

*The mission of the Catholic School Commission
is to maintain quality Catholic education;
by combining resources and preserving
our solid traditions that honor our
past, present and future.*



September 2011

2 pages

A Message From Brother Steve...

To all the champions of Catholic education: our students, parents, and parishioners, welcome to the first issue of our Catholic School Commission Newsletter!

This newsletter is a collaborative venture of CPES School (Johnsburg and St. Cloud) and Divine Savior School (Kiel and New Holstein), and is an important method of communication on the work being done to ensure a strong and vital future for catholic education in our area!

*As we proceed forward with the task of increasing the levels of cooperation and collaboration between our two schools, there have been many questions as to why we are doing this... and there are several answers, but only one true reason: this venture is for the sole purpose of ensuring the future of Catholic Education in our region. The work of the Commission will seek to, not only provide for the existence of a Catholic School, but to ensure that we are offering the **highest quality Catholic Education** for our students now and for years to come.*

So, what can you do to help in the effort? First, talk to us... tell us your concerns, offer your questions, and enlighten us with your thoughts and ideas! Second, join in our work of the existing school committees, or even just by attending a public meeting of the Catholic School Commission. Third, and perhaps most important, continue to be an advocate of Catholic Education by prayers, support, and positive attitude about the great gift that a Catholic School offers our children!

Catholic Schools: FAITH EVERYDAY!

*Peace and all good,
Br. Steven Kropp, OFM Cap
Pastor, Saint Isidore Parish / CPES*

Sharing A Vision...

Monthly Newsletter of the Catholic School Commission

Communication

The goal of the communication committee is to provide as much information as possible on the progress of the Catholic School Commission. Along with this monthly newsletter, a new website is being designed to give you up-to-date information. In the meantime, please find all committee meeting minutes on the school websites at www.cpesonline.com or www.divinesaviorschool.org

Please Join Us! The next public meeting will be held at Holy Cross Church in Mt. Calvary on September 12th at 6:30 p.m. These are meetings when the committee chairpersons share their recommendations with the Core committee. each other and you. All are welcome!

Facilities

The committee has completed their evaluation of the Johnsburg, Kiel, New Holstein, and Saint Cloud campuses. The evaluations assessed the quantity and size of the rooms; physical condition of the building structure; as well as the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems.

The next task of the Facilities Committee is to work on bussing issues.

Education

The Education Committee has met twice this summer to look at the curriculum that is used in both schools. The committee found that they are in alignment for when they enter the common middle school. We recommend that the sacramental programs should remain as they are now in both schools, and with the Religious Education coordinators.

JOIN US! At the next
Core Committee Meeting,
Monday, September 12th
at Holy Cross Church in
Mt. Calvary, 6:30pm

"We Need To Be Jesus For One Another"

Fr. Loren Nys, SDS

Q & A

Will we be able to tour the New Holstein School? YES

Plans are in progress for a Tour, Open House and Listening Session to be scheduled in October.

When will a decision be made on combining the schools?

The goal is to have a recommendation ready in November. The final decision will be made by the (Arch)bishops in spring.

Who makes the final decision?

The commission only makes recommendations. Then the (Arch)bishops from each diocese make the final decisions.

Does Divine Savior have a band?

YES, lessons are available for 5th thru 8th graders during school hours. The cost is \$100 for the year plus the cost of the instrument.

How can I get my questions answered?

Our goal as a commission is to be transparent. We will answer all questions as best we can.

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Br. Steven Kropp srkropp@yahoo.com

Rev. Joseph Coerber sitbvm@tcei.com

Patrick Lofton loftonp@archmil.org

Dr. Joseph Bound jbound@gbdioec.org

Or contact any committee chairperson listed on the CPES and Divine Savior websites.

I am glad that my parents send me to a Catholic school because....

"I liked the All Schools Mass at the Resch Center" – Andie, Grade 3

"The teachers are awesome" – Casey, Grade 3



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Parish Support

Catholic Schools are an important ministry of our parishes, and will continue to be supported and subsidized as part of establishing a solid financial future: "We advocate a collaborative approach to Catholic school support. In this model, each parish ... will be affiliated with an elementary school, as either the sole sponsor of its parish school or as the co-sponsor of a multi-parish school. Restructuring our resources in this way would enable every parishioner who wants to send a Catholic child to a Catholic school to do so, paying tuition based on means. At the same time, schools must develop cooperative models for ministerial support, refuting the perception that schools take funds away from other parish ministries." (*Catholic Schools Strategic Education Plan*, Archdiocese of Milwaukee).

Governance

The following options are being reviewed for the two schools:

- what would happen if we did nothing? We would no longer be able to exist beyond 2-3 years.
- Combine upper grades (5-8 or 6-8) as a separate school each having a "school board" (3 in total);
- Combine upper grades (5-8 or 6-8) as a separate school with a "school board" for DS and CPES, these school boards would make up a combined "school board" for the middle school;
- Combine upper grades (5-8 or 6-8) with K4-8 at DS and K4-4 or 5 at CPES with support for students to DS for the upper grades;
- Combine as one school with one "school board" (expected to be three locations);
- One new school in one central location with one school board.

Questions are being compiled from the collaboration committees to determine how each scenario will affect the long term goals of both schools.

Finance

Currently we are working on a preliminary budget. We evaluated how each system collected from the parishes, fundraisers, and donations. With the help from dioceses personnel we have started to create a new more balanced way that revenue can be collected which reflects parish membership, number of eligible students, and parish revenue. At this stage we are still collecting all the necessary data to finish this formula.

Additional help is needed especially from the CPES community to help maintain a balanced workload among members. Even if it is on a part time basis and can fill in when possible. Please contact Kevin Ditter at kjditter@gmail.com

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me"

Matthew 19:14