



Holy Rosary School
St. James Catholic School
St. John's School
St. Michael's Lakeside School
St. Rose School

Faith and knowledge together.

Progress Report: December 2011

We are settling in for winter after a long and beautiful fall. Students are busy practicing Christmas songs that reflect the true meaning of the season—Christ—one of the reasons families choose our Catholic schools. Concerts abound in December, and a full list of dates and times can be found on our website at www.duluthcatholicschools.org.

A video crew was in action at the Pastoral Center November 2, capturing students singing and sharing their thoughts about attending Catholic schools. Duluth Area Catholic School Board Chair Fr. Jim Bissonette, principals, parents, and alumni also voiced their feelings about Catholic school benefits. This video soon will be available on our website and will be used to spread the good news about what we offer.

School staff members are looking forward to a special in-service, called "Imagine," which will be held January 20 from 8:00-11:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church. Sr. Lisa Maurer, OSB, will lead staff in a time of reflection and rejuvenation of our Catholic faith. What a great way to prepare for the start of the second semester!

Progress is being made on first year objectives of our School System's strategic plan. The development committee is preparing a new case statement to educate people about the mission of Catholic schools and the responsibility we share to educate children in the faith. It outlines our values and vision for the next five years. The committee also is developing potential funding streams for Duluth Area Catholic Schools, including a major annual event and a permanent endowment. These efforts will complement ongoing support from area parishes and help keep our schools viable and affordable.

Another priority discussion is how to best configure our schools to meet the modern needs of families. A commission has drafted tools to help assess the health and viability of individual campuses and to gather input on how our School System should look in the future. The board is revising these tools prior to the February meeting.

Also in February, watch *The Northern Cross* for a 4-page Catholic Schools Week insert. It will feature alumni profiles, plus photos and articles showcasing Catholic schools in the Diocese of Duluth. Check out our new School System website and follow links to customized websites for individual schools. These coordinated sites provide valuable calendars and information for parents and prospective families.

The next regular school board meeting is February 2, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center. Visitors are welcome to attend.