value. This whole section needs to be re-evaluated. While welcoming people of different faiths to your school, you should be seeking to actively promote the Catholic perspective out of firm conviction that it comes from the one true faith. If you do not believe that something is true for all time and all eternity and for all people then why believe in it at all? Is this the Church that Christ established upon the apostles with the protection of the Holy Spirit or not? Furthermore, the Catholic Church is universal--hence, the Catholic worldview should be "global" enough.

The language in this section sounds too liberal and all encompassing.

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

Introductions to all foreign languages would be a nice addition.

We should respect ALL perspectives but emphasize those based in Catholic social teaching. As written, it appears we would respect just certain views and possibly show disrespect to others.

I feel that diversity and sexual harassment training should be part of freshman orientation. Presented in a non lecture type environment would be beneficial.

Don't like the wording of the last sentence. Do you expect less of the students who come from the "historically marginalized groups" because that's how it comes across in this wording. All cultures have faced challenges of one sort or another throughout history. Just not sure what point you are trying to get across with that statement.

This is probably where service will fit. This is the Catholic education. This is the science of sociology. It must be stressed that all of us need to give back.

Are we willing to accept the marginalized into our school and give them an opportunity?

Again a lot of platitudes with nothing concrete.

I think that this entire statement needs more work. It basically says that we support diversity of thought as long as it is not so diverse as to challenge Catholic social teachings. It sidesteps the issue of more extreme diversity. The statement also acknowledges (correctly in my view) the need to understand the challenges of marginalized groups but completely fails to address the need to understand the underlying causes of the marginalization (including government sponsored dependency, illiteracy, lack of education in economics, etc.). While empathy is fine, marginalization will never be eliminated without addressing the underlying causes.

To lead as faithful Catholics, not to dilute faith. Not sure of the diversity of thought as it is opposed to the tenants and traditions of the Church.

Second sentence

I believe that as a catholic faith based high school that many our students are already reaching out the communities around them to help

Perhaps if the statement were something like, "grounded in Catholic social teachings, we will engage in...", but as it is, you limit the students to that diversity that is reinforcing Catholic social teachings, and that is limiting for their "world view". It is a big world with problems and opportunities for our students. Our best efforts should be to help our students, with a foundation, to help tackle some of those problems and to bring those Catholic social teachings to the world.

Great!

It's a bit vague, will you remain true to the Pope's teachings?

Ambiguous, open-ended language - what exactly does this mean?

Could multiple perspectives and diversity of thought be explained in regards to Catholic social teachings?

Absolutely support this idea; again, with the focus on motivated students.

would like to know just what this means, however, I know were not suppose to worry about detail at this point?

Historically marginalized groups - of course we are talking about Catholic members of those groups?

I find it thick with irony, that you claim to promote diversity and inclusion, but you condoned and in fact allowed hazing of an autistic student. My 5 children will not attend WC or CC for this exact reason. You showed by example, that if you have enough money and pay off the administration, you can get away with hazing. Sad. I am ashamed I am a WC graduate.

Add diversity of thought and lifestyle. Will students simply be "exposed" to intercultural experiences or will they be attending class with those from other cultures? Please make much stronger statements that truly reinforce Catholic social teaching. This is lip-service.

Again, diversity is an issue that does need addressed.

Sounds better, more "catholic".

Teach American values. All cultures are not equally valid and evil must be pointed out. Historically marginalized groups need to get over it and move forward with their lives, not keep expecting handouts.

Do the marginalized groups include those whose grades, and academic gifts might not reach toward the upper 5% of the national average?

This seems to be just words or "empty promises." How will the schools actually do this?

If this is talking about giving full ride scholarships to minority students, we disagree. They should be held accountable for part of their education...so that those of us who are sacrificing to pay our students way get some help as well. Also, some of these minority students are bad seeds...if reinforcement doesn't come from their parents...no Catholic school is going to "fix" their problems...they just infect our children.

More done so that more young people from diverse backgrounds can make CC a reality.

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

I believe that it is important to respect and celebrate multiple perspectives and diversity of thought regardless of whether or not they reinforce Catholic social teachings. An intellectually rigorous environment must include tolerance of opposing views and encourage students to take a position on an important issue and defend that position. It is only through exposure to different ideas that students can think critically, evaluate and clarify their own beliefs. On a global scale, peace is not possible without tolerance and respect for those who hold different beliefs than our own. If we are seeking to educate the future leaders of our community, country and world, they must be able to respect those who are different from themselves.

Second sentence--what does this mean? Promote full participation in what? Do students and stakeholders participate in anything in the same manner?

Do we have diversity just for athletics or are academics and socio-economics included?

I would like to know what you mean by acknowledgement of the challenges faced by people from historically marginalized groups - will there be different standards for their academics? tuition assistance. Will diversity move beyond athletic abilities as it seems to be currently?

Not sure where this paragraph is leading to, the verbiage is unclear. "engage in global and inter-cultural experiences to enrich our students worldwide?" what does this exactly mean?

I would need more information regarding your concept of celebrating multiple perspectives. It does not really indicate who's perspective. Is that Catholic social teaching based on the majesterium of the Catholic Church?

Does this include the children who may learn at a different pace and are not in the top 5%?

Not sure what is trying to be said here

Stop the "PC" Language.

Should be doing this now.

I do not agree with "diversity of thought" I am very tired of this worldly view of including everyone. We are Catholic and need to love everyone but we are in a faith crisis where most kids do not even know their faith personally AFTER HIGH SCHOOL! I am not concerned about reading black history during February as much as reading the catechism -which my kids have not yet read after years of Catholic school (except what we do when we prepare them for confirmation at home).

I support the role that the Catholic church has in social justice if that is what this means.

I don't feel that it is necessary to promote any form of affirmative action in our schools. We should offer opportunities to all without making exceptions for those that may not ordinarily qualify.

I would stop after the second sentence.

Hm this is kind of a hard one to agree with - Catholic Social Teaching is a bit limited in its acceptance of diversity. It really bothers me to this day that Mr. Duba told my daughter's class that gay people are not human. I have always believed that God created this all. I personally struggle with the Catholic Church's teachings on homosexuality and I know my daughter does too.

I'm sorry, this is just too vague for me.

Without compromising our Catholic heritage.

First two sentences- agree, as long as our Catholic Christian teachings are not "watered down" to be seen as "acceptable" within the current worldview. Last sentence-- when have the challenges of "historically marginalized groups" not been acknowledged within our schools? Very curious and somehow disturbed by the last sentence.

Having attended Aquinas College, I am concerned when other cultures are presented in catholic teachings. If these are to be endorsed then the school MUST not forget the fundamental moral grounds of our catholic faith. It concerns me when I see people that proclaim they are of the catholic faith, but do not support the teachings and morals i.e. right to life. Absentience etc.

If this means to send kids to CC/WC that do not pay tuition, then no. This statement seems to imply that to me.

Teaching an "equality" of all that "Catholic Social Teaching" has to offer would be appreciated. I am tired of letting abortion take 99% of the spotlight.

I will gladly applaud this when I actually see this in action.

"We will actively promote full participation of all students and stakeholders in our community while acknowledging the systemic challenges and barriers faced by those people marginalized by our society.

C.C. still have a long way to go in being inviting and inclusive.

Diversity is a touchy subject that needs to be discussed, but not in the context of favoring one group over another. Current discussions on certain minorities propagating continuing racial disparity should also be discussed. Several examples of minority groups inciting dissent just to keep their power base should also be outlined.

It sounds like those with any educational challenges will not feel welcome at our Catholic schools.

This sounds like so much "moral equivalency" and subjectivity. What is a "historically marginalized group" and why have they been "marginalized"? Stress strictly enforce the "diversity of thought that reinforce Catholic social teachings", and you may avoid the humanist slippery slope that denies objective truth.

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

We recognize that Catholic social teaching must first respect the sanctity of human life at all stages in a society that too often holds contrary views.

Need further definition around "acknowledgement of the challenges faced by people from historically marginalized groups".

Students do not care about social teaching only in grades.

This sounds like an invitation for Obama to come give a pro choice talk at our school. I would rather the wording take a stand for upholding the teachings of the Catholic faith in a charitable way rather than diverse thoughts. Global thinking is good as long as it does not threaten Christian teaching. Historically marginalized groups can come to the healing of their hurts through the love of God. What more acknowledgement is there?

We will embrace global and inter-cultural experiences which serve to enrich our students' respect for multiple perspectives and cultures.

Basically, don't like the last sentence. "an acknowledgement" and "marginalized" sounds condescending. We are all unique and children of God. We should account for all peoples differences and be there to help students. Lend a helping hand to whoever may need it. We should not prejudge certain classes of people based upon, for example, their ethnicity (spelling???). In my mind, not a good vision..... Don't get me wrong, good to have diversity, but last sentence is condescending; would delete it.

It is not enough to acknowledge the challenges faced by people, we must service the people with these challenges. I want my children educated alongside other students who are unique, exceptional, and diverse. If we limit education to the top 5%, this will limit this opportunity.

Need to incorporate some international perspectives. Americans are very ignorant of other cultures and religions.

However, free tuition does not equal diversity to me. To have to be a different color to get help is unfair.

What are the Catholic social teachings???

But beware of the urge to do this in order to enhance athletic team success

Again, great for the multicultural above average student, but what about the student with a learning disability?

Only if the information is fact based and not emotionally based.

Historically marginalized groups are not just the poor. The cognitively impaired, right up to children with IEP's and 504's have also been marginalized and excluded from catholic education.

It is important to also maintain the Catholic faith teachings; not to lose our Catholic identity because we are so focused on diversity.

Language sounds wishy-washy to me. Sounds like we might "celebrate" a perspective that is pro-abortion because it arguably touches some other Catholic social teaching.

This is a full time job. Will we reestablish the position of diversity co-coordinator?

"full participation of all students" in what? Explain.

And will those marginalized groups be part of the student body and staff?

Again are you talking with respect our celebrating diversity as long as it follows along with our Catholic teachings or are we embracing this diversity within our school population. Not sure where we are going with this verbiage.

I don't understand the last part of the statement "challenges faced by people from historically marginalized groups". The word "historically" bothers me.

Oh GOD, here it comes, diversity, inclusion and equity as it pertains to social teaching. It's the same thing as saying believe what you want and go ahead and marginalize what the Catholic church says. The first statement should end like "...social teachings as long as they do not conflict with the teachings of the Magisterium". The second sentence should end the same way. I basically think this statement sells out real Catholic social teachings for diversity and inclusion. You should never sell out!

Good in theory -- how do they afford tuition (a recurring problem to afford these "scholarship" students and attract/retain talented teachers and staff). Must start a serious Endowment, where tuition is reduced each year (Peter Wege? other wealthy alumni).

Much wants to be said in this statement, and being so general, nothing real/possible/doable is indicated. We need to ask ourselves what our commitment to the teaching mission of the church is all about, and my fear is that we become an exclusive enclave that does not want or can handle minority groups. What is meant by the phrase "historically marginalized groups"? Will teachers be expected to be trained in cultural diversity ways? Again, too vague and general.

Does mere "diversity," make a school better? Let us confront this issue squarely by asking another question, one that an excessive regard for "diversity" in the secular culture actually makes it impossible to ask, but which an honest regard for the truth makes us ask: Has CCHS been strengthened by the admission of large numbers of disadvantaged kids, if those kids and their parents do not share the school's moral principles, and if those kids are caught in hugely disproportionate numbers of disciplinary infractions, and expelled or asked to leave the school in hugely disproportionate numbers, far out of proportion to their portion of the student body? I ask this question because nobody else seems to have the courage to ask it, and it deeply troubles several of the more thoughtful and dedicated teachers at CCHS. I ask in their silent names---not fearing to demand the truth. We stand by the truth in Catholic schools, because sets us all free, no matter how much we may suffer in the short term.

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

I don't really care so much about diversity. That will be forced on the kids when they get into college. I am more concerned with immersing them in the culture of Catholicism.

Something is wrong with the wording, punctuation, or grammar of sentence one. Maybe just take out the second comma.

As long as this reinforces Catholic social teachings.

As long as this direction does not adversely affect non-marginalized groups, and is not implemented at the expense of the Catholic faith and principles.

It would be nice to truly see this happen at all levels.

Substitute "benefactors" for "stakeholders" "How will you acknowledge the challenges faced by people from marginalized groups?"

How do we believe in promoting multicultural teaching when St. Andrews (the only true multicultural school) was closed at the steps of the Cathedral.

We are Catholic. We are as diverse as that allows us to be. I hate the word stakeholders- again, sounds like a business and this paragraph is the way to insure we are politically correct. Define Catholicism if you feel the need to discuss our diversity, inclusion or equity.

Diversity of thought does not correlate to correctness of thought. Will you uphold traditional Catholic values?

What does "with an acknowledgement of the challenges faced by people from historically marginalized groups" mean? Are you talking about Jews, gays, heretics, blacks, women, handicapped, etc.? All of the above? None of the above? No idea what the last statement is trying to say.

Again, where inclusion is concerned...we first must service our Catholic community FIRST to the best of our ability and make it a goal we constantly strive to increase upon.

Mention that the Catholic social teachings being reinforced are grounded in Biblical scripture (Word of God).

If the meaning of the words - diverse, inclusive and equitable refers to students with different learning styles and different learning disabilities then I totally agree with the first sentence. But I am concerned with the second sentence because we need to be Catholic first and then through understanding our Catholic faith view the world from that perspective. Being Catholic does not mean we need to embrace all diverse religions, and all cultures.

Need stronger language that we will not compromise our core beliefs, tenants, dogmas, and teachings. diversity must not run counter to what being a catholic means as defined in the Catechism.

I don't like this wording. I think that in presentations of diversity, our Catholic moral teaching needs precedence. "Celebrating " diversity in opposition to "celebrating" Truth is not good.

I think "people from historically marginalized groups" sounds awkward. Are we talking social structure here?

If you are going to address issues of inclusiveness, you should include students of different learning potential. This should be about student learning not how our teachers teach.

But this only applies to the chosen 5% correct?

No comma needed in first sentence after and.

"an acknowledgement?" Historically Catholic schools came before the churches. Why are we reversing the roles? Look around at Mass. The parishioners try darn hard to send their kids to the schools. Close the school and sooner or later, you'll lose the parish.

Let's take care of this in history class. We are diverse, are not racists and embrace most other cultures. I'm not big on the Jihadists.

Is this survey based on the schools merging?

But what about those who can't afford this opportunity?

Political Correctness is not needed in our Catholic school. If we raise good Catholics, we will have the best of citizens who will do all you say above without conceding leadership to the culture. Most of the language above is used in secular arenas that show much disrespect for our Catholic values.

Race should not be an issue. What constitutes a marginalized group?

Nice.

This seem in direct opposition to the college prep ideas...but I like this direction

I am not sure what this part of the vision is speaking to. Are you speaking about studying the above, or opening the school to the above populations. this statement is not clear.

Always coming back to the precepts of the Church as a reference point. Put our faith into action--pointing out how and why a particular action is based on and/or supported by Catholicism (Universal Church). The students must know the Church's teachings, especially in a time when 'inclusiveness' can be misconstrued as 'anything goes'--We must reinforce with our students that there are moral, spiritual and theological truths that must be our guide. Loving others does not mean always accepting their actions/answers as being acceptable. TRULY WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST--WE ARE ONE BODY MADE OF MANY PARTS of which none is the lesser.

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

Inclusion of minorities is a huge issue at parochial schools, active recruitment of minorities needs to happen- not just talking about it

What is the purpose of making so many of your statements so nebulous and then asking if the reader supports the language contained in that section?

Yes..except I believe you are only talking about racial marginalized, while the previous visions leave out the educationally differentiated students.

Inclusion also means including students with special needs and gifts that are not measured on standardized tests.

As long as "multiple perspectives" do not conflict with the gospel.

Be sure that students are REALLY exposed to people of different denominations, faiths, cultures, etc!!!

Think that diversity is great for all students.

I hope this includes students who learn & test differently. I have seen an improvement in how teachers structure their classes. For example, I see more study guides, better use of infinite campus by teachers, & better communication about expectations. Most teachers are very happy to help your child overcome obstacles, and will work with you to ensure their success. However, we have experienced a teacher who is very vocal about her opposition about extra time on tests. My son suffers from vision issues that have been documented to hinder his ability to perform some tasks at the same speed as his peers. It is important that he can take extra time if needed, which is often the case in math and science where there is a lot of detail. It is difficult to work with teachers that you feel are working against you and are ignorant about disabilities.

This sounds good. We need to reinforce Catholic social teachings for sure. But we cannot just teach about the marginalized groups, we must accept them into our own community. If we try to become so academically elite, we will be marginalizing more people. So we better make sure we aren't just teaching Catholic social teachings, but also living them out.

As long as we IN NO WAY compromise our faith or the true teachings of the Catholic Church by celebrating those perspectives and values that directly oppose those held by our Catholic Church.

To the paragraph, please consider adding words to ensure that full participation in the schools of ALL marginalized groups is present, and not just "historically marginalized groups." Also, please clarify what you mean by that - be much more specific. I'm not convinced that I agree with the language until it's more specific.

'historically marginalized' now doesn't that sound a little prejudicial?

Not sure about the last statement: acknowledgement of the challenges faced by people from historically marginalized groups. What are we trying to say here?

I would like the schools to have a diverse student population, but not at the risk of lowering academic standards. It is disrespectful for everyone involved for a minority to be judged at a lower academic standard. Also, diversity should not be used as an excuse to get exceptional athletes into our high school. These athletes need to meet the same academic and character requirements as any other student attending the school.

It's a Catholic school. If kids want to be at CC or WC then they should take all the Catholic religion classes. And, if students can't handle the rigor, then they should leave - regardless of their background.

I'd rather see "historically marginalized" replaced with "diverse groups."

Diversity in catholic teachings, full participation, and a global view is important. Focus on marginalized groups should not be a priority (but it should be an awareness).

All that should be said in this section is that as a Catholic community we will respect, teach and promote the God given dignity of each human being. This is the only way diversity, inclusion and equity can be morally achieved. (As Catholics we are not to embrace all diverse beliefs.)

I love this section. I would hope that this "inclusion" would extend to students with all kinds of learning needs.

Tolerance of others is good. Being loving to others is good. Being Christ to others is awesome. Embracing the rich traditions and customs of the Catholic world is awesome. What in the world does celebrating multiple perspectives mean? Social justice is no good unless you have a deep love of Christ first.

Are we going to try to be diverse??? I don't think we say that.

Inclusion? as in inclusive or gender neutral language in the mass? Women priests? Does the marginalized include feminist nuns and homosexuals?

What exactly is meant by "an acknowledgment of the challenges...marginalized groups"? That almost sounds like code for "We treated them wrong". Also, you misspelled acknowledgment. That should be corrected before being finalized.

This is diversity babble. It is also inherently contradictory especially if real life is considered. How can "we" respect multiple perspectives and diversity of thought only if they reinforce Catholic social teachings? The underlying idea of accepting and embracing diversity of thought and perspective is great. The idea of teaching about the challenges faced by historically marginalized groups is great (including the people persecuted by the Church during the Inquisitions). The idea of rejecting any thoughts, opinions or perspectives that do not "reinforce Catholic social teachings" is not so great. What the schools TEACH should definitely be consistent with the very broad spectrum of Catholic social teachings but students and stakeholders should be free to hold different views and express them. Not all GRCS students are Christian, heterosexual or of Northern European ancestry.

Overall yes, just add in something along the line the we will FOLLOW Catholic teachings as well as reinforce them.

Comments about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Vision Statement (continued)

The third sentence of this statement is too ambiguous.

How will you do this?

Same comment as on previous page. With regard to this page, it shouldn't be necessary for a Catholic school to say these things. We also should place more emphasis on moral, as opposed to social, teachings.

You first need to eliminate the clicks that come from the various elementary schools and make it possible for new students to feel welcome. We came from another state and did not attend a feeder school.

Right words...doesn't mesh with the anti-gay teachings. Don't contradict yourself.

I do agree with this statement but I do hope that if presented students from these groups will be welcomed - I believe that they are but I would like to see it in writing.

I think the Mission of providing education based in the Faith and Values of the Catholic Church provides for these goals without perpetuating the marginalization of these groups by further singling them out.

Can we partner with a specific needy elementary school in GR to really invest our students' time and effort towards, so they can see real results in a four year commitment of service such as tutoring, helping with after school sports and hobbies? An ongoing partnership with one school in our city and maybe one in Central America might be better than scattered efforts. We could encourage the bright students in those two schools by awarding 1-2 academic scholarships per year to CC or WC. I would be willing to help with this.

I'm not certain what you mean by the last sentence. I also dislike the term "stakeholder".

This is a very worthy mission.

To invite and accept diversity in thought and action are to be applauded. Also, to invite persons of diverse culture would be exemplary.

With the admirable goals stated, I hope marginalized people will continue to be able to feel included and helped to feel their presence is a vital part of the Catholic School tradition

We must be very careful at giving the impression that quotas or preference will be given to one group over another. As in the findings of Gratz vs. Bollinger, you may consider diversity as one of a number of criteria, but not use it as the single determining factor.

I don't see the last paragraph adding much to this vision. I think "simple" is the best approach for this vision - everyone was is equal in our eyes. Period. Still a good start...

This says to me that you will meet the needs of all students even those who learn differently or who may not have success in written evaluations but can do it orally. I strongly support including all types of students at both high schools and helping them with their needs.

this statement is quite vague in its definition of "historically marginalized".....be more clear on whether this is a race, religious or even economic based mission statement.

Inclusion may be stated in your statement, but again the rising tuition costs and hassles involved with enrolling students doesn't correspond with the welcoming Catholic community.

I agree with this statement but in light of the preceding statements it seems somewhat hollow; more like a tagline rather than a value

I like this part of the vision - more diversity, more non Catholics. It seems that your school will be more diverse- GREAT and less Catholic

We need to do more than just "acknowledge the challenges" of marginalized groups. We need to try to meet their needs and if that means enrolling families that can't afford to pay tuition or whose children will never be in the "Top 5%" academically then that is what we are called by Christ to do.

Just make sure that everybody, regardless of race or income level, is treated equally! No free rides because somebody is a good athlete in some sport and the AD needs that person for their sports team!

Drop the unnecessary comma in "multiple perspectives and, diversity of thought"

You got this one right!

The diversity of the teaching staff is important as well.

While the statement sounds good, I am not sure what is meant by 'an acknowledgement'...a head nod? Will we be a group of white Americans looking at the historically marginalized who will not be students?

I celebrate the fact that, as Catholics, we are a diverse community, but for our sports' programs, when students are brought in from other schools on scholarships, so that we can have a "winning" team, while many of our parents have sacrificed throughout the years to send their children to catholic schools and they are not able to play...seems a bit unjust.

Be straight forward on differences. Suggest diversity from "catholic rule".

Financial Viability and Fund Raising

We will identify means to diversify our revenue sources and be a resource for our communities. We will develop strategies to increase fund raising to support our programs and vision.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	829	95.0%
No	44	5.0%

I support the overall language contained in this (Financial Viability and Fund Raising) section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	784	90.6%
No	81	9.4%

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement:

Yep.

I hesitate to agree because this is a very broad statement and could have negative implications.

How about support our students and Catholic families that wish to send their kids to Catholic school but can ill afford it; and their children are not geniuses therefore do not have the grades to win scholarships. We must not exclude Catholics because they are not rich enough or academically gifted.

we don't need more fund raisers--we pay enough through tuition!

We additionally need to commit to balancing the books, which means understanding our costs and charging sufficient tuition to cover those cost each fiscal year

my hope is that the word out, in that statement truly be the way it is, it seems to be more singular lately

Redundant.

I do not believe the Bishop has the RIGHT to Autocratically CONTROL our funds..that IS the perception NOW

Very difficult goal in this economic climate. I am not sure that you are fully utilizing past alums & parents of graduated alums.

Fundraising needs to be specified and organized. Once the terms of fundraising have been established then the community and staff need to be educated on what the best means are for being successful at fundraising.

The Bishop is heavy handed and a political nightmare. He needs to come out of hiding and talk to the people he has alienated. His "my way or the highway" approach has put many donors on idle while they await his retirement. The schools are hurt because of his methods.

I would strongly urge using the endowment funds to benefit the students across the board, before there are no students left

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement (continued)

Cost control...

does this section include the ability to offer more scholarships?

I greatly support this endeavor, so long as that funding it put toward academic purposes and not funding the already bloated athletic departments.

This is a very important portion from our perspective. We need to find methods to lower the expense to attend WC & CC. Without this we feel that we would be in danger of becoming an elitist entity and that does not support what we teach as a faith

the Catholic church is one of the wealthiest entities on the planet, why is this even listed?

If this action is not viable what other options are available?

With a caution that those who might be helping us support our schools may wish to influence or dictate either the curriculum the level of commitment to the Catholic faith. I would like us to still be able to operate independently in terms of curriculum choices and promotion of the Catholic faith

While fund raising has its role, a major dependence on this and relatively mandatory expectation of participation by all families serves only as quasi-tuition in disguise.

Again, let's work on lowering tuition costs. A lot less building new stadiums, gyms and putting that monies into lowering tuition for the average middle class families who do want to send their children to a Catholic High School, but find the tuition absolutely unaffordable.

pay to learn. I don't support the concept of fundraising from parents

What does "be a resource for our communities mean"? If the language is so vague that it does not indicate what the writer wants the reader to know specifically, it is not a good mission statement. The second sentence makes sense.

please try and bring down tuition costs

As long as fundraising is group specific and not required for students not involved in the program which needs to fundraise.

and be a resource to our communities - needs to be more specific - school communities? citywide community?? How will you be a resource? an example Also address commitments to families needing financial assistance for the ever rising tuition costs - getting out of reach for far too many of today's families - reduce tuition and more wanting to attend and are not currently able will come

Need a higher commitment to keeping students in CC/WC in difficult economic times. No student should have to withdraw because of financial constraints--and I have witnessed this happening.

Just remember many families, like us, who pay full tuition cannot then afford to give much to other fundraising.

Can you be more specific? How about forming a development committee, or appointing a development leader?

We will value all efforts by those who volunteer and assist them as they give of their time, talent and treasure for the viability of our Catholic schools.

The cost of Catholic Central has gone up far too much in the 5-7 years- \$6700 per year far to high- it was \$3600 in 2000- When are you going to wake up and see you are making your school to \$ for the middle class- \$670 per month is excessive-

Very good!

Is "all our communities" explained later? May need clarification.

Review and refresh what other schools in the rest of the country are doing to meet their missions. "Borrow" the best and brightest.

It should say "to support our programs, staff, and vision."

We are horrible fundraisers in the area of planned giving (from accumulated wealth). This needs to be specifically mentioned as an area of emphasis.

If by fund-raising we are talking about development of long-term endowments and not more bake sales... I agree

Edit note: fund-raising

We need to work harder so everyone who seeks a CATHOLIC EDUCATION should be able to .

90 % of your expenses are teachers pay. Start a foundation now to help pay the teachers. Do this not for next year but for the next 30 years and beyond. Our schools can't become a place only for the rich.

If this means trying to keep the tuition lower for all and helping all families who sacrifice so much to send our children there. I do not agree if this means we are not helping the families who have been going to the school for generations and need help in paying. I think we need to be more Christ like in this area.

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement (continued)

What choice is there in this regard?

Will scholarships be available to those in need?

I fully support a "participation" fee for sports and after school clubs. It is an easy way to raise money for these programs and it is being done by most schools in Grand Rapids.

This will be the largest challenge.

To parents, especially those of limited finances, scholarship money is necessary if their students are to have a Catholic education. Increasing funding for scholarships MUST be made clearly known to all parents. While committee members may believe scholarships are part of "programs" it is not clear or obvious to the reader of this document.

How about a capital campaign to assist in funding for Catholic schools that could be done at all churches of the diocese and the money split between the schools to defray tuition costs? I'll bet there are many people who have no idea how much a tuition bill is for a family who are trying to give their kids a Catholic education.

This should also reference making a Catholic education available for all income levels.

It all comes down to money. How much education costs. How much we will pay. How much we are willing to invest in educational material and technologies.

I'd like to see an accountability to our funding and our financial resources added in this section...fiscal responsibility and accountability.

More generalities with no specifics. Reminiscent of a politicians vague campaign promises.

Where's the Bishop/Cardinals/Pope on the Value of Catholic Education ?!!! Financially The Church is saying that a Catholic education is not a first priority. (only 35% of Parish revenues, Diocese revenues, are allowed to be used for education) !!! Who will be the flock of the future without adequate \$support from the Church ??? Money is never the first issue, but it's usually issue 2-4 !! Thanks, IF you consider these comments.

I believe most parents are indeed reaching the point where tuition is unaffordable.

see next part that ties in.

I would rather see language that promotes stewardship here.

If we continue with the All A's walk, you have a family raise one amount, and all other students raise a different amount. I can't continue to make up the difference out of my own pocket.

Catholic Secondary Schools must address the fact that the cost of a Catholic education is becoming prohibitive for even the most committed parents and students.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

The direction is development not fund raising. Fund raising is just a band aid while development opportunities have a lasting impact.

This should include a statement about affordability.

explore charter status, publicize audit of current expenses, grant and foundation, etc. not more fundraising!

There needs to be better financial oversight. We cannot have individuals having virtually unchecked access to school funds. The 'old boys club' mentality needs to go.

While this statement is good, it seems a little lacking.

Does the fund raising come from the same pockets as those who are struggling to pay tuition?

Should language change from fundraising to development?

let's look for long term revenue sources for WC (how does CC do it?)

Means needs to be more specific. Name or list at least 10 sources.

We can fund raise till the cows come home but if you continue to ask the parents who are struggling to keep their kids at WC/CC I don't think fund raising is going to be well supported!

Again it depends entirely on what your true definition of your vision is.

Think of ways to improve on education but reduce the tuition, believe both schools have become elites.

stop pumping millions of dollars into cc and start sending the money to west to improve building and grounds and classroom space, security , technology, Catholics buildings are too old

What does a "resource for our community" mean?

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement (continued)

There are many families who do not go on to Catholic High schools because of the high expense. It is especially disappointing to hear that this could have been prevented if the current administration had been financially responsible and competent. Everyone should be able to attend that wants to. If fundraising is done there needs to be reassurance that it will be used more responsibly in the future. The school has lost our trust in using money in ways that true Catholic teachings would find honorable.

Fund raising is fine but the parents whose children are in school must share a greater responsibility of the financial aid. See Christian schools, etc.

First need to address all those who do not pay tuition but seem to have funds to enjoy other luxuries. Also employees receiving FREE tuition for their children is difficult to understand.

We need to find ways to leverage our resources so that families can afford the education, for instance, by using more on-line learning. Dramatically increased fundraising is not realistic.

Look at the Jesuits "Cristo Rey" model of providing an education by collaborating with businesses that hire the students to work in their company one day per week, and the payment for the students' work goes toward their tuition.

This is huge!!! We have been so limited by financial constraints for years.

Just fund raising? How about spending? How about endowments or grants?

Fund raising to support ongoing operations of educational system. Wording to be more specific.

I know these are designed to be short, punchy statements, but I think they still need to be infused with real-world, quantities statements and goals: "We will continue to identify new means of public and private support and partnerships to diversify our revenue sources and be a resource for our communities. We will continue to develop new strategies to increase fund raising to support our ever-increasing programs and vision."

This needs to be a key component as many people won't pay the tuition even if they can afford it, or they would rather spend their money on something else than sacrifice. Tuition is one of the top reasons people choose or don't choose private schooling. It MUST be affordable without increases every year.

I am not a teacher. I am a parent. But I think part of financial viability involves compensation to our administration, teachers, and coaches. I do not think our compensation needs to be on par with the best public schools, but I think it needs to be "competitive" however we define that and I think the vision should include something regarding this issue. We cannot achieve our goals without top quality people across the board, and one piece of the package is compensation. Note, I am not saying we need to be the highest. No one does this to become rich, but we also have to be fair and within striking distance.

Wording sounds a little broad compared to the other areas.

Again...vague.

I would like to see the school develop a system (similar to US Savings Bonds) which parents may purchase towards future tuition.

Why are we looking at being a financial resource to our community? We are in enough financial trouble with tuition being more expensive than some colleges.

If the school is first rate and offers an atmosphere that is not attainable in a public school then Fund raising will be more successful.

However, I think middle class people are pretty tapped out. How about a benefactor?

Bishop going to kick in or is Cathedral Square the feudal land unto itself. ALL CHILDREN should benefit before another dime is sent to Cathedral Square.

Next time there is a problem, confess it right away, and don't wait 13 years.

We need to be careful to not nickel and dime the stakeholders. Magazine drives, entertainment books, etc all are good programs, but are tried by several schools and fund raising organizations throughout the area. Having a me too is not the solution and often puts the parents in the position of having to fund these drives even when the product is not desired. Maybe other ways of promoting should be done. Having the band or choir perform for a fee to local businesses could be explored or other unique fundraisers should be explored.

Good, on this issue, you do not give specifics rather your hope.

What does this mean!!! How can we operate in a deficit that we do now and expect good leadership forward.

I don't believe we can plan on fund raising campaigns to be a regular source of income. Based on the current economic climate a lot of people are doing everything in their power to keep their children enrolled in the school system. We have to be careful based on the tuition our parents are paying that they do not feel "badgered" for more. If the fund raising entails a long term commitment(5yr,10Yr)I think people would be more receptive, than feeling that there is a new one every other year. I believe spending time on this with our students and showing them the importance of what we believe in will help transition them when the time is right of the value of Catholic education, that they in turn can carry on for their families, and their children's families

We are concerned about additional fund raising activities.

fund raising is drying up as the economy goes down

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement (continued)

Diversify? Why do I feel like we would be asking people to fund our school that may not respect the mission of our school which is to feed the faith of our children?

I can't really decide if I support this vision without knowing what the tuition cost is expected to be and what "being a resource for our communities" means. Not enough information given. On a related topic, I am waiting for the day when the Catholic schools in this diocese will recognize how many children a family has in the entire k-12 school system and give financial breaks accordingly. If I have 2 in high school and 2 in grade school, I have 4 children in the system, but would only get minimal financial breaks b/c I only have 2 in grade school and 2 in high school.

As long as this doesn't compromise the morals & ethics that are the standards of our faith. If we answer to the diocese, is there any funding from the diocese?

what type of resource to our communities? Has "community" been defined?

Please look into Circle of Friends set up by the Christian Schools. As Catholics we give to that program, because we are so impressed by this program and the Christian school WILLINGNESS TO GO TO BAT FOR ALL KIDS.

can it be worded "all of our programs", not just those that a benefactor thinks is important

I would like to see the cost to attend Catholic school is more attainable.

I agree that we need to be as financially responsible.

You must attempt to make a Catholic Education affordable to all who seek it!

Okay I guess. However, what does "be a resource for our communities" mean.

We must get key people who actually know the key alums -- not outsiders, not just mailings. This has historically a serious problem - it's not what YOU know, it's WHO you know to make this world go round.

How will this be done? What is meant "a resource to our community"? Is it financially, spiritually, ? So general, and vague again.

Once again, this vague recommendation pits CCHS and West against each other in an unhealthy competition for scarce dollars. The bishop and his new super need to decide what sorts of schools they want, how many of each, and what specific fund-raising campaign---a SINGLE campaign so that donors are not endlessly nickered and dined to death---they wish to have. To plan fund-raising before an overall vision is in place for the diocese will, in these difficult financial times, inevitably fail.

I would like it to read all our programs academics and athletics

Both schools need to raise funds equally and share in the experience of fund raising. Not one school doing all the work and the other reaping the benefits.

I think every catholic individual within the parishes share a financial responsibility toward the two high school. Come up with a gift expectation and push that.

We will have a financial plan and accountability. Individual groups or teachers will not have secret accounts which are not accountable to the whole.

I would include language to support our educators, and maintain our facilities.

The true meaning of these statements are unclear to me.

I believe most families would like to afford their child's education without requesting assistance. We should strive to keep tuition truly affordable and increases as a bare minimum. This is after all part of our formation of faith for our high school students.

Increasing fund raising is OK so long as the target audience is not the parents of the students. They get tapped all the time and most do not have the capacity to give any more than they already do. You will need to focus on parishes without schools to support and the broader, non-Catholic community.

Fund raising is necessary, although there are already a number of fund raising events, and it seems prudent to be cautious to avoid 'over' fundraising for parents of current students.

I for one am fund raised out and we are in that 10% group you pound on almost weekly.

The statement reflects only the revenue side of the ledger, not the expense side. There needs to be a commitment to coordinated, systemic, long-term cost control--not just slashing budgets here and there in tough times. hinges like energy management, building maintenance, and tuition control are not really addressed here.

Tuition rates need to be maintained at current levels. I am hearing from younger families, they are scared of what the cost will be 5,6,7 years from now. They all seem to "know" a +5% is added every year, and are pulling out their children after 8th grade because of costs.

I don't understand what resource for our communities means? A financial resource?

Don't waste money on things like Cathedral Square. Give our kids affordable Catholic Christian educations!

Does this mean bilking the parishes and families for even more money? You've wasted so damn much money on Cathedral Square and the middle school survey that someone else should be in charge.

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement (continued)

In what ways are we a resource for our communities? We need every dollar that we can get to maintain the schools and provide for the students.

What does "a resource for our communities" mean?

We have been doing this already. The diocese needs to invest in our Catholic education and help Catholic families afford this option. As well as the Bishop should be integrally involved in creating and supporting a Catholic culture in our schools.

I think it's okay though I'm unsure what 'being a resource for our communities' has to do with being financially viable.

Again, unsure of the focus of the school and where it is heading. Wording is not community friendly.

Corporate grants? Educational grants? Partnering within the community for common goals for the good of the community and the schools...

Again, actions speak louder than words. This sounds great and I am all for it. Now let's see the means.

This is expected of all organizations.

Include both fundraising and grants to raise money.

The language should contain some specific direction for tuition and parish support.

I agree with increasing and diversifying fund raising efforts if it helps to alleviate the burden faced by many families who are struggling to send their children to Catholic schools. I do NOT support the increased tuition costs of a school such as Detroit Country Day which may rank where you'd like to rank, but is totally outside the means of most people within our community.

My agreement depends on whether our diversification of revenue sources pulls us further away from being truly Catholic. If we are accepting money from sources outside the Catholic faith, will they expect things in return that cause us to be less Catholic? Look as far into the future with this as is possible, please.

Fund raising to be more collective efforts vs. individual efforts

You can't keep going back to parents for additional fund raising events.

Good statement.

Particularly, we must try to provide catholic education opportunities to families who cannot afford to pay the (rising) costs of tuition.

The current focus needs to be on fund raising for the schools to keep tuition down. The schools need to be more affordable for an average middle class family. Only when the Catholic schools are financially stable should we look at being a resource to the community.

We will ensure that all Catholic children who wish to attend the schools can do so.

Current tuition prices are making an impact on our decisions for grade school. We transferred our son from Holy Spirit to Kenowa in 7th gr. b/c the cost of WC is beyond reachable.

I don't see anything about managing costs...and feel this is an important element.

Tuition needs be kept affordable. There are already many families within our catholic communities that cannot afford for their children to receive a catholic education. Our outreach should start within our feeder schools. We have already shut down numerous feeder schools that had a majority of minority students which has already sent the message - "if you can't afford the tuition, then you can't get a catholic education. Where do we as Catholics expect to get our next generation of vocations? Religious Ed? No, statistically proven. We need to grow our Catholic schools for all.

Once again, you cannot depend on fundraising in this economy. This is a false hope.

The bishop better think of something fast. Who wants to send their kid to a Catholic school when the tuition is costing as much as a college or universities tuition?

Would like to see something about supporting students in this section.

All of the flowery language in this survey only dresses up what has been happening since 1912. But if there is no student body to inhabit these schools they will fail in spite of the rhetoric. The elementary schools and open, community wide recruitment are the key. Without them these high schools will not survive. SEE <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704107204575039652927155186.html> The solution in this article speaks to the issues loudly and clearly. Mr. Busch offers a prescription for revival: End the financial dependence on parish or diocese. Build attractive facilities. And compete for students.

How do you plan to be a "resource for our communities" Support the Catholic community financially by making tuition affordable. By trying to be All to All you are pricing yourselves out of the reach of most Catholic families, They therefore move out of Grand Rapids to the free public schools in the outlying districts.

Too vague, Need GOALS, that are SMART, Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Time-bound. I think you/we are heading in the right direction with great intentions, but we need to stop talking and start moving.

Comments about Financial Viability and Fund Raising Vision Statement (continued)

Diversity in fundraising is always good.

WC has always had to fund raise more than CC. If we are 'one body', funding/financial sources need to be evenly split between the 2 schools to be successful.

We need to model after the Christian Schools. They are actively seeking outside funding from the community, not just Devos and VanAndels. They are way up on the Catholic schools!!!! Their buildings and facilities are top notch. They are our direct competition right now.

Just quit tapping the same people for these funds.

I don't believe any amount of fund raising will help until our priests begin to promote our catholic schools. Public ed should not be accepted as alternative to what can be provided in our parish schools.

It would be easier to "sell" these promises if the Bishop and the Diocese in the past several years has squandered millions of dollars on Cathedral Square and the marble piazza, while selling off the seminary campus and closing so many schools, including the Cathedral Parish School.

I love the idea to strategize to support our programs, but loathe the fact that you want to INCREASE fund raising strategies.

We must never compromise our Catholic morals for the sake of funding.

Fund raising should be minimal - People are hit up WAY TOO much. Charge what it costs and go from there. Once you turn away enough good/average learners- let's see how successful your local community will be of your school. The rich elite, who already support your schools will continue to do so- but others will find an increasing disconnection from you and your ideas

While vague, I think this is a good statement. To make Catholic education available to all who choose it, it must remain affordable to working class and low income families. Finding additional income sources beyond tuition and CSA will be necessary or Catholic School education will become elitist and will no longer serve as a mission outreach as it should.

I think this needs to be a more forceful statement about how a Catholic high school education should not be only for those who can afford it. Also, that the schools will strive to be good stewards of the tuition funds it receives, constantly seeking ways to keep tuition affordable for all.

Yes! Goal should be scholarship assistance to meet 100% of need of families who desire but may not be able to afford Catholic Education regardless of their 'giftedness'.

Alumni, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement

We will develop strategies to engage our alumni and stakeholders. We will be active and respected partners in our communities.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	854	97.3%
No	24	2.7%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	814	94.0%
No	52	6.0%

Comments about Alumni, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Vision Statement:

Once again the word ours, needs to be for front.

I do not think persons of WEALTH should have a GREATER voice based on contribution size...That too is the perception...Undue influence ?

It is equally important to give the people in place the means necessary to reach out to our alumni and community in a professional manner.

More action and less talk. We don't know what is going on down there. Unite everyone and put forward a coherent mission statement.

I'm happy for the opportunity I had to contribute to C.C. from 1953 to recently. My wife's Alzheimer's will prevent me from continuing to contribute time or money.

Hopefully alumni involvement includes more than requests for money.

Seems weak. Would be nice if this could contain a little more "meat".

Please remember that many alumni have broadened their horizons and realize that there is more to our global community than western Michigan. I feel, as an alum, that the only interest in contacting me is so that I may write a check.

A little less building monuments and unnecessary gyms, stadiums, office buildings & complexes and using the resources available to lower tuition rates. For instance St. Andrew's School for offices instead of multimillion dollar offices built a few years ago when closing schools. Economic times are tough and we have to tighten our belts. Hard to engage alumni, to contribute, who come from middle class families to support schools and projects that only avail a few and educate the very wealthy in the community, or build monuments to clerics and individuals.

Our leaders must listen to our alumni and stakeholders. Having surveys like this are useless if you do not listen to the alumni and stakeholders.

You also need to realize that alumni can be a source of financial support and as importantly, a source of guidance. In particular, for alumni who live outside of western Michigan, you can tap into their experience base to get a more national perspective on what other leading secondary schools are going. A lot of alums (like me), have kids in school all over the country. Tap it!

you don't do much for us who are alumni except ask for money...we should be profiled and celebrated for our successes on a daily basis.

The second sentence could be worded a little different. One cannot demand respect—one can aim towards in hopes to gain the respect deserved.

We should also be respectful of these people as well.

Twenty thousand alumnae are an awful lot of pockets.

I have heard criticism of the word "stakeholders". It doesn't really identify anyone specifically.

I have the same concern with "develop strategies" here.

Again, stakeholder is vague, corporate-speak. Get specific.

What is a stakeholder?

There are many alumni from W.C. that depleted their savings or bulk of income to have their kids attend W.C. in the past. tuition is rising, families can't afford and decide to go to public education.

A respected partner? You can't possibly know whether others will respect you! Respectful, maybe.

stakeholders??

Most alumni send their children to either of the schools.

Broaden the reach of who you involve in giving input to the board and administration from various alumni. It is still the same people who get to give input and ideas.

Alumni Association needs a fresh start. Don't have an answer for you at this time, but I know we can do better for ourselves and the current and future students.

Need to mention "family" somewhere, alumni are part of the family of Catholic Central, and always will be throughout life.

We need to identify with our elementary schools as the feeder programs for our future. Our foundation of existence is the area churches and elementary schools and they do not appear to be addressed in specifics anywhere.

I would like a definition and examples of a stakeholder.

Engage alumni in what? Again more generalities.

Where's the Church in this ?! All parishes/All members must \$ participate, not just parents, alumni, but ALL Catholics !!!

Comments about Alumni, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Vision Statement (continued)

...and seek to broaden partnerships with the goal of growing our stakeholder base.

Superfluous statement. Alumni and "stakeholders" will flock to support schools that are committed to Catholic values.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

can always use help from alums

Frankly speaking, I do not know what this is supposed to mean. It is too vague.

You cannot dictate the community's respect.

I think we should be concerned about the education of the students - if you do that right, we will be providing the community with everything they need. This is a nice thing - not necessary or fundamental especially in the economics we face and will be facing in the next 5-10 years here in Michigan.

By "engaging" our alumni, do you really mean get them to donate? If so, say so.

I wonder how many of your alumni would have made the top 5%. You may lose a lot of support.

Explain in more detail.

As long as we don't have to COMPROMISE our Faith for partnership with the community.

But it needs to come with plans to show that there are competent people in place to make sure that moneys are used in alignment with the Catholic correctness, not political correctness.

You have turned a lot of alumni off from the value of an education at your schools, and still have many who are supportive. What you are trying to do will take even more support.

AMEN!

I do not like "stakeholder."

I think one of CC's strengths is how involved many alumni are and how it is a community that extends into many years.

This statement tells me nothing.

Nice statement! So why did you fire Denny Scully - a great volunteer, alumni and financial supporter of our system?!?!?

Great idea, however it is proven that graduates of Wc and CC, once they finish, go on to college, and find a career path, tend to move away from the Grand Rapids area and do not have the same level of commitment and bond with their high school that they once did. They now have encountered new bonds with colleges and beyond. Unless someone or something from their high school days has greatly influenced them in some earth shattering way they tend to forget all too soon what helped mold them into the individual they have become. I currently feel that we need to have some more individual teacher/student mentoring and bonding beginning with freshman on day one to keep that influence alive well into the future.

CC/WC has done a disservice to its Alumni over the years through a lack of knowledge in technology and its resourcefulness to reach out to its alumni. Technology that not only improves ties and creates efficiency, but also saves money when deployed properly. The technology is very disappointing.

I am unclear who the "stakeholder" is? Should this be clearer as it seems to be a major focus of each statement?

Again, good vision and non-specific.

Aren't alumni stakeholders?

Alumni like myself only are glad we are not involved anymore

That's a good one!

As stakeholders, please include elementary parents who have young children, they are the future of CC. Also include the parents and grandparents of alumni, and also alumni.

I think community collaborations that benefit our students and the partnering organization are an important key to our future success.

With the recent bad press at both high schools, looks like you have a challenge ahead of you.

Has anyone truly talked to students that have graduated in the last 4 years on how they feel about the Catholic schools and if they are proud to be an alumnus?

We will reach out to our family. Who are the stakeholders ?

CC has a distinct and extensive history which deserves a more detailed mission for this category.

Comments about Alumni, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Vision Statement (continued)

Good concept. Parents recently have not been treated even close to "stakeholders" status. Big problem. x-graduates parents have not been communicated to recently. Two years removed from WC -- and they feel like outsiders -- because NO ONE has talked to them person - to- person or asked their opinion. We need a lot of work in this area. It is very "cold" approach right now.

Wow, a lot is implied with this statement. I agree we need to reach out more to our alumni, and stakeholders, but again, how to measure our effectiveness with doing this? I have no idea what determines us as respected partners in our communities? Our faith commitment? Our community service? Our living out the teachings of the Church on social justice? Getting politically active? Nothing is explained in this statement.

Our schools are already a fine force for good in the general secular community of West Michigan. Aren't alumni and parents already involved, too involved, in attempts to influence our schools?

I do not like the title "Stakeholders". This is education, not stocks or bonds. Being a stakeholder means you have a say in the direction of the schools. That is ultimately up the superintendant and the school board. Perhaps elections for our school board would be appropriate.

"Benefactor" rather than "stakeholder"

How do we insure we will be respected on our communities? I still hate the term stakeholders. The idea is ok, the language is not.

Rather than saying "respected", this should state that you will work to earn the respect of the community.

If our schools become prep schools, you will lose alumni support.

This needs to be done.

Again, I see a pattern emerging. You'll just ask them for more money, right???

Catholic Central parents are involved in the community in many areas - some of which go against the Church. Alumni connections could be improved.

Amen! We have to find ways to engage our alumni.

We are already active and respected partners in our communities. Let's see the strategies.

This is expected of all organizations.

The language should include the necessity of empowering parents more in our secondary schools as decision makers for their individual child. Our Church teaches that parents are the first educators of their children. We need to support them in their choices for classes and programs for their child whenever possible.

This is one of the reasons we love CC so much - there is a real sense of community here.

Think this a great goal. But will say that many alumni are frustrated with the direction that the schools have taken.

As long as we remember that we strive mainly to do the will of God while we are striving to be active and respected in the community.

weak statement. "Active and respected" does not sound very strong. What about VITAL, or RESOURCE-FULL, or INTEGRAL?

If you are not already doing this there are a lot of people who need to be fired for incompetence.

Not all alumni can support your financial requests.

Don't forget the alumni of Mount mercy academy and Maywood Academy

The last two issues need to have a very big focus.

I think this will be hard goal to reach as Michigan is suffering from unemployment

Add BUSINESS LEADERS AS WELL.

Although my kids, alumni from 03 and 05 just throw away things received from the schools, as my son had such a bad experience.

again, don't keep tapping the same people.

Engage them to do what?

Only if the school is a reflection of the WHOLE community

I think that attempting to engage stakeholders is a worthwhile goal. I also think that we need to work at letting all Catholics and all parishes know that the students who graduate from Catholic Schools are the future priests, religious and lay leaders of the church. Whether or not a parish has an elementary school or sends a single student to West or Catholic they are stakeholders, as their parish leaders in the future will come from our ranks.

Comments about Alumni, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Vision Statement (continued)

There are certainly many ways our schools can reach out to assist our communities. Given the financial condition of GR - it will be more important than ever if we want to have successful communities.

Who are our stakeholders??

This is a good start but needs specifics.

What exactly does this mean?

Facilities and Technology Excellence

We will develop standards for our schools to ensure that facilities, classrooms and technology advance our Mission, Vision, and brand identity. We will use technology to facilitate delivery of integrated services. We will develop a long-range plan for facilities and technological development and maintenance.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	861	98.6%
No	12	1.4%

I support the overall language contained in this (Facilities and Technology Excellence) section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	818	94.7%
No	46	5.3%

Comments about Facilities and Technology Excellence Vision Statement:

As long as that does not include merging high schools!

technology advancement should be better developed within the statement.

Will we use only technology to facilitate integrated services. Technology should be one of the means, but not the only means.

Comments about Facilities and Technology Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

It is about time that CC/WC look at a having a middle school that would house grades 6-8 or 7 & 8. I feel that this transition is a significant moment in any student's life and the physical movement would play a large part in the development process.

Stride to make better efforts educating our students that may have learning disabilities. Such as ADD or ADHA

The first sentence is un-Necessary. EVERYTHING you do should support your mission and vision.

Brand identity has no part. We exist for the students, not to blow our own horn

Training for staff on the available technology is imperative. There are small steps available now, at no cost, that our schools could be doing that would make us more efficient.

Technology needs to be at the forefront. It's cost requires the whole community to help.

An EVEN distribution between WC and CC.

We strive to be the benchmark. If you want to be the top 5% you are not following but leading.

Brand identity??? is Jesus a brand? would you sell Jesus? no. let's not cheapen ourselves here. makes it sound like we are trying to make some money for stockholders, when in reality all we want to do is to have enough money to educate our students and prepare for the future.

What is the long term plan for Facilities? Will there be a movement to a single high school and middle school system? Will there continue to be additional elementary school consolidations? Again we feel very strong that we need to finds ways to lower the cost to attend the elementary schools. As we do that, it will provide a stronger foundation which will feed the High Schools

Not exactly sure about the meaning of brand identity, however.

brand identity - don't sell our schools and students as being part of a brand - brand is a term used to lump objects together -

Again, let's look at the data and be sure that the technology we use is proven to be helpful, not just technology for technology sake.

Very good!

I anticipate challenges reconciling "Christ-centered" with "brand identity."

brand identity ? I think that contradicts the other diversity statement

Our WC facility is outdated and ugly-tough competing with nicer public and Christian schools! Just like Assumption's school, which has been nicknamed, "The Chicken Coop."

One would be better than two.

In today's day and age, keeping up to date on technology is a MUST!!

For truly advanced Technology education, you should get a teacher certified in teaching technology and bring in business people to help students understand the need to be fully literate for any field.

Language is grandiose and too technocratic. Just put it in plain English.

What is brand identity? sounds like a trendy phrase, and trendy terminology doesn't belong in this mission and vision statement.

If this means raising the price I do not agree.

It appears that the buildings are taken care of, but academic buildings and technology seem to take a back seat to the athletic complexes. Not good.

what is "brand identity?"

Will online classes be offered?

"Brand identity" may be a phrase that fits in business and industry but it has little place in education. "Educational purpose" might fit better.

We will need to look for grants and funding and not simply raise tuition to accomplish this commitment.

Brand identity???? Really! Who is writing this stuff?

Brand identity!!

Sounds real expensive--hope the money needed can be raised--or again are we going to make this an exclusive location that only the rich can afford????

"Brand identity" is a term I find not meshing with the Mission of Jesus Christ.

We will conduct regular reviews to explore and evaluate current and potentially new sources of ideas and equipment.

Comments about Facilities and Technology Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

Stewardship should be incorporated here as well.

We have not, are not & will not be able to have technological excellence. It is too expensive, changes too quickly & needs too much support staff. "Excellence" is not the correct word.

Of course you need to keep in mind those Historically Marginalized Groups here. Technology comes at a cost. Brick and mortar to support such an environment will need consideration.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

hold the students accountable for keeping up the grounds & buildings... they might respect it more if they take some ownership of it.

All parts of the school need to be air-conditioned.

Please write in plain speak. It is so difficult to determine what is meant by this language. So verbose.

Brand identity is an overused marketing term and an inappropriate standard for a faith based education.

Again I have heard no mention of Jesus in any of this. One could just go find the best public school in the nation and get what you are offering. Where is the mention of GOD?

What does "brand identity" mean?

stop spending money on cc and start spending to insure west's future the new fields built for cc was a lot of good money wasted. could of went for tech and security and building updates

As I mentioned before I think technology should also be enhanced to help not just the "scholarship/smart" student and or mission/vision does not include measurable for the "average" student so the facilities /classrooms could/should also be developed to promote helping these students -not just honors students.

it should read "Catholic identity" not "brand identity". Faith should be present in every part of the mission.

Sounds good..heard it all before with little or no improvement. Facilities at West are depressing.

Does not address the use of technology as a teaching tool to prepare students for their higher education coursework and career paths.

Make sure the facilities allow for flexibility, as many of us do not know the future of forms of technology, and it needs to be able to be adapted to the facility easily and inexpensively.

Costly--can this be accomplished in five years?

Don't quite understand what using technology "to facilitate delivery of integrated services" means.

We are so behind in technology for our students. When my kids got to college, they needed extra course work to catch up.

YES! YES! YES!

I think technology should not be over emphasized. It has its place and should be cutting edge where appropriate but old world skills and self ingenuity may be equally important; especially, in a world facing post "peak oil" production and a country losing its economical supremacy to the rest of the developing world.

cannot be better than the public schools any time soon

Do you something in mind with second sentence?

Where has "brand identity" been defined? What do you mean? What are "integrated services"?

I think the statement is fine but could be stronger in terms of the possibilities technology could bring to our secondary schools over the next five years. More on-line course options to allow flexibility and allow families to get the most opportunity for their dollars. I'd love to see online global collaborations between schools and students utilizing technology and video teleconferencing services like Skype, etc. I'm not sure the statement is forward thinking enough to take full advantage of the limitless opportunities and flexibility of learning opportunities available online in the next five years. I'd like to see us considering the advantages of each student utilizing and lap-top, tablet, I pad, or other one-to-one computer device to benefit our students learning.

Tennis courts?

This would be awesome.

Make sure a good budget is in place for these programs...right now it is hard to keep up with tech changes because there is no money.

Can the high schools achieve this goal with a single Media co-coordinator? It will be very difficult to "facilitate delivery of integrated services" if we do not have a full time media specialist.

How will this be possible with the spending freeze now in place?

TECHNOLOGY SHOULD ALWAYS BE UTILIZED AS A MEANS AND NOT AS AN END .

Comments about Facilities and Technology Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

Something regarding "green" standards should be included. Specific to this category, what is "brand identity"? Should there be reference to the financial sustainability for updating technology.

Okay, here we go again. In the first sentence what the heck does "brand identity" mean What does the second sentence mean? The only sentence that makes sense is the last.

Good concept -- how are we going to afford this??

Where will money come from to do this?

The language is far too vague to have any value at all. Yet detailed planning for each school will fail in the absence of an overall five- and ten-year plan.

Not sure what a 'brand identity' is.

I dislike the word brand. It isn't necessary, so it could be deleted because "identity" says enough. Brand is reminiscent of cattle, or possibly materialism. It presents the idea of stolid cattle or superficial purchasing. It seems like the last part of sentence one should read "mission, vision, and Catholic identity" (capitalization applies).

As CCHS alumni, we have found this to be an opportunity for our schools, and strongly support this portion of the mission. It will surely increase our appeal and brand identity if made a focus.

A bridge to alumni and parents would offer classes to them concerning changing technology.

Hate the word brand identity. Developing a long term plan is good, high standards for our facilities etc. is fine.

Be careful of technology. It's on-going costs can eat you alive. You should make sure that the cost of technology does not exceed 3% of tuition. If more than that, you should consider doing without.

Explain "brand identity". Not exactly sure what this means.

"Brand identity" ?

Technology should address opportunities for all students to learn.

I think it would be more appealing to families without technology in the home to be comforted with the idea that the schools can accommodate them, too. For instance, "user-friendly technology" is important, as well as 'after hours access'.

Given what is going in GRPS, I am leery of the language "We will use technology to facilitate delivery of integrated services." What does that mean, will we soon replace teachers with computers? Or will we use technology to enhance our personal relationships with our students?

What is our "brand identity" and how is it separate from the mission and vision? What are "integrated services"?

Looking at current enrollment at both High Schools, and capacity availability--it is now time to seriously consider consolidating to one Catholic High School, to be better stewards of our resources.

Different people will interpret this differently...

This could have been accomplished already had you not wasted so much money on projects and studies that people clearly do not want.

I assume this includes adequate staff training and support.

Brand Identity are you looking at being a N.D. except on a High School level?

Please include an updated and more dynamic website for the school in this plan.

Please consider adding "We will develop standards for our school to ensure that EDUCATORS, facilities, classrooms and technology advance..." Teachers must be held accountable to teach ALL students. Not just let the advanced ones teach those who struggle or leave the advanced students lacking the opportunity to learn more.

This is in keeping with 21 Century Learner instruction and expectations.

I brought some family members to CC during school hours and was very proud of how both school, grounds, and students looked.

Don't depend on technology too much without providing adequate training for staff and students. Don't let computers take the place of real live teachers.

Although all teachers would have to use it and be accountable to use it. Infinite Campus and Blackboard have been available for some time. Some teachers use it some don't. Some update assignments/test scores WELL after they are taken. Students should be able to go to Infinite Campus or Blackboard for EVERY class to check assignments daily.

This seems to me to be the right direction for any institution of learning in the 21st century. Please be more specific and less broad with "brand identity" and "facilitate delivery of integrated services."

If you are not already doing this a lot of people should be fired for incompetence.

How will you compete with the public schools?

Comments about Facilities and Technology Excellence Vision Statement (continued)

This statement would be awesome if it said we will open up a perpetual adoration chapel, we will put of statues of saints, and we will rely on our rich Catholic tradition of design.

Not sure what "brand identity" refers to.

Sure why not. Most technology is already obsolete when it is installed.

Consider keeping Catholic Central as the High School and make West Catholic a Middle School for the whole city. Have the vision to close some of the redundant elementary schools, and SAVE THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

This "brand identity" language from the commercial world does not have the right tone or emphasis for a Catholic school. Other language is badly needed. The idea of "brand identity" is contrary to the idea of quality and ongoing improvement which ought to be the focus. Getting into "brand identity" and preserving it is what has gotten the Catholic Church into the mess that it is in by hiding the child abuse that has occurred over the years. The hierarchy is protecting the "brand" and not worrying about the substance. This is very poor wording and an even worse concept.

Great!

The use of terms like "brand identity" sounds somewhat "cute."

technology is easy to come by. do not shortcut the basic communication skills. high school grads don't know how to capitalize words...wasn't it annoying reading this without caps?

I concur.

I support having proper, up to date, technology, but I have seen a number of questions associated with technology, but nothing regarding a more classically based education. The focus seems to be more and flashy than substance.

Also, support and evolve the arts.

I am not sure what "brand identity" is

Make sure to draw from the expertise within your parents. I for one am a technology expert and have been working with educational delivery via technology for close to 10 years.

What about ensuring that all Students have access to technology and will use it for their course work? They need to be prepared for college and the workforce.

I'm not sure "brand identity" belongs in this statement, which is otherwise focused on mission and excellence.

I think it is crucial that the CAT football complex be completed as soon as possible so that the athletes and students have an identified home.

Time frame for long range plan?

Let's just try to improve more than Cathedral Square.

I don't understand the word...brand identity.

As long as you don't have classrooms full of computers that don't even look like they're not being used.

Sustainability

We will strive to be environmentally responsible, fiscally responsible, and support our local community.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	853	97.7%
No	20	2.3%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	807	93.0%
No	61	7.0%

Comments about Sustainability Vision Statement:

I don't believe this statement says anything. Why use the word "strive?" I believe these schools both have the capability to environmentally and fiscally responsible, and therefore should not need to use the qualifier, "strive" in this sentence. Don't strive to be responsible, BE responsible.

How about resolving to reduce the schools' carbon footprint--and making that (both the scientific measurement, and the ingenuity to do things differently) part of what students learn in basic science?

Pick a cause...there are 3 listed that are different.

We need to fight HARD to keep these 2 HS alive and well not always closing schools as an option

Give the politically correct environmental talk a rest and work on \$\$\$.

How about some commitment to going "green"?

as long as our Catholic faith always trumps any global environmental view that challenges our religion or promotes mandatory participation or face consequences

WC needs to have its roof replaced. Spend money where needed first for the environmental needs of the school -- not elsewhere until problems taken care of.

Not everyone agrees what "environmentally responsible" means.

How will you include the students you service in this sustainability statement?

I would add that an awareness of global issues as well. Participating in westerner Michigan alone will not give students a global perspective on sustainability issues.

ABSOLUTELY!

You are over-estimating the environmental impact of a high school, and are under-estimating how a Catholic institution of learning, per se, supports the local community.

....while at the same time engaging our student bodies to become involved in all aspects of our faith and local community.

Comments about Sustainability Vision Statement (continued)

I don't know. What if being environmentally responsible sinks as fiscally?

Not strong enough.

Need committee's made up of strong business and culturally minded people in our high school settings to assist in this direction.

support our local community how?

How is a school environmentally responsible without getting into the thickets of going "green," and global warming? Don't lose sight of the necessity of turning out first-rate scholars. Let them worry about their social consciousness and make their own decisions.

should be parallel: ...and supportive of our local community

Would like to see a move toward integrating sustainable facilities into building renovations and/or expansions.

Rationale could be provided in this section which includes stewardship of resources language.

Do not be so "PC" with environmental issues.

Morally responsible to all Catholic Students.

If support of the local community provides opportunities for admission to the less affluent families and the less than stellar performers in grade school. The most important element is the Catholic base to the education, not test scores. Our children have been educated both in the parochial and the public high schools and the major difference was that the Catholic school was not limited in presenting our religion and its meanings and that was sorely missed in the public school. However, this is as it should be. It would be as detrimental to limit religious identification and loyalty at CC/WC as it would for the public schools to advocate any philosophical doctrine.

I thought we always were doing this for the last 30 years or more. Again is there hidden meaning in financially responsible? We talk a lot of God but we need to remember we are not in business to make money but to educate children. I understand we need to be solvent but not greedy.

The school's "sustainability" rests not on how it disposes of its garbage, promotes environmental responsibility in conformity with Catholic teaching, or even how much it supports the local community. That's not what parents examine when considering whether or not to send their children to CC. Rather, the "sustainability" of the school rests on the academic reputation of the school coupled with the ability of parents to pay for that education. Parents want good classroom instruction, good leadership, and a good social environment, all grounded on clear Catholic principles. If the school is well-known for these things, and if it has a good price point, then the school will sustain itself nicely. Additionally, the school should care less about the local community, which is overly broad, and more about the parents and children within its doors. Focus, focus, focus on serving your customers which are the parents and students. The "community" could respect you, but your enrollment could decline if you don't focus on your serving the people who actually pay the bills through their tuition.

Why "environmentally responsible" other than that it's a buzz word?

Speak of sustainability and green.

Support our local community. Okay, how and who? Again no specifics, it just kind of sounds good. Planned parenthood, abortion clinics, and adult entertainment are unfortunately part of our community. I would hope we don't support those segments of our local community. I realize that assertion is preposterous but so is empty vague rhetoric,

A stronger emphasis on environmental responsibility.

I feel that environmental should be third. Without fiscal responsibility, the others do not matter.

I'm left with the question of how we would support our local community.

This really is implied through other statements. "...to be environmentally and fiscally responsible, and a support to our local community."

Sustainability is more than just environmental sustainability. "Fiscally responsible" is a good start, but you should add something about building collaborative community partnerships to help ensure our sustainability (This has to do with maximizing local resources and braiding funding streams, and not just supporting our local community - as that is more about service learning opps).

Fiscal responsibility will be difficult as long as we are forced to support buildings and grounds not used by the majority of a community, i.e. Cathedral Square!

This is an area with great potential for student involvement.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

Take out any reference to the environment. The greatest con of the last 4 decades is that man is responsible for global climate change. Any reference to the environment in a mission statement is just perpetuating environmentalist nut job agenda.

Comments about Sustainability Vision Statement (continued)

Emphasis on all three is great.

SUSTAINABILITY = All Catholics participate = \$\$\$ i.e. parishes/Diocese.

"Strive to be" is too noncommittal. Why not say that you "will be" financially responsible?

Do not go too far with environmentally responsible crap that has no scientific basis.

I can support this language, but only if it means the community is the full Catholic community of Grand Rapids and not the academically elite community. I believe that all Catholic school kids should have the opportunity to attend a Catholic high school. It should have the strength to meet the needs of the kids in 2010 and beyond. To model it towards high academic goals is exclusive and definitely not about Catholic social teachings. God didn't just make the smart kids. It sure does speak to sustainability, though, doesn't it?

and teach students ways to live sustainably.

What does support our local community mean? How does supporting our local community fit with sustainability?

Great in theory.

"PC"

We should be good stewards of our resources and this should give credit to our benevolent God who gives us everything.

I feel that this is more important than ever as we see more and more Catholic schools across the state and nation closing their doors.

Committed to these things is better than just striving for them.

In its current state, this statement does not mean anything.

Excellent.

Does make sense to become fiscally responsible

Yes!

A real boost would be for the school to be energy self reliant.

Though not a dime to Cathedral Square from the tuition I pay for my children's education.

Not sure what you are trying to say with this sentence.

I am unclear as to exactly what this means.....

Good!

Whose interpretation of these vague concepts will establish policy? These responsibilities can easily trend toward extreme agendas.

This shouldn't be a new direction. Fiscal responsibility should be happening now!

Only self serving till time gives up and realize these school are not sustainable

One comment I would like to say about this entire missing and vision statement is that it is just too much and too wordy. I'm worried it will be ineffective. We need all our limited resources working in one direction, too many "quality" visions will pull us in too many directions and be ineffective. Hopefully, when mission statement and vision statements are adopted, proper emphasis and priority will be placed on what is most important when implemented.

What does "environmentally responsible" have to do with sustainability? Providing a great educational, moral and ethical product will drive sustainability along with fiscal responsibility and financial resources.

What about the global Catholic or human community?

And work on lowering tuition costs.

All this has to be driven by our faith and Catholic social teaching!

In what way do we support our local community ~ by the service we do ?

This category is better suited within Facilities/Technology.

Comments about Sustainability Vision Statement (continued)

Although I have doubts as to being "fiscally responsible".

*Good. Doesn't solve or address out \$\$ financial issues -- tuition, endowment, facilities, or effective communication to our students, x students and their parents or alums. Very apathetic group right now with all of our financial problems and declining tuition. Give me ten good, strong reasons why someone should send their student to a Catholic HS (vs. EGR, Rockford, Northview or another private school?) at a cost of approx. \$30,000. * how do the parents prepare for college for their student??*

How will we do this? What/how will we support the local community? What will we do to be fiscally responsible? What process will be used to accomplish this?

This is nothing but cliché. Be serious---who is NOT financially and environmentally careful?

I don't understand what "support our local community" has to do with sustainability.

I love the ideas but work on the flow. The three items in the list aren't parallel. Maybe after the "and" it should say "locally supportive" or "locally supportive, as members of our community."

Sounds politically correct.

Are we talking about the sustainability of the earth or the school. Make environmentally responsible decisions part of each high school goal, not part of the main mission. In order to sustain the school, we need to become a very welcoming environment that educates and nurtures the God given spirit in each child and celebrating their individuality while helping them achieve their full potential. Furthermore, tuition cost control has to be a priority.

My only question is how are you going to support the local community? Tuition and resources purchased with tuition should not be used to support the community.

The high schools should become a consistent (sustained) and respected leader of the local community as well.

Need to better define "support our local community." This statement is very open ended. In what ways will you support the community. Hopefully each of these areas of sustainability will be better fleshed out.

I'm curious as to the number of students not in the 'local community' and how 'sustainable' Catholic HS are to these members/potential future families. What is the 'local' community? Are non-local communities sustainable?

However environmentally responsible while worthy is not the be all, end all -- it has to be conditioned on some cost accountability. There is always a greener way to do everything -- but it may also be cost prohibitive. I could see this one used against appropriate planning.

In the previous financial section, we specifically state that we will increase funds. Not be "responsible" with our funds. I would like to see a literal commitment to controlling costs and tuition. This should be combined with the Financial Viability statement.

Especially is it involves global warming. There is a lot we can do without going overboard.

We should become a nationally known "Green School". This would be socially responsible and wonderful for our reputation. Students and teachers could be involved to keep costs down.

I think this needs more substance. What are the goals and how are they measured?

As we are environmentally responsible, we should be clear in that human beings are not the problem but the solution. The environment was made for humans made in the image of God not the other way around.

Faith in Action; Catholic Social Justice Teachings, lead by example! Idea: Look into the H2O project that links schools in the USA with schools in poor countries lacking clean water, hygiene and sanitation. Matching funds are offered by companies. The water crisis is a world problem with a 'world' solution---let the kids lead the way!

Expected of all organizations.

as long as it saves money.

We need to be a leader in Catholic Social teaching. We have several other dynamic schools in the Grand Rapids area & good Catholic families often choose them over us. We need to stand out and it seems logical that our ability to incorporate our faith into academics is how we are different from other high schools. it worries me that we are so focused on being academically superior, as if that was the most important goal for our students.

Take time to think about how you will actually support the local community...food banks, public elementary schools, humane society, St. Ann's, etc

Yes, to the direction, as long as we remember our Creator and strive also to be morally responsible and true to the faith Jesus Christ gave to us. This requires an addition of a few words to the paragraph.

This is where we can aver "we WILL BE..." The "strive to be" gives too much wiggle room. Generally, the statement comes across as weak and empty.

If you are not already doing this a lot of people need to be fired for incompetence.

It would be better to add a section on moral responsibility, and de-emphasize "environmental responsibility."

Comments about Sustainability Vision Statement (continued)

Teens will follow the actions of their closest role model, their parents. Requiring them to half-heartedly participate in the community for promotion of the institution sends the wrong message. The real gift is when the students choose to serve WITHOUT RECOGNITION AND REWARD, not for credit.

One of the more important questions, combining three topics into one, and placed a good way down the list. Once again, appearing to highlight misguided priorities.

I'd like to know more about what is meant by supporting our local community. This is a good idea. But what do we mean by this specifically?

How do you sustainably support local community?

This topic is a given. It's inclusion here is seen as trying to be politically correct. No need to have it as part of a mission statement.

What about adding: "Spiritual" sustainability? Through a focus on vocations and leadership building skills, we will provide for the future of the church.

How can anyone disagree or comment on this. I think sustainability is woven throughout all of these visions - not sure it needs to be a stand-alone.

"support our local community" is a bit of a cliché. What does it mean, and how are we going to achieve it?

Support more than our local community....support the people of the world.

Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities

Every student will have opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities, service learning and volunteer programs that further develop his/her skills, enhance the student experience and reinforce our Catholic faith. Those participating in such activities will excel in the classroom and compete with integrity and distinction indicative of our Catholic faith.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	841	96.6%
No	30	3.4%

I support the overall language contained in this section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	782	90.6%
No	81	9.4%

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement:

These activities are not exclusive of enhancing student experiences and reinforcing Catholic faith. They are critical to cultural sensitivity and global awareness.

I'm still having a little trouble with the "excel in the classroom" language. . . does that mean that academically challenged students won't be able to play sports?

with all students being held to SAME and measurably exact standards. With 100% transparency to ALL parties involved.

I would like to see more coordinated community service projects offered/mandated to the students.

Handle situations like the cc team better. This knee-jerk reaction cost WC dearly in PR. We lost a great coach, penalized kids needlessly, and it cost the school financially. With the economy the way it is, this gives parents one less reason to spend the money here. I put 2 kids through here and am an alumni, but would reconsider if I had to do it again. I will not be supporting the schools anymore in light of this.

Why does Catholic get better qualified sports coaches than West for girls? i.e., catholic's volleyball coach coached college, west's volleyball coach never coached any school???

Especially in comparison to the last goal, this is specific and unqualified. A statement like this invokes a feeling of confidence.

delete last sentence...redundant.

Academics should be divorced from athletics but not from community service.

There should be zero tolerance for hazing and bullying. First offense must result in immediate dismissal.

Why not call it Extra-curricular Activities, including Athletics and Service. The title doesn't match the statement

Very important aspect.

Unfortunately this is not true at the present time. The recent Boy's Cross Country decision at West Catholic will not allow boy's not involved in this year's incident to participate in Cross Country in 2010-2011.

A good source of pride. Necessary, but academics and community first.

athletics are way too political,,,,,must go to the right camps, right summer programs,,,or you don't stand a chance

This means students will not be in classroom some days & that is great. Current administration has not been supportive of service learning & volunteer programs.

Enhance the student experience - true unless politics and favoritism infect the programs. If you say it make sure you live it.

We should include a commitment to providing facilities that support this.

There is way too much emphasis on Athletics, this should not hamper academics.

All sports should be treated equally, and none favored over others. For example, the golf team is just as important to the golf players as the football team is to the football players, but it is not treat as importantly by the athletic dept or the school.

Every student MUST engage in extra-curricular..... Today's society requires these activities and high school is the environment to begin and develop these attributes. Delete sentence beginning with "Those participating...."

there is absolutely no reason why our two Catholic high schools can't play each other. We are missing opportunities

Yes, if excelling in the classroom means reaching an individual's full potential.

More teaching of reverence in the Church is needed. WC kids don't kneel when entering the pew and don't even fold their hands when going to and from communion. REVERENCE NEEDS TO BE REINSTATED IN THE CLASSROOM! I am from old school and this should be taught!

I think it's unrealistic to think that all students who participate in these areas will "excel in the classroom". It is certainly not the case today and if this becomes a goal, I'm guessing some of your current top athletes will not be playing sports.

Should read every Catholic Family in the Diocese will have the opportunity to send their children to a Catholic High School, by making affordability the number one priority. Need less new gyms, stadiums and more opportunities to lower tuition for the middle class.

No mention of athletics in the statement; only in the title?

I don't think Catholicism is about competing and winning, as you imply.

Athletics SHOULD NOT be 1st.

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement (continued)

Coaches too.

Much of this survey is what I would consider fluff. The REAL issues need to be addressed: Tuition: There must be an effort to find a better way to control tuition. Grading: The administration continues to ignore the quirky grading system that was implemented. There is absolutely no valid reason our grading system should differ from EGR's and other surrounding schools. (Why should our grading system should differ from the premier public high school in the area [EGR]?) Consolidation of Schools: Since the enrollments at both high schools continue to decrease, the Board really needs to address how to orderly consolidate the schools.

I think it's important for all students to be involved in volunteer programs as well as service learning. However, I think these activities should be undertaken in the spirit of being a good Christian and member of the community. When grades and credit are hinging on volunteer hours, etc. I think it's done for the wrong reason and the spirit of giving is diminished. Granted, if not required, not all students will do it, but if they only do it for the credit not because it's the right thing to do, what are we really gaining. Speaking from past experiences, my children refused to turn in their volunteer hours, although they did put in the time and then some. They refused to turn in the hours because they, personally, felt that it was counter to what we should be as a Christian. They volunteered in the neighborhood, family, and community because that's the way they were brought up and that's the way they still live their lives as adults. They felt, and I saw, that many of their classmates put in only what they HAD to, often times 'cheating' on their slips to turn in, thereby, gaining what as Christians?

Let students pick one athletic event a year

You may even consider making a athletic or extra-curricular activity a requirement. I regret not getting more involved when I was at Catholic Central.

How can this translate into excelling in the classroom or will those who do not excel in the classroom not be allowed to practice these opportunities?

How can you guarantee that participating students will "excel" in the classroom?

In support of this there needs to cooperation by teachers. Homework and sporting expectations can be excessive and completely wipe out any chance of students getting involved otherwise which is NOT indicative of our Catholic faith.

I don't have the time now to express my concerns with the language, but I have concerns. It sounds as though we are now going to have an elite athletic dept and a separate elite academic dept.

By the way, it is a great honor to be asked to participate in your endeavor. I don't recall having been asked before... It's great!

There's not a word about physical fitness and athletics in the text. Make it a priority-again, public and Christian schools use athletics to help build their brand. "Ram Nation!"

I agree except for the phrase "will excel in the classroom. You can be an exceptional volunteer, project leader or athlete without being a straight A student in the classroom. By this I do mean there shouldn't be minimum standards for participating in sports but excelling in the classroom should not be a requirement to serve lunch at God's Kitchen.

Does this mean an average athlete will have a chance to play for his or her W.C. teams, or will they be bumped by elite A.A.U. team players? It should be school or A.A.U. not both. School pride not individual glory.

Participants WILL excel? Does someone have a magic wand? Or is the thought that those who participate must be achievers before they will be permitted to participate?

A further goal of participation in extra-curricular activities should be to promote an understanding of our school and our faith in those we encounter.

So only students who excel can participate? Or does this mean the grades will be accommodated (changed) to "prove" excellence?

How can this statement be true? 'activities will excel in the classroom' Is this a quarantine the student will excel? Every student will have an opportunity to play some sport. Does that mean somehow politics will be driven out of our schools which will give all an equal chance?

What does this mean? Can everyone play sports and no one cut? I do not understand if there is a hidden meaning? I would like more explanations.

I feel the girls are not treated as equals the boys. I would be nice to see that happen.

Emphasis on eligibility. Students must be in good standing academically to participate beyond the regular curriculum.

Often Extra-Curricular Activities are referred to as Co-Curricular Activities.

This has not been a past practice and I hope this will change.

The goals are good; however, why is it necessary to state that the students who engage in extra-curricular activities will "excel in the classroom?" What if they don't excel? The language here should simply state the value of such opportunities and the need for all students to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is reflective of their Catholic faith, namely they are respectful of others and thereby are a credit to themselves, their family, and their school. This statement almost seems more appropriately contained in the student conduct handbook rather than in a vision statement.

Initiate a "participation" fee for extracurricular and sports. Over 80% of our student body participates in sports...adding a participation fee at the beginning of the year would generate needed funds and eliminate endless little fundraisers. Divide the funds according to the percentage of student participation. Even little clubs like anime would get some money, which they've never had before, and the sports teams would have more money to work with to buy uniforms and equipment that is badly needed.

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement (continued)

The last sentence should be totally rewritten. It should read something like the following. "Those participating in such activities will compete with the integrity and distinction indicative of our Catholic values."

Need to work on the last sentence wording.

Insert "a wide variety" before extra-curricular.

Commentary: How can one argue that the CC-WC healthy football rivalry does not support this?

I think more discussion is needed as to the emphasis placed on athletics. We can't be everything to everybody.

Speak of the development of key traits it develops in our students, (teamwork, leadership, goal setting, motivation etc)

Will excel in the classroom. What specifically does that mean? Care to quantify that.

Don't care for the wording. Excel is a good goal But I think a less strong word would fit the goal.

We need to mention behavior within the overall community, and hold them accountable. This has not been the case until this year.

We are doing this now.

1. his/her skills should not reinforce "our Catholic faith." Those skills should reinforce his/her faith. 2. Not all students should be expected to excel. I believe it is elitism to expect that students should do better than their very best, athlete or otherwise.

Extra-curricular activities should serve a subsidiary and not a primary role in student formation.

Does this mean athletes, even FOOTBALL players will be held to the high standard?

When you look at both schools, Catholic Central seems to be way ahead of West Catholic. Can we do something to help West improve?

Leadership in athletics must match the great tradition of excellence that academics has enjoyed. By this, I do not mean winning, but modeling sportsmanship and Christian behavior, etc. I would love to see Catholic Secondary Schools pursue more service learning experiences for students.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

What about those who struggle?

a student may not "excel" in the classroom, but if they are succeeding, do not prevent playing or participating

This does represent the right direction, as we would like all students to excel in the classroom to the best of their abilities. But, what about those who despite their best efforts cannot reach a particular benchmark...what about these students??? How can they be included in the mission statement, so that their needs are met???

Get a new baseball coach... please!

There should be more accountability and requirements of these service projects.

Throughout this document I have been stunned by the number of times that students WILL definitively be doing this or that. What if a student who is participating in service learning or volunteer programs does not excel in the classroom or does not compete with integrity? Will there be some type of punitive repercussion?

Does the Catholic faith include everyone?

How will participating MAKE students excel in the classroom -- doesn't make sense

sports before learning ????? praying on the field then playing non catholic like does not make sense the dirty way catholic plays west sportsmanship means a lot !!

I don't like the "excel in the classroom" add. I think it links everything to the smart kids again. I like "Those participating in such activities will be strengthened in their Christian attitude and sense of community through the team/group formation they achieve. They will learn to excel in using their God-given talents for His glory.

Let's do this in action, not just in word. Being rejected in peer ministry and core teams is not enhancing development. Elite athletes and wealth should not dictate who gets in.

The last sentence needs to be revised. Participation in those activities is for everyone and does not ensure they will excel in the classroom.

Make sure the "excel in the classroom" statement is expanded to "excel in the classroom to the best capabilities of each individual student". It cannot be just what teachers and administrators want, but what the student is capable of at that time of their life, also.

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement (continued)

My oldest daughter has been very fortunate to compete all but one season of sports. Unfortunately though my younger daughter was one of many victims of freshman year volleyball cuts. I realize that the programs should be competitive, and that there is something for people to participate in if they really try, but I think more effort needs to be made to develop intermodal programs or something to include more students in the more popular sports of volleyball and basketball. Also you need to take a hard look at the coaches in some cases. The JV soccer coach my daughter's freshman year was terrible and I have heard that the varsity soccer coach is really harsh. I know a girl who quit Varsity soccer her senior year because of the coach and she was varsity for 2 years.

Every student will be encouraged and presented with many diverse opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities, service learning, and volunteer programs that further develop his/her skills, enhance the student experience, prepare the student for college, and reinforce our Catholic faith. Those participating in such activities will be challenged and equipped to also excel in the classroom and compete with integrity and distinction indicative of our Catholic faith.

Each coach, regardless of sport, should be reviewed based on team records and improvement. Do not allow a coach to coach simply because they have been in that position.

Define EXCEL (what percentage is considered "excelled").

Don't agree with wording "will excel in the classroom" - what does that mean? And what about sportsmanlike conduct, etc?

I realize that along with all the other language this section was probably heavily debated. I am a faith and academics first person, but great extracurricular, and sports in particular do help drive enrollment and I think we need to be practical about that. Its true for us just as its true for many small private colleges. I think we need to compete with integrity and distinction first and foremost. I absolutely agree with that statement, but I also think we need to have a robust and competitive athletics program or it will negatively affect enrollment.

Who will LEAD our students in extracurricular activities? Will it TRULY be the leader who "works to REINFORCE our Catholic faith"?

I do not like this part: "Those participating in such activities will excel in the classroom" Is this a guarantee? As it is stated, it sounds like one.

I highly support any athletics, service, cultural or other non-academic programs to help fully develop the students. However, expenses for football stadiums and equipment for an elite few students does not seem appropriate.

Build a financial system that is equal for all, not just sports first

Can't use the word "compete" if you are referring to service learning and volunteer programs as well.

This does not happen!

Strike the words " excel in the classroom and "

Last sentence: how could you possibly measure this? It is a hope, not a definite.

I believe part of this should involve our grade schools as well. There are a lot of programs the high school kids can be involved in at the grade school level. Mentoring can help both age groups. It can alleviate some peer pressure issues at the high school level and introduce our grade schoolers to what a great environment it must be at WC/CC, so and so was great to hang out and learn with. This also gives our high schoolers a sense of giving back

We need to have outstanding athletics. It breeds high achievers and alumni support.

This is a myth.

How do we give every student opportunities when finances will always block the way for some to participate? Missions trips and other service learning always have a cost.

Really...does EVERY student have to excel? Is every student capable of excelling? I agree that a student who is in danger of failing should focus on school work rather than extra-curricular, but to use the language that all students will excel indicates to me that there will be no student with anything less than a "B" in any extra-curricular. If they have a "C", this is average and by definition, not excellent.

I hope they are "quality opportunities". Delete the last sentence. It adds no value. It's wishful thinking.

Does this mean that those not participating in such activities do not need to excel in the classroom?

And have fun?

I believe extracurricular should not only be offered but mandatory. Other extremely successful catholic high schools have done this over many years and it increases their visibility and competitiveness overall.

Students who aren't as involved as others may do better in the classroom. I don't think there is an absolute correlation between "participation in such activities" and "excel in the classroom".

Who determines whether the athletes are "competing with integrity" and "excelling in the classroom"?

Excel can be a relative term when dealing with special needs. Is consideration being given to those who are not know to be academically motivated or able?

What do you mean by excel. Does the student who has a 2.7 GPA mean that she or he has excelled? Or does the GPA have to be 3.4 and above.

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement (continued)

What does "excel in the classroom " mean ? Be an active participant in school or do very well grade wise?

Please do not exclude an "average" student from these activities.

Gee, a statement that actually states integration of the Catholic faith.

If the academic standards are un reasonable (grading scale, etc.) why would a student-athlete even want to come to WC or CC??? What is their WC/CC GPA is too low to get into college? We already have kids transferring because of this issue. BEWARE. If we become Elitist -- enrollment will drop to 400/school - how do you afford to keep the doors open.

The wording of this objective is too vague. The last line, how can this be measured for success? What in our faith allows us to do these things. More refinement on this statement needs to be done.

Students at CCHS are already far too involved in various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. They scarcely have time now to sleep, much less to study!

I hope that someday the coaches who coach by negativism will be replaced by ones with positive approaches. Too often CC lets them hang on and be poor role models for our students forever.

Some students may have a rough go at it in athletics or extras. For example, what if they do not get to pitch on the baseball team and they are really upset about it, or they want to be chosen for a lead in the musical but they are not. It is our job as teachers and coaches to encourage, but we cannot "enhance their experience".

So, if a student does not participate in these activities they will not excel in the class? Or, if they do participate in these activities they will excel in the classroom? How do you measure that? Not sure how participating in an extra-curricular activity makes someone excel in the classroom. The word 'excel' seems to be extreme. What happens if they don't excel? Have we failed or have they failed?

Why is athletics listed first? I think service learning, then Extra-c, then Athletics

Make an effort to clean up the foul language of some students and coaches. Keep Sunday free for families and worship. Stop hosting sporting events on Holy Saturday. Don't send out letters in January telling parents not to schedule any August vacations if they want their child to play sports. Include parents as allies not enemies, while nurturing progressive autonomy and independence of students. Hire moral and faith-filled coaches who can be role models and helps for students transitioning into responsible adulthood. Have a sound philosophy of sports! Athletes are people, not disposable chess pieces!

...integrity, distinction, and Christ-like behavior...

I think it's great when students are involved. In fact, I think it's important. I think we offer many opportunities for students already, but our focus should be academic. And how can we say those participating will excel etc.?

We must remember that athletics, extra-curricular activities, service learning and volunteer programs are an essential part of their full development. To say that the student will be excelling while participating in these activities may be a difficult to maintain for some students. They should not be unable to participate if they don't fit the "excel" category. These activities allows a student to develop and learn concepts that sometimes cannot be taught in an ordinary class room.

How can you be so bold as to state that those participating in the stated activities will excel in the classroom, or that they will compete with integrity and distinction? There is no guarantee of this. If it is a goal, then it should be worded as such; not as a given or a mandate.

Students should be required to a certain minimal level to engage rather than just have opportunities. Required engagement will force them out of their comfort zones and foster positive growth.

What does the term service-learning mean to you? Overall, I agree with the last sentence as long as the athletes are taught according to their learning style and will receive help if needed before they ask. Most athletes are right-brained, visual learners and need to be taught in that manner if not they will not succeed to their potential.

I believe that the last sentence is intending to say that extra-curricular activities are an important part of developing a complete student - but the wording suggests that if you are not excelling in the classroom you don't get to participate in extra-curricular activities. I do not support the latter. Perhaps it should state that "extra-curricular involvement will serve as a complement to academic achievement and those who participate will show academic improvement."

So only A students will be allowed to compete in extra activities.

The language chosen for this and other statements does not fit. Why include "Those participating in such activities will excel in the classroom" in this section? Does this imply that a minimum GPA is required for participation or that extracurricular activates equates to excellence in the classroom

Why here are we only "indicative of our Catholic faith," where our mission says to be "grounded in Catholic Intellectual Tradition"?

What is your definition of excel in t he classroom?

Your recent history in quality coaching and mentoring of our students is, at times, deplorable. At West Catholic, you've had coaches in several sports (baseball and boys basketball and CC track) who year after year exhibited bad temperament, poor relations with parents, poor relations with the students and parents, and poor win /loss records. Your mission statement of "competing with integrity and distinction" is lost in the behavior of your coaches and their staffs. Your leadership has learned to make excuses and avoid "fair but tough" evaluations of your coaches. There is a strong appearance of a double standard when you are asking the best from our Student athletes while allowing poor performance by your coaches and their staffs.

It's kind of hard to excel when sports practices take so long and then the kids have a lot of homework afterwards. They should be allowed to work on homework in and around practice and games.

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement (continued)

" Reinforce our Catholic faith"? our? their?

Already succeed in this area.

I really like the wording here. Excellent.

Perhaps we should change 'compete' to another verb, as not all extra-curricular activities involve competition. In addition, by being involved with extra-curricular activities, students are representing the schools to the wider community. Should there be a phrase about doing so honorably?

Could 'compete' be changed to 'represent the school' since it includes non-athletic activities also?

Athletics programs need to build up students not tear them down. They need to focus on the process not just the goal (win). Athletics offer a perfect opportunity to build the Body of Christ. Suggestion: coaches and/or students attend workshops/motivational presentations or simply listen to CD's /DVD's put out by Catholic/Christian Sports professionals. E.g. CD of Mike Sweeney "5 Time Major League All-Star on Winning the Game for Christ" available through Lighthouse Catholic Media's Sports Series).

This needs to be consistently enforced!! Especially the integrity portion. See previous comment regarding the lack of enforcement upon the trip west participants.

Is service learning meaning learning how to serve or helping students and community members that need extra help academically? Are there any plans in place for improving or expanding resources for students with learning disabilities?

I don't think the language is strong enough. Athletics and extracurricular activities have such a strong impact on the character development of teens. We need to put a strong emphasis on getting our kids excited about our faith - inside and outside the classroom. We need to hire coaches that will lead using the principles of our faith. Ironically, the best coaches that we've experienced at CC - Nick Lewin & Jeff Cowdrey - are often ones that don't seem to get the support of the school/athletic director. For example, wrestling coach Nick Lewin was ejected from one match this past year. While I understand that we cannot condone coaches getting thrown out of a match/game, he was looking out for the best interest of his wrestler. When our Athletic Director spoke to the team and explained that Coach Lewin was suspended from a practice and a game, Koster never used the opportunity to lift Lewin up and talk to the boys about what a positive and encouraging coach Nick is. My son said that all he remembered was Kostered comparing wrestling to football - and how ironic looking at who was leading the football team at that time. In addition, Religion classes and faith based extracurricular activities need to ignite a passion for our faith - not make students feel hopeless. For example, I was told of one religion teacher who asked her/him class how many of them had attended Mass the weekend prior. Rather than using this opportunity to discuss the reasons why some of the students hadn't gone to Mass and encouraging them to attend the next Sunday, they were berated. Doesn't seem like a good way to reach teens.

Academics should be first and foremost. Athletics should be allowed as long as students adequately keep up with their classes.

Believe the minimum grade point should be upheld. If it is not met the athlete should not play, no matter how talented the athlete is. Discipline should be consistent for both athletes and non athletes.

Wonderful, just wonderful. These activities are immensely important, in different ways, to every student going through high school. The wording is short and right to the point.

Lately, it seems that athletics are driving our high schools rather than our Catholic beliefs. Athletes seem to be held to lower moral standards (i.e. shoplifting, drinking, drug use, vandalism, etc.) than other students.

CC excels in athletic participation and demonstrates amazing levels of sportsmanship. I have great concern that the administration will ruin this by their efforts to 'improve' what has been working ("required conditioning" is an example of what would not have helped). I know of no school that has a higher percentage of athletic participation. I would suggest that changes to what has been working need to be very seriously considered.

Athletics cannot be marginalized. It is a huge community builder as well as fund raiser. Parents and students will choose a school based on the total picture - academics and athletics.

"Those participating in such activities will work to their maximum potential in the classroom....." Not every student, especially athletes, have the God given ability to "excel" in the classroom. We can only expect them to work to their maximum potential. PS. what is meant by Service Learning?

Some past coaches certainly fell short in their example as role models

One can hope but I seriously doubt it.

The title beginning with Athletics leaves a bad taste. Athletics is but one extra-curricular activity and need not be mentioned prominently or singled out. It isn't any more important than debate, engineering competition or any of the other things that students do outside of the classroom.

We must build a better athletic stadium. The CATs fields are dangerous to our players and opponents.

This can happen at their respective Church. Keep the ministry a mission of the Church. Keep the scholastic training in the school.

I concur.

I support academic excellence, but I don't feel that every person is meant to be "excel" in every environment. God gave us all unique talents, and to think that you are going to excel in every area is not realistic.

Comments about Athletics, Service Learning and Extra-Curricular Activities Vision Statement (continued)

I would probably prefer to have the word encourage in there someplace.

This should be considered one of your benchmark measures of success. Not every student will rank in the top 5% on standardized tests, but every student can contribute to these type of activities. Many colleges, including Notre Dame, now consider leadership in these areas a determining factor in admissions. They want students would lead and contribute to the community, not just students who do well in class.

Students should be allowed to participate if the effort is put forth in the classroom. Some students will not EXCEL in the classroom no matter how much they try. Should you take something away from them that they do excel at?

What if the student doesn't excel in the classroom? The language I believe must state that those participating "must" excel and "must" compete

Integrity and distinction must always be a priority over winning and be required of the coaches and all involved in student programs.

...as long as things are kept in perspective. We are a school first, education is first in all situations.

Will the involvement in such activities result in excelling in the classroom, or will excellence in the classroom be required to engage in such activities? The language is not clear.

As much learning takes place on the playing field/court as what takes place within the classroom(s).

GPA should be addressed - 1.5 (for freshmen) and 2.0 (for other grades) is the current requirement - you've got to be kidding me! If a student can't hit 2.5 they shouldn't be participating in sports...if W/C is truly all about excelling in academics.

Narrow in focus of who your student population will be.

Let's make sure these programs are supervised and we avoid incidents that land in the media - giving the school a black eye. Let's also not apply a double standard to valuable athletes over other students when it comes to school rules etc.

Let's just make sure academics are first. Let's not cater to a student and give them extra attention to get them through just because they are a good athlete.

Sounds like only the A+ students will get to be involved in the extracurricular activities.

What does this mean? That students will have to maintain a certain GPA in order to participate in these activities? Also, when will these extracurricular activities Take place, during or after school hours?

Marketing

We will be known for our Catholic faith, academic excellence and the success of our graduates. We will develop and implement marketing and communications strategies to support our promise.

Does this represent the right direction for our schools?

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	841	96.6%
No	30	3.4%

I support the overall language contained in this (Marketing) section.

Response	Count	Percent
Yes	795	91.8%
No	71	8.2%

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement:
<i>Success of our graduates seems redundant given being known for our faith and academic excellence.</i>
<i>I think the wording is missing something..again, it does not address the building of these students..the esteem, the collaboration to help students succeed..</i>
<i>I believe that we also need to be known be being "inclusive", rather than "exclusive" in terms of educating our Catholic youth.</i>
<i>I would hesitate to agree based on the measure of success. It sounds like this measure is monetary</i>
<i>You're all dong a great job. Keep up the good work.</i>
<i>As you can see, I cannot support most of what is "proposed" in this survey seeing you seem to be heading in the direction (in my opinion) as schools for the "elite". I feel you contradict yourselves when you use terms as "where all can encounter the living God" when that is not the case. What about those children with learning disabilities, special needs? There is no mention of inclusion etc... Are they not considered part of the "all"? I am sure you have all worked so hard discussing, planning to make CC/WC the best High Schools they can be. Thank you for all you have done but PLEASE do not forget WHO WE ARE!!! I would be curious to know if anyone on this steering committee has a child with a learning disability or a special need such as autism, downs syndrome, etc? The message we are sending to these children/families are "we do not want your child". A child a God. How does this fit into our mission/vision statements? I beg you all to visit/revisit the idea of inclusion/resource. It can be done! I will be willing to help in any way.</i>
<i>Giving the people in charge of this task the necessary tools, staff and finances will make this happen.</i>
<i>Do you (all) plan on incorporating the importance of a strong and viable pre-8 "system" - i am very concerned that the future planning of the high schools and the elementary schools will be done in isolation and once again, we will be no further at the end. This is the most important time in the life of Catholic Ed in our Diocese.</i>
<i>WHAT promise?</i>
<i>I don't see any language about the teaching staff. I would like to see a reference to quality staff, the administration treating the staff justly in regards to wages, teaching assignments and further education. To have a top level school we need to have a top level staff.</i>
<i>I believe one important component which seems to be ignored in all you've said thus far is character development. In my mind, this is one of the most appealing potential attributes of Catholic education. It needs to be emphasized not just in the mission statement, but in the classroom as well. I haven't found much evidence of that to this point.</i>
<i>I also think marketing the "community" or "family" aspect of our schools is a good thing.</i>
<i>To attract not only Catholic students but other students of other Christian faiths, we may want to include in the marketing materials more about following the teachings of Jesus Christ.</i>
<i>For lack of a better place to include my concerns, I will address them here. I have 4 children all of whom attend a GR area Catholic elementary school. As a graduate of WC, I would hope that my children will be able to attend as well. At the cost of tuition at this point, I am in doubt that my hopes will be a reality. Something needs to be done to make WC more accessible to people of all economic backgrounds. It is very difficult to connect a Catholic school with turning people away due to the inability to pay tuition. Is that the Christian approach that we should be taking? At this point I can honestly say that with the potential of a freshman at WC and 3 remaining children at a Catholic elementary school, WC will not be an option that I could even consider with the current tuition rates. That fact alone saddens me. Hopefully change will take place before I have to make that important decision for my children. If nothing else, maybe the Bishop will realize that he is working with a much different demographic than he was in Detroit. I am quite certain that Gods will was not to create a leering environment that only serviced those with wealth and higher intelligence. Just food for thought. Thank you for listening.</i>
<i>Need to keep your cost of school in line- it's too Costly in our current economy- its more than GRCC- ! It's out of CONTROL with no feedback from parents who pay the bill !</i>
<i>Very good!</i>

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement (continued)

Include the Catholic social teaching in this.

Playing nice is no longer an option. We need to become zealous and aggressive in our marketing. We have to recognize that selling a family/student on attending our schools, is not the same as marketing to them.

In most statements, it could be said that we will CONTINUE to market, provide, assess, etc. We have already been doing much of what is presented here.

Be careful that "Catholic faith, academic excellence & the success of our graduates" are in the correct/desired order & in the same order every time they appear.

Yes but don't limit "success of our graduates" to the previous statements relating to "college admission" or a narrow definition of further education. I have 41 years of experience in education (high school teacher, administrator, school superintendent and college professor) and fear limiting our definition of "success" The world of the future will demand success in many fields.

This is a general comment on the whole Mission and Vision. Very well thought out! Thanks for doing all this hard work-

I find it disturbing that we do not have a weekly all school Mass for a Catholic school striving to be "known for our Catholic faith". The Mass is our faith--the most important element and to celebrate that together weekly is vital to keeping our Catholic mission. This could take the form of a weekday Mass--simplicity at its best, with a full Mass once a month. Don't you think this would show God that we are serious about our faith? Don't you think this would bring graces and blessings to our students and our school? How could it not? This is of utmost importance! Read Pope Benedict's Apostolic Letter on the Year for Priests quoting St. John Vianney, "All good works, taken together, do not equal the sacrifice of the Mass since they are human works, while the Holy Mass is the work of God."

Does this include everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, no matter who or what they are? I'm talking religion, creed, color, sexual orientation or anything. A true Christian welcomes all of God's creatures.

But... How about including that we have the best services for students with special needs. I believe that any school, church or any organization can only claim excellence when they have considered the needs, provided excellent support and preserved the dignity of the most "marginalized" (to use the word from the diversity statement) members of the organization. That is what Jesus called us to do.

Will this include real life studies, balance checkbook, home budget, mortgages, auto insurance, home ins, savings accts, the essentials we all learned the hard way. "life lessons for everybody!" let's give our kids a head start in real life situations mandatory.

I find all of these statements to be generic and could be a 'vision' for all religious schools. These 'missions' look good on paper and are already assumed by all.

I seriously worry that the students will suffer at the promotion of the brand by excluding students to boost success numbers. What price would we have to pay morally to be successful academically? It sounds like big business, not Catholic education!

There are many good statements contained in this vision, but it does not seem to reflect the true purpose of Catholic schools. Developing students to be strong disciples of Christ who evangelize using the individual gifts and talents that they have been given should be the top priority. In this context skills should be developed and everyone should be pushed an allowed to reach their full potential academically as well as physically and spiritually!

Sounds very elitist. Sounds like you are not interested in anything other the best students that fit the mold so that your "promise" is thereby fulfilled.

I believe we are already known, and if we focus on our goals this need not be stated!

I attended West Catholic and feel the school had these standards all these years. I do not understand what will change and I feel there is a hidden meaning to a lot of this language? We have always tried to achieve these objectives- What is going to change? Who was invited to this town meeting. Today 4/16, is the first time I read something about this in my Childs Friday folder. I would have liked to go to this meeting to have my questions answered. I want to know if there is hidden meaning? I have graduated from WC, I have one child who has graduated from WC, and I have one coming but I feel like I am the most unsure I have ever been about sending them to WC because I do not know what all this means. I feel the parents of the children this affects need to know what will change so we can make up our mind if this is the place for our child.

Very good.

There should be adequate funding each year for this. It isn't something that should be done on the cheap.

Agree, we need to be more visible, and promote the great product that we are!

To have a solid answer to public school friends who ask "why send kids to a private school when we have such great public schools?"

Will we ignore other faith traditions?

Keep in mind some students may not reach academic excellence although they are working to their full potential.

I build schools all over the state and have not seen any info at the state level on the % of college graduates. I feel this could be a great marketing tool. The only thing I see is the % that go on to college.

"Catholic faith" could be expanded to read "principles of our Catholic faith".

It sounds too elitist. Some sense of serving the marginal should be included.

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement (continued)

This is the most asked question I hear. Why do I chose to send my children to West Catholic? why do I pay for an education that is provided free of charge? Tell me why.

What would be the yearly cost of this marketing?

I think that is true now, so it' a fair goal for the future. also want to say I don't like that parent's are stakeholders. They are more than that.

Where's the mailings to All parishioners about the availability/ value of catholic education.... No weddings/ No funerals without contributions to catholic ed

If our goal is to be better then everyone--then sounds like you have a great plan

Again, I find too much emphasis on academic excellence. In the letters of St Paul we are reminded that we all have different gifts. I'm afraid that this mission and vision is aimed too narrowly on only those with academic or intellectual gifts. Jesus did not choose his followers by IQ points, I think our mission should remain faithful to those precepts offered by Christ's example. Our own children were both in the top 10 of their class, one a Valedictorian. We found they received an excellent education, but probably would not want them to be in a school where Catholic education was denied to those of average abilities or below. Please revisit your thinking. I'm finding this diversion to an elite academic environment troubling.

Drop "and the success of our graduates".

If we live this vision, it will market itself!!!

So this is what it comes down to, the cash.

As the parent of a special needs son, in particular, autism, just like the boy that was hazed, you can claim to have all the vision and mission statements you want. The fact is, you condone elitist attitudes and showed the students, that if you have money and recognition, you can get away with anything. I am ashamed to be a WC graduate.

It is not enough to simply be known as Catholic. What does being Catholic really mean? That is what can be marketed. Again, graduate success is a worrisome statement as it is unclear how it will be measured and promoted.

best marketing is students themselves and how your business of education is conducted. not more money for fancy marketing gimmicks

I agree all the above statements should be in our handbook, but I think you have a long way to go until they are followed. Walk the talk.

Yes, we just need to continue to tell our story.

I am not sure we need marketing if we graduate students of faith and strong academics. Won't those students be our poster children of success? It seems we are adding layers of overhead to our Catholic Secondary Education already.

Does being known for our Catholic Faith indicate that you will strive to create an atmosphere of Holiness? Will our students be known for their love of God?

Is it not more important to reach out and save everyone's soul then just make sure they get into the best college possible. Instead of my child being first in line for the best college institution I would prefer they were the first in line to go to Heaven. Everyone should have the right to a Catholic education not just the gifted student. I wonder if the Christian schools have the same lofty standards. I wonder if this will help the Baptist and Christian school enrollment

I agree with most of words, but I do not know that I agree personally with where this seems to be headed. If you are looking to make this an Elite school for the academically strong that one things, but if you are looking to have it be what it has been for years a "Catholic" school based in high faith, morals and values I do not agree with a lot of this. You can't say you're a Catholic school and only accept the academically strong. You may encounter families, like my own, that the children are very different from each other. As it stands me and my husband plan on sending our children to West. If there are academic standards that might mean one child might be able to attend and the other would not. I would not be willing to send my children to separate schools, it may benefit the academically strong child in a strictly academic way, but I believe it would leave the child who could not attend with self esteem issues and probably resentment between siblings. I strongly feel there needs to be more information available, As it stands right now I am very confused regarding all this, I have heard many different thoughts regarding this and would like to have some concrete information from someone. Thank you. I guess what I am trying to say is that if These schools are going to become Elite schools with the "Catholic" part an afterthought we will not be sending our children to West.

What is "success"?

I see you striving to be an elitist school.

How will we define success? Test scores, college degrees and how much money one makes? To me, those three things do not equal success.

This is a general comment. We make no specific remarks over the concept of focused learning on Mathematics, Science nor Civics. Three primary areas of failure in American school systems.

"We will be known for our 100+ years of dedication to the Catholic faith, academic excellence as one of the top 50 Catholic high schools in the nation, and the success of our graduates, of which 98% enroll in colleges and universities. We will develop and implement marketing and communications strategies to support our promise.

The schools need to market SEPARATELY. They are both wonderful and have much in common but they are also different in some key ways and in part, in the families to which they appeal. They are each help back by the unwillingness or inability to market and position themselves as wonderful partner institutions that each offer something somewhat different.

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement (continued)

I'm not sure where this comment should go, but this is the last page. While we should strive for excellence in all areas, we should not forget that not everyone is blessed with the same educational and life skills. Part of being diverse is being open to all and making those less gifted feel welcome as well.

Great!

Over-all Comments Where is the section about developing the Catholic identity of our schools? As we look to hire a K-12 Superintendent where is the partnership and collaboration with partner elementary schools? Where does the mission, and vision support learners who will detract from your stated goal of being in the top 5% nationally?

Yes! Sounds strong, in the right order, and right on target!

Once again I want to point out that the success of our graduates can be enhanced by adopting a 10 point grading scale - which will increase acceptance into tough colleges and increase scholarship money offered to our students.

"...success and contributions of our graduates."

Finally!

A great program is its own marketing tool. You successful students will be your best communication strategy.

In the last 5 years Michigan has lost over 150,000 students due to the economy and districts are losing more every year, the crisis in the papers certainly cannot be dismissed. Raising tuition at a lower rate 3% and extending the time line to 5 years instead of three to pay off the debtors would encourage more. At the current rate, without economic stability in the state I fear you will lose more than gain.

We will be identifiable by our Catholic faith, academic excellence, strength of character, and the integrity of our graduates. ...to support our goals.

The marketing is missing an entire segment of the population.

Prefer language that supports Catholic Faith and commitment in community, way too much emphasis on academic excellence. I believe we will encounter adverse reaction to the thought process that our schools WILL be better than others in the area. Kinder verbiage is needed, i.e., Catholic Secondary Schools strive to be in the top 5% of the nation in the terms of academic excellence, we hold our faith based learning to be a core value in teaching, leading and everyday life.

It is obvious that our focus will be on excellence and community citizenship. I think our community is very capable of the excellence that you intend on bringing forth, however, some will struggle. It will be important to provide inclusion for those who struggle emotionally, physically, and economically.

I believe we need to acknowledge our Alumni more. We have a ton of successful alumni that would love to mentor and give back. Passion can be shown in many different ways, but when it can be shown by someone who walked the same halls I believe it can be very moving and powerful

The community does not care.

Success is a relative term. I do not think we should invest heavily in being known by the "success of our graduates." We can only hope to influence them, not control their future.

How is the success of graduates measured? If they are happy? If they are practicing Catholics? If they attended an Ivy League school? If they earn a certain amount of income? I'd like to know your definition of success. What is the "promise" you will be supporting? Unclear.

Like it. Thank you for all your work....Prayers are with you.

As long as the Catholic faith is the number one factor that distinguishes us from other schools. I pay \$21,000 a year in tuition, and it is NOT for the rigorous academics, it is for the faith formation. I can get rigor at many other public schools in the area. What sets us apart is our faith formation. We are unique and different because we are a CATHOLIC high school.

The language of the mission statement becomes more vague as you read through the goals.

Focus should be on academic excellence and the success of our graduates who have been educated in a moral and ethical environment. And you should have provided a spot for some general commentary. FYI.

If we accomplish the first the marketing will take care of itself.

Again, give your graduates all the advantages, including a common grading scale so they can compete for scholarships on an even playing field. Less stress on being an elite academic school and more focus on educating ALL students would show more Christian social justice.

We will be known for our Catholic faith... putting this above all else...nice work!

Lower tuition. A lot of good Catholics can't afford this education and yet non-Catholics receive the grant money. And let's remember some fun and enjoyment the wording was strong and severe. Good for a business, but very intense when thinking of it relating to a kid.

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement (continued)

Specific strategies need to be outlined.

WE SHOULD ALSO BE KNOWN FOR OUR COMPASSION.

You are missing an environment that includes ALL catholic students. Academic excellence and success of our graduates misses the character of the student!!!! A well mannered, respectful and hard working young man or women at any academic level speaks volumes of any educational institution. Communities spread that FASTER THAT WHAT RANKING ALL YOUR STUDENTS SCORED.

While I agree with what is presented, we should also want to be known for our Catholic nature -- being open and welcoming to all. Yes, we want to offer academic excellence, but we also want to offer academics that are accessible to all so that everyone choosing to be part of our schools can realize their fullest potential. Education is the journey to full knowledge and greater relationship with Christ.

Are we not including our well rounded extracurricular activities ?

It sounds great but I am extremely concerned that I will not be able to send my children to the high school due to the cost.

While I support academic excellence, I'm afraid you are trying to become an elite organization with no room for those who cannot excel

Maybe use "contributions" versus "success" re: grads. What is the "promise"? Is this category better suited with Financial Viability? Should "brand identity" be listed/defined within Marketing?

Know for what Catholic faith? A watered down version?

Long overdue. We have been poor to terrible in this area. Haven't seen much improvement with new Principal and his staff at WC. Lot s of theoretical talk, NO action (Lots of outsiders - trying -- but ineffectively

How will we determine success with this statement? It is too vague and general. This needs work to be more concise.

Once again, "marketing and communicating strategies," in the absence of a genuinely good product, will not sell one item to the customer.

Finally, YES!!!! Billboards, commercials, sponsoring charity events etc. YES!

More marketing needs to be done. Get info out to the feeder schools about what excellent Catholic high-schools we have here. Compare our successes with other schools so that parents are excited about having their children attend.

Strong, aggressive and impactful marketing is a must (i.e. recent radio commercial was impressive)...

Find more and more ways to assist families in the staggering cost of Catholic education.

These vision statements are things we should have been doing all along. What commitment is there to actually promoting and fulfilling these statements at the diocesan level? As a parent we have felt there has been little to no diocesan support for years.

Comments outlined previously.

I don't know what you mean by our faith- do you mean we will be known for being uniquely Catholic and following church teaching? Then great, if you mean every student will be a faithful follower of Christ? Then while I'd like that, I'm not sure we can say we'll be known for that and it raises the question will we only allow families to attend our schools who have an active faith? Can we reach the high academic goals if that's the case?

There is nothing in this document that addresses partnership with and reliance upon the elementary schools. Without them, from where would your students come?

Sounds great!

Catholic faith, practices and traditions need to remain the MAIN focus as Catholic schools. Developing the faith life of students should remain a top priority. This will be very basic for some, and much more advanced for others. Considering that faith development begins at home, incorporating Catholic programs to benefit parents would assist in developing the whole family. (e.g. this could include something as easy as a weekly 'family Mass', offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc

It would be nice if the survey told us how many questions we had as we progress so we had an idea of where we stood AND if we had a general comment opportunity at the end. Asking which school I am affiliated with should be divorced from my responses. It gives me concerns that my survey might not mean as much as that of someone from Catholic as it seems from our perspective that they drive an un-fair portion of the Catholic Secondary Agenda. True or not, I think that a common perception.

I was not aware of the town hall meeting therefore all of my information is second hand. That being said, all of the comments that I have heard are very negative. A great deal of confusion about the future of Secondary Catholic Education now exists in the elementary schools. As you know, enrollment is a major issues for grades 1-8, please update your communication to the elementary schools so that confusion about future plans does not have a negative impact on enrollment. I have no doubt that this situation is overstated but, at this time our families have no real information.

We need to really focus on recruiting at the lower elementary levels, even starting with baptized babies, encouraging young families to consider investing in a Catholic education for their child--send birthday card every year, etc. We need to do a better job of telling our story (I.e. \$5 million awarded in Academic scholarships in 2009, etc)

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement (continued)

Catholic Faith, Academic Excellence and Students being known as leaders in the community

We have filled several of these surveys out in the recent past. Marketing efforts like these will only work if you truly take the time to inspect what is actually happening with the decreasing enrollments. If you believe it is just financial, you may find yourselves continuing down this path. We have graduated 2 students through West Catholic, and have tried to be positive, active members of the community. We are considering pulling our last 2 students out of catholic education. A significant part of our decision is economic, however, an even larger part is our disappointment in the product being provided. It is our opinion and experience that West Catholic lacks quality leadership, with several members of your administrative staff that have repeatedly shown poor judgment and bad temperament, yet they seem to be promoted and moved into positions of influence and authority. If you are truly paying attention to your staff, you know who they are. This does not support "excellence" and the strong Christian values you seem to embrace. These individuals are at the top of West Catholic organization, and they set the tone for the entire organization. Their seems to be an acceptance of mediocrity in faculty and coaches as well. Our experience with these staff members has been very poor at times. For example, we know for a fact that there has been strong opposition to the varsity baseball coach for many years. He has demonstrated bad temperament, poor relations with parents, and has a poor reputation in the local baseball community, yet he keeps getting rubber stamped in as a "leader of excellence" in our athletic community. We are done with athletics at West Catholic, however, the damage that is done by this individual continues, and that is not a good reflection on our school or your reputation. We have seen very similar behaviors and acceptance of these behaviors in other sports, with the appearance of little or no oversight to the incompetence and lack of performance we expect from our student athletes. There is and has been a perception of a double standard at West. Is this an example of the excellence you claim to support? It can be said that you get that at every school, however, we are suppose to be setting the higher standard, right? If we don't have top quality individuals in our faculty and coaches, how can we claim to be giving our children a better experience and a competitive edge on their futures. We have attended many "parent/teacher" conferences over the years. We have asked teachers repeatedly to communicate with us if one of our kids were falling behind or if they felt things weren't going well. We have been let down by several of these teachers repeatedly as we have yet to have a teacher reach out and contact us... a simple email, to help. And there have been many situations we could cite to support this. Is this asking too much? Is this the excellence you claim to aspire? More effort seems to be spent on whether or not a student has their shirt tucked in than how they can inspire and motivate them to excellence. As we stated earlier in the survey, your apparent ignorance to the punitive damage the 7 point grade system is having on our students by reducing their ability to compete for scholarship money is unacceptable, and your denial will lead to more families opting for alternative education. The fact that over 90% of high schools in the state are on the 10 point system should be enough evidence. By posturing to be "better" than everyone else because we are tougher on grades only results in lost scholarships for many of our students. If you do not address this situation immediately, you will lose more families to catholic education. Finally, on a personal note. We were informed recently by our student who is a junior at West that he does not want to spend his senior year at West Catholic. We are heartbroken by this as he has been, until the last year or so, an upbeat and successful student and athlete at West. It is a sad commentary on your school, and was brought on directly by many of the people and situations we have cited previously. You can dismiss us as bad attitude people and sweep us and our comments under the rug, or perhaps, take our observations to heart and truly evaluate what and how you are doing. We wish nothing but the best for West Catholic and hope and pray for success in the future for the outstanding families and community of West Catholic.

We will be known for our Catholic faith and our support of Human Dignity and Life, ...

As long as this addresses all students!!!

I believe you are already known for academic excellence & success. Not saying you don't want to improve that. You make it sound like it does not exist right now

We are sadly lacking in this area.

I believe that the culture of the school needs to be promoted. It is a small environment and the students know each other, versus some of the larger high schools with 3000 students.

We will be known as wasteful spenders of parishioner's money, and building monuments to bishops!

I agree in strong education. The way this is worded it looks as if a student does not have a 3.5-4.0 they will not be able to attend a Catholic school. I am very concerned with that. I don't think any child should be turned away from developing their faith based on grade point average.

Our faith takes a back seat to academics and athletics and it should not. We are more known as a private school than a Catholic school and this is a big problem. Our graduates should be considering vocations and leaders in the Church not activists against it. They should be able to clearly articulate their faith and how that is to be carried out in their lives and in the world. Our graduates do not have a clear understanding of who they are and what they are called to do as Catholic citizens. They are blending in with the culture so much that it is nearly impossible to see how Catholic education was any different than a good public school!

What is the promise that is being referenced?

We are known now, etc.

I would like to see the word "tradition" included as it is a big part of the CC/WC success.

It would be nice to see something about being known for 'serving the community' (reaching out...)

I like the idea of a survey on these issues. It's too bad the wording used was weak, confusing & stale. Many of your statements and survey questions were nothing new. I believe in and support Catholic education. I also think Bishop Hurley would have been better suited to leave a legacy that reflected on Catholic education & a foundation to support it rather than Cathedral Square. He of all people as our spiritual leader should know that it is about US not him.

The "known for the success of our graduates" again contains shades of elitist rhetoric.

Comments about Marketing Vision Statement (continued)

As long as we are measuring the success of our graduates not only on graduating in the top 5%. True success isn't measured in standardized tests and GPA's it's a measure of character and Christian charity

It would be nice to be known as schools where both faith and academics are so integrated that those observing us couldn't separate the two--both in the classrooms and outside.

Seems that the direction of the schools is to have an "Academic Elite" school. Sadly as a Christian it seems that is not what Jesus would want... Jesus did not come in with the theory "please give me only your rich and smart"...

This is a great direction for a high school. Add to the language "success of our graduates," that success has many definitions. I think that Dave Veneklase said, at the evening meeting, something about the students embarking on a lifelong journey. I'm sure I paraphrased that poorly, Dave, but that is part of "success." My views on all this have grown a lot since our first child started at CC about nine years ago. My husband and I have three children who have graduated from CC - one is graduated from college and employed, one is in grad school, one is a college sophomore. We have one currently at CC. We also have three still in grade school, so, you see, we are "stakeholders" with a lot at stake.

I thought you were already doing this.

Our Schools should be developing the Mind, Body & Spirit. The Marketing Mission above only states the mind & the Spirit

We will be known for our saints.

I certainly want Catholic Central and West Catholic to succeed in their mission as I believe our youngsters benefit from four more years in a Catholic school

There was no place on the survey that addressed students with special academic needs. Are the high schools exclusive in academics that they inhibit students whose families desire and support a Catholic education but need accommodations for academic success?

As long as we open our doors to all individuals, not just the blue ribbon students.

I don't like the use of the term marketing. We our an institution not a product.

The best marketing, is the product that is turned out in the end. If a o e room schoolhouse were turning out a better student than a high-tech, new & shiny school, which one would have the waiting list?

Again, it's fine but incomplete. I'm concern that so much focus on academic excellence will result in leaving out those who are learning disabled and underprivileged.

I would try to market to other denominations also and let the students see the for themselves how beautiful the catholic faith is.

Look to some of the successes of your feeder schools. St. Thomas, for example, has been recognized nationally for this type of marketing. Network and develop partnerships with these resources and allow them to help the secondary schools to move forward.

When relating success of graduates, please be aware that success has many measures. Do not rely on only one measure and academic success to relate the success of individuals who have graduated from your schools.

But not to the extreme that CC becomes only accessible to the "elite".

This statement signifies the entire mission statement .

The best marketing is community participation - CC and WC should be known for Catholic faith, academic excellence, community involvement and the success of their graduates.

Success is not always measured by academics when in the real world. It is by how well you can work with other people/collaboration, work ethic and attitude.

If done in concert with whole human development not functional quantitative role of young people.

As long as our definition of a "successful" graduate is not limited to career and financial success only but includes those who minister to the needs of others through civic leadership, non-profit organizations, and ministry.

Overall success of graduates, not individual success? Not a "we and them" marketing strategy I hope.

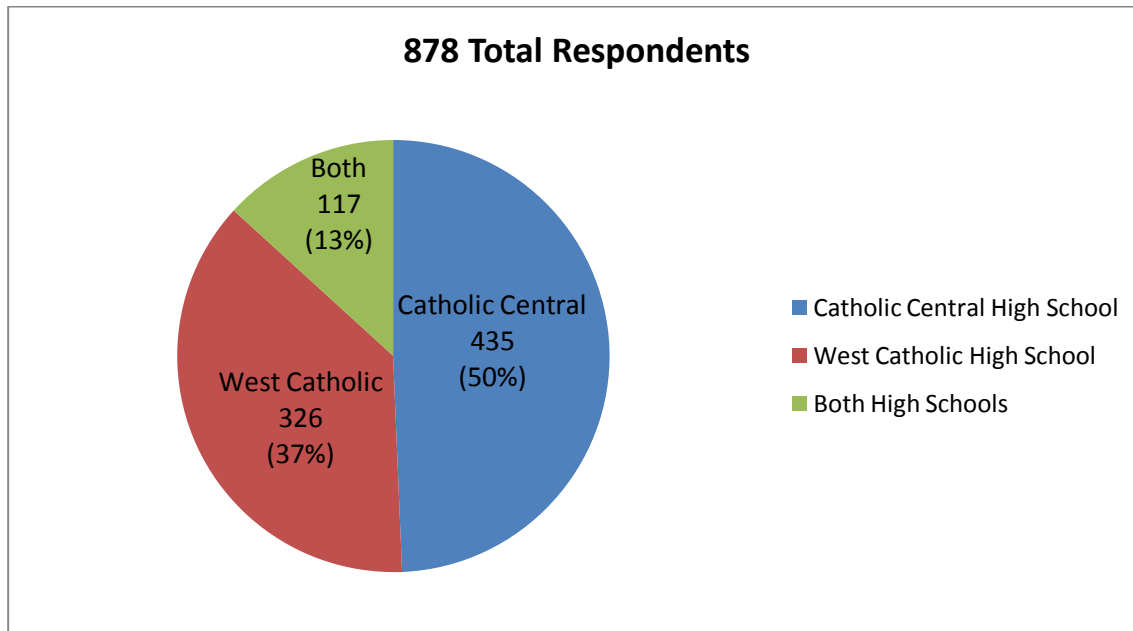
*Conduct research to find out *why* those who choose non-Catholic schools didn't choose WC/CC. There may be one or more misperceptions out there that need to be cleared up. Or there may be real issues that need to be addressed. Also, don't simply throw money into advertising. Use as many forms of marketing that cost nothing/little as possible. For example, each and every prospective WC/CC family should be contacted personally by a school representative. Encourage parish priests to "pitch" Catholic education from the pulpit, and perhaps even allow students from each parish to give a brief talk after Mass on a given weekend, extolling the virtues of CC/WC.*

How will you measure success of our graduates? In terms of how much money they make? In terms of what colleges they get into? In terms of what prestigious professions they go into? Or that they discern their calling from God and make the world a better place for others?

Who is the judge of success? There are elements of being Catholic the need to be updated. I am so grateful for my WC education, but we have a long way to go.

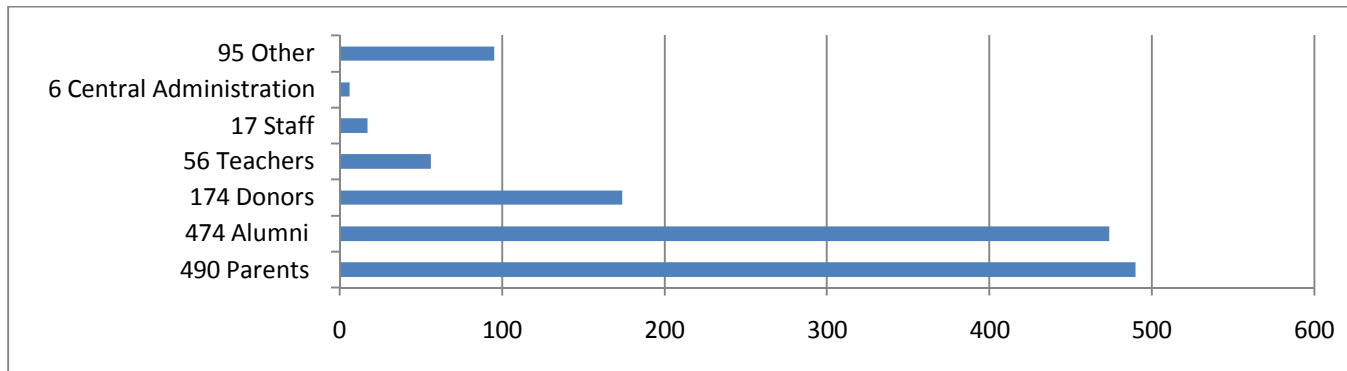
Demographics

Please indicate your school affiliation*:



Note: 25 respondents did not answer this question.

Please identify your relationship to the schools:



Note: Respondents could choose more than one relationship to school label.

#	Other Responses:
8	Board Member
7	Catholic elementary school parent
2	Catholic school principal
5	Coach
2	Community member - not specified
1	Feeder school teacher
1	Former chair of fundraising events
1	Former CSS Board President
4	Former Teacher
8	Grandparent
1	Grounds Committee Athletic Boosters
1	I have had relatives who taught at both
13	Parent of alumni
17	Parent of future student(s)
3	Pastor
1	Priest of the diocese
1	Retired Catholic school principal
1	Retired Elementary Principal
1	Retired teacher
2	Stakeholder - not specified
3	Student
6	Teacher at Catholic elementary school
1	Transportation Department
4	Volunteer

