



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

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Preserving the Vision Newsletter #3

Dear Parents/Guardians,

An essential goal of *Preserving the Vision* is to strengthen the effectiveness of Catholic elementary schools by proactively introducing a new model of “multiple partnerships”. Each of these new partnerships is designed to strengthen an aspect of a Catholic elementary school’s life. Catholic academies directly benefit from knowledgeable and experienced lay leaders who will assist in its governance.

Why do we seek these new partnerships? The answer is simple. Through the initiatives associated with *Preserving the Vision*, and the inclusion of lay leadership on many levels, we are determined to effectively address the declines we have experienced in enrollment, the challenges that come from the changing demographics of our parish and school communities, and the strained economic conditions we all face.

Essential to the on-going success of *Preserving the Vision* are the following:

- ◆ Strengthening the Catholic identity and academic excellence of the schools and academies within the Diocese of Brooklyn with particular attention to the implementation of New York State Common Core Learning Standards.
- ◆ Increasing enrollment through effective marketing and outreach to the diverse communities within the Diocese.
- ◆ Attracting new sources of funding to increase the dollars available at the local and diocesan levels for operating revenue and tuition assistance.
- ◆ Transitioning all schools to academies by 2017 and ensuring that the academies are vibrant institutions providing an excellent Catholic education.
- ◆ Utilizing up-to-date technology to enhance instruction which will reflect 21st century learning skills, improve marketing efforts and facilitate effective communication with parents and between schools and the Diocese.
- ◆ Diocesan academies and schools will participate in the diocesan parish strategic planning process, Christ Jesus Our Hope, in order to strengthen the connections between schools, academies and the home parishes of their students.
- ◆ Diocesan academies and schools will give strong support to the new evangelization initiatives of the universal church in order to meet the challenges which today’s society and changing cultures are posing to the faith.

- ◆ Academy and school leadership, in partnership with the Superintendent of Schools ~ Catholic School Support Services, will vigorously participate in political advocacy with state and local officials in order to bring all possible benefits to the Catholic educational community of the Diocese.
- ◆ Academy and school leadership will collaborate with Catholic high school principals and Board members, as well as with colleagues in higher education, in order to ensure quality Catholic education in the P-16 continuum.
- ◆ All school buildings and the learning environments therein will meet the safety needs of students and staff.
- ◆ The stability of the infra-structure of school buildings within the diocese will be diligently maintained. The successful implementation of this plan for the Catholic academies and schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn, *Preserving the Vision*, will enable them to accomplish these priorities.

Through the process of strategic planning associated with *Preserving the Vision*, we believe that:

- ◆ Schools and academies will have more resources at their disposal to ensure that more students will have access to Catholic education;
- ◆ Catholic schools and academies will be better positioned to meet the diverse needs of their students and parents;
- ◆ Thriving schools and academies will continue to enhance the resources needed to continue to offer programs of academic excellence.

The vision and mission for Catholic education remains a roadmap for excellence. Through the development of multiple partnerships, Catholic education will be positioned to meet the challenges we now face and to thrive for years to come.

Please find *Preserving the Vision* on the Diocesan Website for Catholic Education, www.dioceseofbrooklyn.org/schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Chadzutko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent