



Faith and knowledge together.

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

Progress Report: October 2011

The new school year is off to a great start with excited students and teachers back in class, greeting each other daily with warm smiles and bright eyes. Fall colors surround us in a magnificent display that reflects God's glorious nature. Another display of His grace was apparent at our annual Duluth Area Catholic Schools Mass, celebrated Tuesday, September 27. It is inspiring to see students, teachers, parents, and friends from our five campuses join together and worship as one school community. Thank you to Bishop Paul Sirba and area pastors for concelebrating this Mass and demonstrating their support of Catholic school education.

Catholic schools throughout our diocese, including the Duluth area, are adopting a new tool this year to assess students and gear instruction toward individual needs. It is a computerized adaptive test called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), developed by Northwest Evaluation Association. Principals and teachers attended MAP training in August and seemed very impressed. Staff also received information on the new Roman Missal and met with colleagues at grade-level meetings to discuss curricula. Teachers expressed appreciation for this time together and opportunities to share insight and knowledge with each other.

The Duluth Area Catholic School System Strategic Plan for 2011-16 has been approved by Bishop Sirba, and a condensed version is posted on our website at www.duluthcatholicschools.org. The full plan and supporting documents are available upon request. The development, finance, and marketing and communications committees are working on first-year goals and reporting progress at their monthly meetings.

We express our appreciation to departing school board members Jim Perrault and Al Makynen for their time and service. Welcome Barbara Radke and Patrick Pfahl to the Duluth Area Catholic School Board.

Please check out our new System website and follow links to customized websites for individual schools. It is great to have these coordinated sites up and running with valuable calendars and information for parents and prospective families.

The next regular school board meeting is December 1, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center. Visitors are welcome to attend.