



## **Executive Summary of the Report of Findings**

Saint Rita's Catholic School, San Diego, CA



St. Rita's Catholic School (SRS) is dedicated to continuing the accreditation cycle, rooted in the three pillars of the Standards of Excellence (SE) protocol set forth by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA): Catholic identity, academic excellence, and continuous improvement. In following best practices outlined by the National Standards and Benchmark for Catholic Schools (NSBECS) –the framework that guides the SE protocol—SRS will be prioritizing the following initiatives (in no particular order) as key strategies to obtain their self-selected domain-specific goals:

### **Mission & Catholic Identity**

- Improve Catholic formation of students and staff by integrating new Loyola Press Religion program offerings into a coordinated system of scheduled Art-Play-Pray events and facilities use.
- The governing body and the leadership team will continue to use the mission statement as the foundation and normative reference for all planning.

### **Governance and Leadership**

- Improve organization and management by developing systems that adapt, clarify, and enhance communication to improve the overall quality of school life and culture.
- Integrate the Student Information System and launch online registration on the school website.
- Utilize school-wide data to plan for continued and sustained academic excellence and growth
- Develop a comprehensive operational plan that will encompass all areas of school development to ensure sustainability.

### **Academic Excellence**

- Create regularly-scheduled time for teachers to collaborate in PLC's to plan and improve schoolwide curriculum through the use of data.
- Explore more options for regular and sustainable counseling services and SEL programs that are necessary to support student wellness.
- Develop a parent education program to support parents' involvement and understanding of a blended learning 21st Century Catholic school.

### **Operational Vitality**

- Delineate standards for employee positions that include responsibilities, expectations for professional development, qualifications, hiring compensation, accountability, succession planning, and retirement.
- Develop comprehensive financial plans that will ensure sustainable stewardship that supports the operational vitality in adherence to the mission and academic excellence.
- Develop a Strategic Planning Process to support leadership and staff for sustainability and school-wide improvement.

### **Visiting Team Summary & Final Thoughts:**

The accreditation WCEA-commissioner appointed visiting team is impressed with our time spent on the SRS campus. Under the strong, faithful and diligent oversight of the principal and her leadership team, the visiting team commended the fidelity of the accreditation process as it was implemented at SRS and the integrity in completing the self-study document. The visiting team witnessed Christ's presence on the St. Rita campus through positive interactions with staff, parents, and students. SRS is a warm and inviting community strengthened by the commitment and dedication of parents, staff, parishioners, and generous benefactors. The parent community are passionate ambassadors of the school and will play a vital role in actively evangelizing to the community the faithful mission of St. Rita's School. The school will be further strengthened by the development of comprehensive plans to strategically move forward the school's mission now and in the years to come. The St. Rita community embodies their core values of Love & Unity- Collaboration & Resilience, just as their patroness St. Rita exemplifies. St. Rita's School is a beacon of hope for the greater community and provides a faithful and academically excellent education for all students.

Overarchingly, Saint Rita's Catholic School had a successful accreditation visit – the WCEA visiting team has submitted the comprehensive Report of Findings to the San Diego Catholic Schools WCEA Commissioner, which will yield final status at the end of May 2024.

Thank you for your hospitality in San Diego - we appreciate the opportunity to visit your Catholic school community!

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