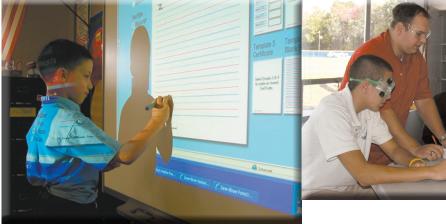


## **Purpose and Vision**





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# Purpose and Vision FOR Catholic School Education

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford welcome students of all faiths, ethnic groups and socio-economic backgrounds.

The fundamental purpose of Catholic schools is to:

- Provide a safe, nurturing and secure environment in which students encounter the living God, who in Jesus Christ, reveals His transforming love and truth;
- Partner with parents to support students in their learning and in their search for knowledge, meaning, and truth;
- Create a Catholic climate that contributes to the formation of students as active participants in the parish community;
- Foster a culture of educational excellence through critical thinking skills, innovative and rigorous curriculum standards, a global perspective, and an emphasis on moral education, community, and service;
- Promote life-long learning that advances the development of the whole person mind, body, and soul; and
- Graduate students prepared to become **productive**, **virtuous citizens and church leaders** who will fashion a more humane and just world.

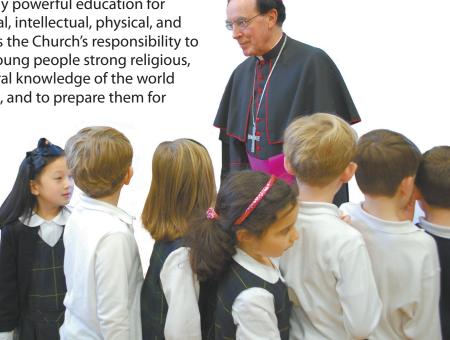
www.catholicschoolshartford.org

### Message from the Archbishop of Hartford

We look ahead to the year 2020 with clear and purposeful vision as we create 20†20 Vision: An Eye on Our Future. I am profoundly grateful to all those who make this ministry possible here in the Archdiocese. Our Catholic schools work because they function like families; each person is a valued contributing member of the school community. Priests, parents/quardians, school administrators, teachers, parishioners, volunteers, alumni, and our gracious and generous benefactors work together to educate the whole child.

Research has proven that Catholic schools provide a uniquely powerful education for the child's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social growth. It is the Church's responsibility to cultivate in our young people strong religious, spiritual, and moral knowledge of the world in which they live, and to prepare them for

what is to come. Catholic schools provide rigorous academic programs that make the future for our students all the more promising, and they do so in the



"I am profoundly grateful to all those who make this ministry possible here in the Archdiocese."

The Most Rev. Henry J. Mansell, D.D.

context of addressing the entirety of the human person. Without spiritual development all education is fundamentally flawed.

Collectively and collaboratively we move forward in this ministerial plan that outlines our understanding of Catholic schools as mission driven, program effective, well managed, and responsibly governed. I encourage the Superintendent's Office, the Archdiocesan School Board, and local leadership teams continually to review the progress of this ministerial plan against the standards and benchmarks set forth in this document. Keep at the forefront ongoing conversations that may require changes to this ministerial plan for the betterment of Catholic school education.

Together, we will do everything possible to make our Catholic schools viable choices, bridging faith and knowledge, for all families that choose an academically excellent, Catholic school education for their children. Together, we will empower our Catholic schools to offer an education that will prepare our students for college and beyond – an education for a lifetime.





## Message from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Our 20†20 Vision: An Eye on Our Future calls for a precise plan for education developed to set our students on a track for success that supports college and career readiness, and the formation of a moral compass imbued with Gospel values. The 20†20 vision will perpetuate the mission of Catholic education by creating new paradigms of multiple partnerships and engaging these new relationships in meaningful discussion based on agility and adaptability, initiative and entrepreneurialism, curiosity and imagination, and collaboration and leadership.

An Eye on Our Future ensures that educators are well prepared in the Catholic intellectual tradition and knowledgeable in subject content in order to deliver truths to our students. Catholic school leadership teams and educators are called to be in partnership with parents/quardians to ensure that our students are provided with rigorous academic programs that integrate faith, culture, life, morality, and acts in service of social justice. Those entrusted to the viability of Catholic schooling must be well prepared to address the challenges and opportunities that make this educational ministry truly the heart of the Catholic Church.

Within this ministerial plan are highlights of what we learned from *Common Threads* (2008) that have laid the foundation for our network of Catholic schools and the Office of Catholic Schools to achieve a bright future. The enduring understandings are derived from the Educational Forum (2012); they summarize core ideas that will provide lasting value and provide life-long learning while maintaining the Catholic culture of our schools. The standards and benchmarks reflect and link the work

"It is clear that when we create a vision and formulate a clear and workable ministerial plan, the Catholic school transforms."

Dale R. Hoyt, Ed.D.

begun in *Common Threads* with *20†20 Vision*. They provide direction to those that serve our schools, and are supported through various services by the Office of Catholic Schools and other agencies in order to chart a hope-filled future for Catholic school education in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

20†20 Vision: An Eye on Our Future brings to life four critical domains that have been tested and supported by relevant literature and Church documents: Mission Formation and Evangelization, Leadership and Governance, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Operational Vitality. It is clear that when we create a vision and formulate a clear and workable ministerial plan, the Catholic school transforms. 20†20 Vision: An Eye on Our Future is the vehicle for transforming our schools from being good to great, and from quality to excellence. By making 20†20 Vision: An Eye on Our Future a lived reality, the leadership teams and the school communities can make better decisions, increase energy, improve satisfaction by the stakeholders, secure a competitive advantage, market success, offer better solutions, and fulfill the educational mission of the Catholic Church.

And so we pray for our educational ministry as we proceed forward ... Lord Jesus, you are the author of all life. You value your people from the moment we are conceived and beyond the moment we die. Guard and protect our students. Help us to be a people who respect and foster the dignity of life, and to be the



Superintendent Dale R. Hoyt, Ed.D., with students from various Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Hartford.

people of God who live under the law of love and justice. Help us, Lord Jesus, to be willing and able to support our Catholic school families and to educate our students for a lifetime in a way pleasing to you. Give us the fortitude to withstand the spirit of the age, and the gentleness to help each student come into their own unique and personal relationship with you. Help all leaders and educators to be a true reflection of Christ and His church. May the God who handed us wisdom through the book of Proverbs bless our 20†20 vision in providing young people with a Catholic school education - **An Education for a Lifetime**.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Mr. Alali A. Hazt

### **Educational Forum 2012**



Left to right: Rev. Joseph O'Keefe, Brother John Paige, Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, Sr. Dale McDonald and Mary Jane Krebbs.



Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Peter A. Rosazza enjoys the Educational Forum presentations.

We as a community of educators and invested constituents have been given the opportunity to create the future we want for our Catholic schools. On October 3, 2012, constituents representing every corner of the Archdiocese of Hartford gathered on the momentous occasion of the Educational Forum to do just that. Hundreds from across the Archdiocese united at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, Connecticut to learn from experts in the field of education who spoke on the four foundational areas that make up the domains upon which we have created standards and benchmarks. These will navigate us toward the year 2020 with a clear vision of success, fortitude, and hope.

In December 2011, Dr. Dale R. Hoyt,
Superintendent of the Catholic Schools,
convened a committee of educators from
across the Archdiocese to plan and prepare
for the Educational Forum. He enlisted the
expertise and services of Sr. Dale McDonald,
PBVM, Ph.D., Director of Public Policy and
Educational Research for the National
Catholic Educational Association, to facilitate
this effort. A thorough needs assessment
was conducted via various surveys to
every constituent group. Feedback was
elicited from pastors, administrators,
teachers, parents, and alumni to determine
our success in accomplishing goals from

"It is now the work of our schools with the support and services of the Office of Catholic Schools to transform this ministerial plan into a living document."

Dale R. Hoyt, Ed.D.

Common Threads and to identify areas where we excel and areas where further growth is warranted. National research was garnered from the National Catholic Educational Association, the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness at the School of Education, Loyola University Chicago, and in partnership with the Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education at the Lynch School of Education, Boston College. With this data, the committee identified four primary domains upon which to build our future: Mission Formation and Evangelization, Leadership and Governance, Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Operational Vitality.

The following national and renowned research practitioners representing each domain published whitepapers, presented, and led discussions at the Educational Forum:

### Mission Formation and Evangelization:

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH, D.Min., Director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, University of Dayton;

### **Excellence in Teaching and Learning:**

Mary Jane Krebbs, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, St. John's University School of Education;

### Governance and Leadership:

Rev. Joseph O'Keefe, S.J., Ed. D., Former Dean of Boston College Lynch School of Education;

### **Operational Vitality:**

Brother John Paige, C.S.C., Ph.D., President, Holy Cross College, South Bend, IN.

The Educational Forum provided opportunities for all constituents to participate in large and small group discussions to closely examine the proposed standards and benchmarks. Participants were challenged to stretch their thinking and boundaries to effectively envision Catholic schools in the Archdiocese as thriving, 21st century environments that create cultures of excellence, promote life-long learners, and "graduate students prepared to become productive, virtuous citizens and church leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world" (*Purpose and Vision for Catholic School Education, 2011*).

It is now the work of our schools with the support and services of the Office of Catholic Schools to transform this ministerial plan into a living document. "We will gather to embrace our destiny and effect change using our new Purpose and Vision Statement and Archdiocesan Standards and Benchmarks as the foundation upon which we will build action steps and define effective characteristics for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford. We officially commence 20†20 Vision: An Eye on Our Future" (Dale R. Hoyt, Ed.D., 2012).

# Mission Formation and Evangelization



# What we learned...

"... that the Catholic identity of our schools is richly expressed through the living example and actions of the members of the school community."

Common Threads, 2008

In *Common Threads* the significant and consistent effect of Catholic identity was our focused effort to maintain strong Catholic schools.

We have expanded that effort in *Vision 2020: An Eye on Our Future* to more broadly include the history of Catholic education, an understanding of church writings, the Catholic intellectual tradition, the understanding of scripture, adult faith formation, and the proclaiming of Gospel values to our global communities.

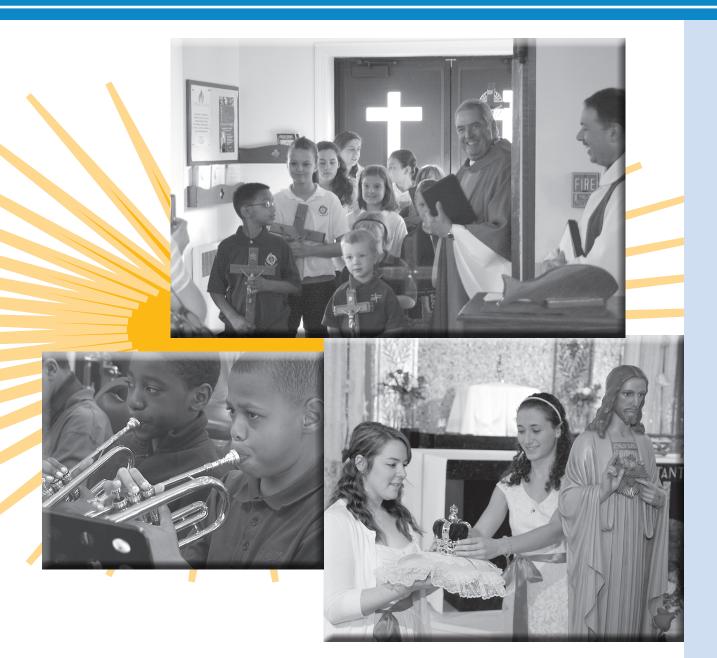
More than ever it is incumbent on Catholic educators to provide pathways for students and their families to live and learn in relationship with Jesus – as disciples of Jesus.

notes	

# As a result of our journey with *Common Threads*, we learned:

- That the vocation of a Catholic educator is to create portals for inviting students and their families into a deeper appreciation and understanding of lifelong formation for living as disciples of Jesus.
- That new methodologies for communicating the wisdom of the Church's teaching within a digital culture are required.
- That we model faith in action through Christian social service commitments.
- That there is a need to involve all clergy in the ministry of Catholic schools.
- That the witness of adults actively continuing their own formation shows children and youth that growth in faith is lifelong and does not end upon reaching adulthood.
- That the principles of Catholic social teaching provide students with a moral framework in which to be productive, global citizens.

# **Mission Formation and Evangelization**



# Enduring understandings

"Our Archdiocesan
Catholic school
communities are
called to re-inspire,
to stir into flame
afresh, educational
and spiritual energy
to reinvigorate a new
perspective for Catholic
Education in the
21st century."

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MHSH, D.Min., 2012 The mission statement is the foundation for the schools' educational programs and strategic planning.

Excellent Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford must foster a deep understanding of the school's mission and communicate it to all constituents.

notes	

### We recognize that the enduring understandings to carry over into our schools' ministerial plans must include the following:

- The Catholic identity and culture of the school are centered on Christ who is the heart of the mission.
- Leadership, faculty, and governance teams accept that the Catholic school is a center of evangelization and, therefore, provide opportunities for families to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The clergy is actively involved in the life of the Catholic school.
- A unified school culture is created and welcomes a community of diverse backgrounds.
- Support of and appreciation for the role of laity as called and gifted within the Catholic school community.
- A Catholic climate contributes to the formation of students as active participants in the parish community and the global society.

# Mission Formation and Evangelization



### **Standard 1**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
is guided and driven by
a clearly communicated
mission that is consistent
with the Archdiocese's
Purpose and Vision for
Catholic School Education.

### **Standard 2**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
understands itself as a
center of evangelization
and catechesis for
teachers, students, and
their families.

### **Benchmarks:**

- 1.1 The leader/leadership team and the local school board ensure that the mission statement includes the commitment to Catholic identity.
- 1.2 All constituents know, understand, and advance the mission of the school.
- 1.3 The local school board and the leader/leadership team use the mission statement as the foundation and normative reference for all planning.

- 2.1 The leadership team, faculty, and local school board educate the Catholic community to an awareness that Catholic schools are integral to the transmission of the faith and the evangelizing mission of the Church and local parish.
- 2.2 The leadership and faculty engage in ongoing formation in faith, the Catholic intellectual tradition, and teachings of the Church in order to advance the mission of the school more effectively.
- 2.3 The leader/leadership team and faculty assist parents and guardians in their role as the primary educators of their children in faith.
- 2.4 The leader/leadership team provides opportunities for parents to grow in the knowledge and practice of the faith.

# Mission Formation and Evangelization



### **Standard 3**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
provides opportunities for
faith formation and action
in service of social justice.

notes

- 3.1 Every administrator, faculty, and staff member visibly supports the faith life of the school community.
- 3.2 Every student is offered timely and regular opportunities to learn about and experience the nature and importance of personal and communal prayer, the Eucharist, liturgy, age-appropriate retreats, and other spiritual experiences.
- 3.3 Every student participates in Christian service programs to promote social justice.
- 3.4 All adults in the school community are invited to participate in Christian service programs to promote social justice.

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# What we learned...

"...that the priests,
school leaders, board
members and all
who actively support
Catholic schools have a
great opportunity to be
collaborative agents for
change in advancing
the mission of Catholic
schools."

Common Threads, 2008

**Common Threads** directed us to be collaborative in the governance of our schools.

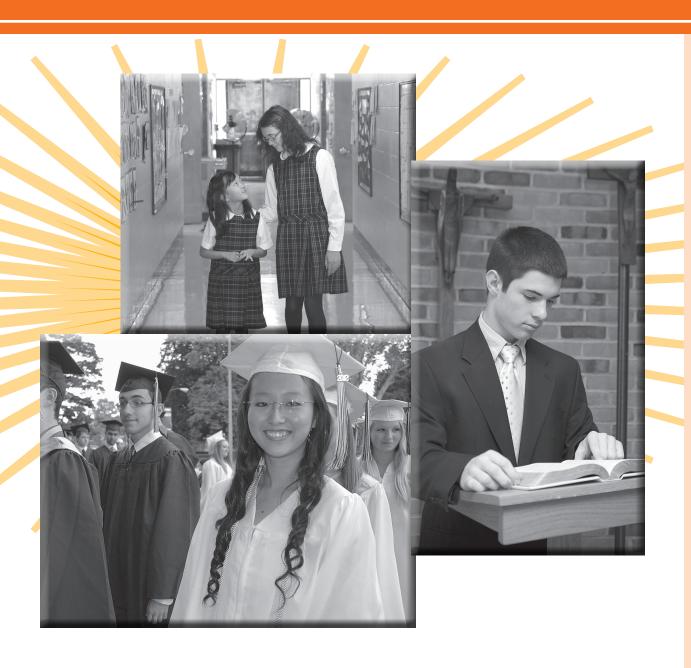
Working collaboratively, leadership teams and school boards create an organizational structure that reflects the school's mission, ensures it's effective and efficient, and provides an excellent academic program.

As the leader works collaboratively with the school board, it is incumbent that both have an understanding of the history and traditions of the faith to pass on to future generations; it is necessary to understand global citizenry as an opportunity to evangelize the faith.

otes	

# As a result of our journey with *Common Threads,* we learned:

- That our Catholic schools must be attractive, accessible, safe, and favorable for families within the spectrum of educational choices available.
- That we make sound decisions based on supportive data with regard to our achievement.
- That the role of the laity has been significant in Catholic education.
- That the role of committee-driven school boards, representing various constituency groups, is vital to the success of the school.
- That the leadership and governance establishes regular reviews of policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the mission of the school and the Archdiocese of Hartford Handbook of Policies and Procedures for Catholic Schools.



# Enduring understandings

"... the growth and development of school boards are among the most important graces that have emerged from Vatican II... In a spirit of collegiality with the members of the board... they can ensure that the Catholic school will achieve its noble mission."

Rev. Joseph O'Keefe, S.J. Ed.D., 2012

We are mindful of the research on Catholic school leadership and governance that must be incorporated into best practices that will maintain and sustain viability.

notes		

# We recognize that the enduring understandings we carry forward into our ministerial plans must include the following:

- ❖ A general understanding and integration of the themes of the Second Vatican Council (appreciation of scripture, the role of the Holy Spirit, dialogue with non-Christians, deepening of ecumenism, the sense of social justice, the important role for laity, and collegiality) must be the foundation for best practices in leadership and governance.
- The collaborative partnership between administration and school board will affect the mission of Catholic education and the success of the Catholic school.
- Data analysis and evidence-based research must inform programming and professional development decisions to shape successful schools.
- Profiles of graduates should be used to ensure that students are prepared to become productive, virtuous citizens and church leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world.
- Change is inevitable in a growth model and leaders must be "empathetic and collaborative while being resolute and courageous." (O'Keefe, Educational Forum, 2012)
- Leadership teams receive appropriate education and formation to be fully effective.







### Standard 4

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
has a governance structure
that recognizes, respects,
and collaborates with the
appropriate and legitimate
authorities.

### **Standard 5**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
has a local school board
that exercises responsible
decision making in
collaboration with the
canonical administrator
and the school's leadership
team for the development
and oversight of the
school's fidelity to mission,
standards of excellence,
and operational vitality.

### **Benchmarks:**

- 4.1 The local school board, in accordance with its constitution and by-laws, maintains a constructive and beneficial relationship with the school leader/leadership team marked by mutual trust, close cooperation, and continuing dialogue.
- 4.2 The local school board, representing the diversity of stakeholders, functions according to its approved constitution and by-laws.
- 4.3 The local school board, in accordance with its constitutions and by-laws, maintains a relationship with the canonical administrator (Archbishop or his designee, pastor, or sponsoring religious congregation) that is marked by shared responsibility and participatory decision making that respects the canonical administrator's legitimate authority.

- 5.1 The local school board systematizes the policies of the school's operations to ensure fidelity to mission, continuity, and sustainability through leadership successions.
- 5.2 The local school board engages in formation and ongoing training and self-evaluation for itself and the leadership team to ensure the faithful execution of their respective responsibilities.

notes			

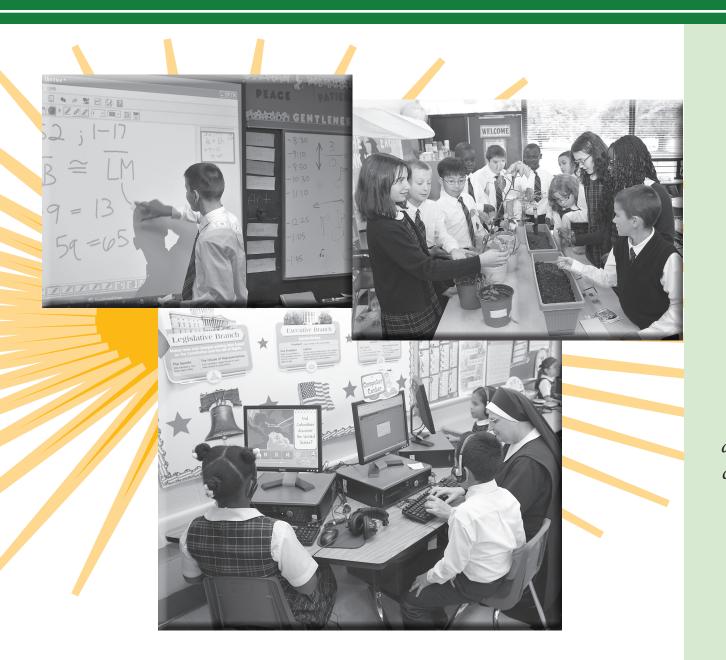


### **Standard 6**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
has a qualified school
leader/leadership team
responsible for realizing
and implementing the
school's mission and vision
guided by a strategic plan.

- 6.1 The leader/leadership team articulates a clear mission and vision for the school and engages the school community to ensure a school culture that embodies the mission and vision.
- 6.2 The leader/leadership team meets national, state, and/or archdiocesan requirements for school leadership preparation and licensing to serve as the faith and instructional leader(s) of the school.
- 6.3 The leader/leadership team works in collaboration with the local school board to provide an infrastructure of programs and services that ensures the operational vitality of the school.
- 6.4 The leader/leadership team establishes and supports networks of collaboration at all levels within the school community to advance excellence.
- 6.5 The leader/leadership team, in collaboration with the local school board, assumes responsibility for communicating new initiatives and changes to school programs to all constituents.

notes	



# What we learned...

"... that the unique value of a Catholic education stems from a program of studies integrating Catholic faith formation with a curriculum that prepares students for academic excellence and challenges them to reach their full potential."

Common Threads, 2008

Common Threads connected faith formation and curriculum; raised the bar for quality Catholic education; provided current and essential professional development; created beginning partnerships with Catholic higher education; recruited teachers who were trained in best practices and certified.

With 2020 in view, we frame our next response on qualitative and quantitative assessment of teaching and learning, using scientifically-based best practices, and an innovative and rigorous standards-based curriculum that fosters excellence in critical thinking, 21st century literacies, and global perspective with an emphasis on moral education and service learning.

notes	

# As a result of our journey with *Common Threads*, we learned:

- That an integrated curriculum unites the Archdiocesan standards-based curricula, the teaching/learning process, and the commitment for Catholic school educators to intentionally integrate Catholic identity and Catholic intellectual traditions across all content areas.
- That students in our classrooms are part of a digital generation; therefore, we must embrace best practices that include the integration of 21st century literacies and technologies.
- That assessment is both formative and summative and invites all students to prove the depth of their understanding in multiple ways. These assessments are used to inform parents/guardians about their child's academic progress.
- That administrators and teachers must be innovative and support relevant and rigorous instructional programs that meet or exceed current standards and the needs of students.
- That teachers must be encouraged to move beyond past practices and employ vibrant, diversified, and technologyembedded assessment protocols and instructional strategies that support and challenge students.
- That leadership must understand the requirements of a Common Core/21st century classroom and be current on how to supervise and empower teachers.



# Enduring understandings

"We must pay our students the respect of high expectations, which include the opportunities we give them to prove to us and to themselves that they have reached and exceeded those expectations! It is the quality of the assessment that determines the limits the students' minds will be stretched. It is the format and the delivery... that will provide an opportunity for all students with varying learning styles to excel."

Mary Jane Krebbs, Ph.D., 2012

On the journey to 2020, teachers are encouraged to "imagine" various, research-based instructional strategies that support 21st century fluencies that build a foundation of success for all students. Supporting this effort is the opportunity and responsibility for teachers to integrate Catholic values, beliefs, and teachings, and to synthesize culture, faith, and life.

notes		

# We recognize that the enduring understandings that are carried over into our schools' ministerial plans must include the following:

- Catholic identity and Catholic intellectual traditions are infused into every aspect of the curriculum, culture, and practices of the school experience.
- The approved religion curriculum is the basis for instructional planning in all religion classes; students participate in the sacramental life of the Church.
- Instruction must be standards-based, research driven, and rigorous, so that every student has the opportunities to master the material and achieve.
- Fluency of skills is the desired outcome. Strategies that sort and use skills for problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication must be utilized for students to become college and career ready.
- Students must be given opportunities to develop a repertoire of information from which to draw and make connections for learning.
- Vertical planning and consistent professional development on best practices is vital to the effectiveness of teaching.
- Assessment is paramount to ensure understanding and a continuum of learning.
- Religious knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the students are included in formative and summative evaluation procedures.
- Digital learning and technology-enhanced activities contribute to the quality of the school's instructional programs.



### **Standard 7**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford

has a qualified president/principal and a leadership team empowered to guide instructional practices and curricular programs and provide opportunities aligned with the mission to enrich the academic program and support the development of student and family life.

- 7.1 The leader/leadership team takes responsibility for the development and oversight of personnel, including recruitment, professional and spiritual formation, professional growth, community building, and formal assessment of faculty and staff, in compliance with archdiocesan policies and/or religious congregation.
- 7.2 The leader/leadership team directs the development and continuous improvement of curriculum and instruction and utilizes school-wide data to plan for continued and sustained academic excellence and growth.
- 7.3 Co-curricular, extracurricular, and service activities provide opportunities outside of the classroom for students to further identify and develop their gifts and talents and to enhance their creative, aesthetic, social/emotional, physical, and spiritual capabilities.
- 7.4 School-wide programs for families provide opportunities for them to partner with school leaders, faculty, and other parents to enhance the educational experiences for the school community.
- 7.5 Wellness programs, behavior-management programs, and ancillary services provide the necessary support for students to successfully complete the school program.

notes			



### **Standard 8**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
has a clearly articulated,
rigorous college and
career-ready academic
curriculum aligned with
relevant standards,
21st century fluencies,
and Gospel values,
implemented through
instructional best
practices, and enhanced
by the effective use of
technology.

- 8.1 Curriculum and instruction for 21st century learning provide students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills to become creative, reflective, literate, critical, and moral evaluators, problem solvers, decision makers, and socially responsible global citizens.
- 8.2 The curriculum adheres to appropriate, delineated standards and is vertically aligned to ensure that every student successfully completes a rigorous and coherent sequence of academic courses based on standards and rooted in Catholic values.
- 8.3 The faculty and professional support staff meet archdiocesan, state, and/or national requirements for academic preparation and licensing to ensure their capacity to provide effective curriculum and instruction.
- 8.4 Classroom instruction is designed to engage and motivate all students, addressing the diverse needs and capabilities of each student and accommodating students with special needs as fully as possible.
- 8.5 Faculty collaborate in professional learning communities to develop, implement, and continuously improve the effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction to achieve high levels of student achievement.
- 8.6 Faculty and staff engage in high quality professional development, including religious formation and are accountable for implementation that supports student learning.

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### **Standard 9**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
provides a rigorous academic
program for religious
studies and catechesis in the
Catholic faith, set within a
total academic curriculum
that integrates faith, culture,
diversity, and respect for life.

### **Standard 10**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
uses school-wide
assessment methods and
practices to document
students learning and
program effectiveness, to
make student performances
transparent, and to
inform the continuous
review of curriculum
and the improvement of
instructional practices.

### **Benchmarks:**

- 9.1 Religion classes are an integral part of the academic program in the assignment of teachers, amount of class time, and the selection of texts and other curricular materials.
- 9.2 Faculty who teach religion meet archdiocesan requirements for academic and catechetical preparation and certification to provide an effective religion curriculum and instruction.
- 9.3 Religious education curriculum and instruction meets the religious education requirements and standards of the Archdiocese.

- 10.1 Faculty use a variety of curriculum-based assessments aligned with learning outcomes and instructional practices to assess student learning, including formative, summative, authentic performance, and student self-assessment.
- 10.2 School-wide and individual student data, generated by a variety of tools, are used to monitor, review, and evaluate the curriculum and co-curricular programs; to plan for continued and sustained student growth; and to monitor and assess faculty performance.
- 10.3 Criteria used to evaluate student work and the reporting mechanisms are valid, consistent, transparent, and justly administered.

## **Operational Vitality**



# What we learned...

"...that planning for the long-term vitality and viability of Catholic schools is the most significant challenge facing administrators and school boards."

Common Threads, 2008

Common Threads expanded advancement efforts to include long-term planning for viability and vitality through a marketing plan, marketing resources, enhanced role for leadership, and well-developed strategic plans.

With the Educational Forum, ministerial direction was broadened to include a variety of constituents, effective school foundational documents, an operational plan to support the strategic plan, and professional development directed toward administrators, faculty, and staff.

otes	

# As a result of our journey with Common Threads, we learned:

- That actively seeking endowments, grants, donations, and professionally managing funds is necessary for viability.
- That continued and consistent legislative pressure for policies that benefit families paying private school tuition (tax credits, textbooks, and other services) is a just and equitable right of our students and families.
- That establishing partnerships with businesses promotes positive and productive community relations and financial support.
- That refining enrollment management and marketing plans maximize enrollment.
- That there must be sufficient financial resources to ensure that the school can accomplish its mission.
- That school business practices must be consistent with best practices.
- That strategic planning must address all aspects of the school's operation with measureable outcomes.

# **Operational Vitality**



# Enduring understandings

"Both research and experience suggest that operational vitality and, indeed, long-term viability are enhanced by clarity of roles and responsibilities... collaborative efforts... clearly written school foundational documents... strategic long-range plans... operational plans... and professional development."

Br. John R. Paige CSC, Ph.D., 2012

Successful Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford that exhibit vitality and viability have common critical elements that include clarity of roles and responsibilities, collaboration, and active involvement in long-range strategic planning with supporting operational plans.

notes		

# We recognize the following enduring understandings that must be integrated and propagated in all schools:

- Well-defined roles and responsibilities of leadership and governance and other vital constituencies of a school are critical components for maintaining operational vitality.
- There is no success without collaboration, shared responsibility, and shared leadership that drives long-range forecasting.
- A well-developed strategic plan is necessary for identifying new financial resources, improving and ensuring safe facilities, and enhancing technology and academic programs.
- Operational planning encompasses facets of enrollment, finances, marketing, communication, technology, and student life.
- Appropriate professional development is critical to effectively carry out strategic and operational plans.
- The Archdiocesan Purpose and Vision Statement for Catholic Schools and the school's mission are the basis upon which a comprehensive strategic plan is designed with focus on continuous improvement.
- The teacher-pupil ratio is cost effective and affordable to maintain.

## **Operational Vitality**





### Standard 11

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
collaboratively, with the
local school board and
leader/leadership team,
generates a strategic plan
encompassing all aspects
of school operations.

### Standard 12

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
collaboratively, with the
local school board and
leader/leadership team,
develops a comprehensive
financial plan and ensures
that it is implemented
using current and effective
business practices as a
means of providing good
stewardship of resources.

### **Benchmarks:**

11.1 The local school board, in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools and/or sponsoring religious congregation, takes corrective action in a timely manner in the event of a deviation from the plan.

- 12.1 The local school board and leadership team publishes and disseminates a financial report on the status of the school on an annual basis.
- 12.2 The school's facilities, equipment, and technology management plan include objectives to support the delivery of the educational program of the school and its accessibility for all students.
- 12.3 The school's purchasing and physical and technological improvements are aligned with the mission, strategic plan, and curricular goals, and consistent with good stewardship.


## **Operational Vitality**



### **Standard 13**

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
engages the broad
support of the entire
Catholic community in an
institutional advancement
program that is driven by a
compelling mission.





### Standard 14

An excellent
Catholic school in the
Archdiocese of Hartford
operates in accordance
with the published human
resource management
policies of the Archdiocese
of Hartford and/or
sponsoring religious
congregation.

### **Benchmarks:**

- 13.1 The communications/marketing plan requires the school leader/leadership team and staff to insure the implementation of contemporary, multiple information technologies to reach targeted audiences and to establish reliable and secure databases and accountability to stakeholders.
- 13.2 The enrollment management plan requires the local school board to review and the school leader/leadership team to supervise annual and continuous measurement and analysis of both enrollment and retention patterns and take proactive actions when necessary.
- 13.3 The development plan includes strategies to identify, grow, and maintain significant funding prospects.

- 14.1 Human resource policies delineate standards for all position descriptions, hiring practices, compensation, and benefits, as well as standards for professional development, accountability, succession planning, and retirement.
- 14.2 Human resource management observes appropriate and effective best practices.
- 14.3 Human resource management includes the provision of professional development opportunities for all positions in the school.

notes		

### **Educational Forum 2012 Committee Members**

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Superintendent of Catholic School Archdiocese of Hartford

Patricia Teufel Driscoll, Co-Chair

Former Archdiocesan School Board Member Archdiocese of Hartford Sr. Dale McDonald, P.B.V.M., Ph.D. Facilitator

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Valerie Mara, Co-Chair

Director of Curriculum Design Archdiocese of Hartford

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Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools Archdiocese of Hartford

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Director of School Advancement Archdiocese of Hartford

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Principal St. Anthony School Bristol

Patricia O'Neil Tiezzi

Principal St. Dominic School Southington "We will gather to
embrace our destiny
and effect change
using our new Purpose
and Vision Statement
and Archdiocesan
Standards and
Benchmarks as the
foundation upon which
we will build..."

Dale R. Hoyt, Ed.D., 2012

Sources 20†20 Vision



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