

Saunders Catholic Schools

Strategic Plan Pillars 2020-2025

Pillar One: Distinctly Catholic Student Life

A unique Catholic identity makes Saunders Catholic Schools “schools for the human person” and allows them to fill a critical role in the future of the Catholic Church, our country, and our world by forming disciples of Christ.

- Strategy 1: To ensure that our schools are guided and driven by a clearly communicated mission that embraces a Catholic Identity centered on the Eucharist, rooted in Gospel values and committed to faith formation, academic excellence and service.
- Strategy 2: To provide a rigorous program of religious studies and catechesis in the Catholic faith that is part of an academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
- Strategy 3: To provide opportunities outside the classroom for student faith formation, participation in liturgical and communal prayer and service activities.
- Strategy 4: To provide opportunities for adult faith formation and service activities.
- Strategy 5: To continue the position of Campus Ministry Student Life Director in Saunders Catholic Schools to manage, enhance and report on student life ministry programs in all three schools.
- Strategy 6: To encourage and enable every student and their family to be involved in at least one extracurricular activity or event, in all grades.
- Strategy 7: To capture the positive community benefits of extracurricular activities for a broad range of students and families.

Pillar Two: Excellent Academics & Exceptional Teachers

Saunders Catholic Schools have a history of academic excellence that focuses on helping students to improve their academic performance each year and helping them to prepare educationally, spiritually and emotionally for the future. Our many exceptional teachers, staff and administrators are committed to the growth and education of our children. Hiring and retaining exceptional teachers, staff and administrators, including Priests and religious, is critical to the continued success of our students.

- Strategy 1: To define and implement supplemental math and reading programs and to promote benefits in all areas of study.
- Strategy 2: To define, promote and track an enhanced AP/college course credit program at Bishop Neumann High School.
- Strategy 3: To define, promote and track an academic standard across Saunders Catholic Schools, with a focus on student progress.
- Strategy 4: To create an Academic Program and Report to coordinate, implement and track academic success across the three schools.
- Strategy 5: To define the qualities of an exceptional teacher and to develop a continuing evaluation process that ensures an environment of high expectations, accountability and success.
- Strategy 6: To provide an environment of academic advancement and achievement in our teachers and staff by encouraging continuing education and longevity and by providing spiritual, personal and educational growth opportunities.

Pillar Two: Committed Families

Saunders Catholic Schools have been supported and led by faithful Catholic families since 1911. This rich and continuing tradition of community support and involvement cannot be underestimated. Our families and our schools are integral to the success of our Catholic faith community.

- Strategy 1: To honor and continue the tradition of committed families and community members through opportunities for deep engagement, rich faith formation and service to others.
- Strategy 2: To define, promote and reinforce a “Covenant of Catholic Identity” for the Saunders Catholic Schools community.
- Strategy 3: To develop a Saunders Catholic Schools Welcoming Committee.
- Strategy 4: To provide methods for members of the Saunders Catholic Schools community to actively live their faith, and to reach out in stewardship and the spirit of evangelization to the broader communities within our school system.

Pillar Four: Supportive Parishes

Saunders Catholic Schools have been blessed to be supported by the Catholic parishes in the Wahoo Deanery for over 50 years. Their commitment to the education and formation of the children in our communities cannot be underestimated. Without the spiritual and financial support of our parishes, we could not continue to thrive as a Catholic School system. Actively participating in our parishes and communities is essential to the future success of our schools.

- Strategy 1: To encourage Mass attendance, support for parish activities and active church involvement through specific programs led by the schools, to ensure engagement in our parish communities.
- Strategy 2: To continue and enhance appreciation activities, led by our staff, students and parents, in gratitude for the financial and spiritual support from our parishes.
- Strategy 3: To offer educational and spiritual programs, activities and retreats that engages our school families with the parishioners in our communities.
- Strategy 4: To encourage financial support by our school families for our parishes.

Pillar Five: Effective Finance & Development

The foundation of Catholic schools in Saunders County is a healthy and sustainable financial model that will ensure the future of Catholic education in Saunders County for generations..

- Strategy 1: To define the financial structure necessary to sustain a healthy Saunders Catholic School system and their supporting parishes.
- Strategy 2: To develop a robust Development Office that is focused on increasing the financial stability of the schools through increased funding sources, enhanced community and alumni relationships, increased enrollment and frequent communications.
- Strategy 3: To review and recommend a fair and equitable pay and benefits structure for teachers and staff, for individuals and families, that is compared annually to that of area public schools, with the goal of maintaining a specific percentage of area public school pay and benefits.
- Strategy 4: To ensure financial reporting and transparency through the establishment of a Director of Financial Reporting position to focus on efficiencies and financial reporting for the three Saunders Catholic Schools.
- Strategy 5: To continue to explore programs that focus on helping our parishes to be financially sustainable while supporting Catholic education.