

## INCARNATION SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S 10/3/2016 COMMISSION REPORT

*Cheryl Reichel, Principal*

**OVERVIEW OF REPORT:** *Christian Contemplation and Theology of the Body; Outdoor Classroom Update; School Statistics; Futures Planning Update; Vision, Mission, Belief Statements; Safety Plan Update*

### CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATION AND THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski will be returning to continue the pilot program centering on **Christian Contemplation** for Incarnation's School community as well as the PREP program during November, and more news about our focus on contemplation and digital discipleship will be coming! Sr. Angela Ann is a dynamic speaker who graciously brought the concept of Digital Disciples of Jesus to our school last year. She has offered the opportunity for Incarnation to be a pilot school for a two year program that will officially begin in August 2017, and we are currently involved with collecting data to determine the effectiveness of children and contemplative prayer. The hypothesis is that there will be less anger, less stress, less "bullying" in a school that grounds its philosophy in contemplation.

In addition, the Archdiocese has initiated the **Theology of the Body** program through the work of Fr. Thomas Wray, Archdiocesan Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC), and our school is piloting this program in grade four with Jennifer Scheimann (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) as the representative and coordinator for our parish school. *Teachers and Administrators are delighted to have both of these programs as a part of the OCSAA goals (Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association) that are being developed. A timeline for implementation of the OCSAA goals will begin in September 2017 and will continue through 2021.* When God is our focus and love is our promise, the academics and the logistics of this big school will fall into place and into the loving arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### OUTDOOR CLASSROOM UPDATE

The Outdoor Classroom is being scheduled for classes, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the Merit Society will begin to visit classes to present information about walking and praying activities for the labyrinth. Thanks to the Crusader Club, the PTO, Mrs. Maria Schertler (Architect), and to Mrs. Ellen Miller (Development & Marketing Director) for overseeing the financing and the development of this beautiful parish space. The final spiritual aspect of the outdoor classroom will be the addition of the Stations of the Cross. At this time, we are discussing using replicas of the outdoor Stations of the Cross from Bergamo in Beaver Creek. School and PREP classes are looking forward to utilizing this prayerful space. Funding for the Stations will continue to come from the *Crusader Club members*, who also funded the Outdoor Classroom.

### SCHOOL STATISTICS AND DATA

Folders with pertinent information about enrollment history that helps the school plan for the future will be shared with the Education Commission, Parish Council, and the Finance Committee. Important additions added to this update are the retention numbers of students who enter our PreSchool program.

### SCHOOL FUTURES PLANNING UPDATE

The School Futures Planning Committee began work in January, 2016, and continued to narrow the concentration of multiple goals that would move the school toward a positive future. At this time, the study narrowed the focus to three goals, and these are being reviewed by Fr. Stretch before being presented during these meetings. They have been reviewed and unanimously agreed upon by the Committee. I thank the members of the Futures Planning Committee for their time and excellent work. They are listed below by their specific areas of study:

Advisory: Fr. Stretch Mierenfeld and Fr. Brian Phelps

Consultant: (Connors Group, Inc., and Aileron) Mary Connors

Facilities: John Bradley and Tom Nikolai

Governance: Jeff Dundon and Dennis Percy

Spiritual: Amy Doorley, Adam Miller and Carolyn Shockey

Human Resources: Cynthia Jecker and Carrie Naples

Academics/Curriculum: Erika Ellis and Dawn Lekan

Technology: Christy Pappert, Patti Woeste and Kevin Taylor

Marketing: Leah Coghlan, John Kreusch, Ellen Miller and Kim Shields

Finance/Budget: Terri Conroy and Steve Skerl

Additional information and data was provided by: Rob Beeler, Chuck Gulas

*New to the Advisory Team are Dick Russell (One Faith, One Hope, One Love Director) and Sylvia White (Education Commission). Their expertise will be valuable as we proceed with feasibility studies for each of the three goals.*

### VISION, MISSION, BELIEF STATEMENTS

As I stated last month, the Vision, Mission, and Belief Statements are mandated by the State of Ohio to be reviewed every five years, and it is not just because of the mandate that we follow this good practice. The Futures Committee and the School Faculty and Staff have reviewed these revised statements, and I ask that you read over and affirm these encompassing words for our school culture before they are finalized.

## **INCARNATION SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM**

Updated for Review, 10-3-2016

Each year, Mr. Mike Mancine, Safety Supervisor, Mrs. Terri Conroy, Virtus Administrator, Mrs. Leah Coghlan, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Ellen Miller, Development Director, and Deputy Gary Fulwiler, School Resource Officer (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office) work with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Centerville Police Department, and the Centerville Fire Department to be sure that we have the safety of our children and staff at the forefront. While we have always had background checks (in the 21 years that I have been principal) and the doors have always been secured (all locked except for the office entrance), additional safety features have arisen as needs also arose. The following will provide an overview of what has been completed since 2012, when we developed a School Safety Task Force:

### **HOW WE HAVE PREPARED:**

1. A *Safety Plan* through the State of Ohio has been in place since the school first opened in 1957, but that initial plan only prepared the school community for fires. For more than ten years, Incarnation and schools nationally have prepared for other emergencies, including, but certainly not limited to tornadoes and unwanted intruders.
2. The *Incarnation School Safety Plan* is reviewed and approved by the State of Ohio each year. Incarnation's Resource Office, Deputy Fulwiler, works closely with Mr. Mancine and the administration to create a safe-school environment with correct procedures in place.

### **WHAT ARE DOING:**

1. Through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Incarnation works with NaviGate Prepared School Systems, which provides our school and local police with safety information that is organized in a single location. Mr. Mancine, Mr. Rob Theewis, Plant Manager, Deputy Fulwiler, and Mrs. Miller were the key guides toward enacting this program for the safety of our school. With this system, the police (first responders) have ready access to visuals of our hallways and surrounding grounds. Visit their website at <http://www.navigateprepared.com> for more information.
2. Front Office personnel control the locked front door through a buzzer system, and if the visitor is not known, they may not allow entry. Closed circuit cameras are located in the front office to monitor the front door, the outside playground and outdoor classroom areas, parking lot, and internal hallways. All adult visitors must wear nametags to show they have checked in with office personnel, and volunteers must wear official nametags (the same as staff nametags) that indicate they have had background checks and are Virtus trained.
3. Teachers, Staff, and Substitute Teachers have had ALICE training (see official web site at <https://www.alicetraining.com>) so that they are better prepared to know what to do in an emergency.
4. The entire school community has practiced an evacuation procedure through the help of Deputy Fulwiler, and we have a partnership with the Centerville Parks System and Magsig Schools in the event of an emergency evacuation.
5. Maintenance Staff, Administrators, and Teachers always check outside doors to be sure they are locked.
6. Teachers discuss and practice with students the policies which include *not opening locked doors* for visitors coming from the outside. All doors have signs that indicate the only doors for entering the school are the front north doors near the office.