



Cathedral School Motto:

*Soaring to new heights together, with the Risen Christ.*

Cathedral School Theme 2018-19:

*"Start with compassion."*

Cathedral School Mission:

*Cathedral of the Risen Christ School's primary purpose is to assist in the formation of students who will ultimately possess strong religious values, academic integrity, individual responsibility, and a clear sense of citizenship.*

## 2017-2018 School Improvement Self-Assessment REPORT CARD

(see 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan for Full Details)

Spiritual Enhancement Objectives	Notes/Thoughts	Grade
Love Made Visible	We have a strong monthly Adoration program for students, and our weekly Eagle Adoration Hour has been a mixed bag. On one hand, we have just a few teachers taking part (about a half-dozen rotating the schedule), on the other hand our parents have responded and covered many hours.	B
Prayer Circle	Now a tradition. I'd love to see this directed more by staff (intentions, prayer, leadership, etc.)	A
Prayer Board	Also successful and also would love more staff involvement.	A
Enhancement of Soldier Program	With a new Head Boy program, a new training boot camp, and much buy-in from the boys we are rocking and rolling!	A+
Dignity Ambassador Development	Totally revamped approach that is based on small teams within the program. This was done because of the high volume of applicants and the talent of those applicants. Jury is still out on our system, but the Ambassadors are changing our school culture making it more student-centered.	A
Curricular Development Objectives	Notes/Thoughts	Grade
Theology of the Body & Safe Environment	We made a great hire with experience in this area (Alexis Johnson), continue our 3 by 3 approach of support, and parents have gotten onboard. Teachers still struggle making the topics conversational and relevant, but it's coming.	B
Eaglet Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom	Featured by <i>the Journal Star</i> , Register and Lincoln Community Foundation, we couldn't have asked for more from our Eaglets. A gem that is bursting at the seams with close to 70 placements, we have become a model for the community at large. We added an amazing teacher this year as well, Elizabeth Izquierdo, who brought new ideas and energy to our approach.	A+
Observe & Reflect Program	We continue to gather great ideas from neighboring schools and colleagues. I'm excited to see this approach adopted by other schools, and I also like that our staff is finding dynamic ways to use their self-selected professional development (like researching a new science lab!).	A
Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)	This one is floundering a bit. Teachers are not sending kids to this program as much as we'd like. Not sure what the disconnect is quite yet, but it allows us to look at it with fresh eyes and set new goals.	D
Use of Teach like a Champion	This has become embedded in our language and culture. It has also been instrumental in helping new teachers get on board. I (Mr. Ekeler) need to be more intentional with it, however.	B+
Continuous Teacher Observations	Another strong showing in 2017-18. This year has proven more challenging due to the 6 longterm leaves we are balancing.	C
WINGS & Dyslexia Team Consistency	I sincerely believe we have maxed out the capability we have with our current team (all of whom are teaching and balancing SpEd duties). We need a coordinator.	B
Wonders - Reading Series	Two great workshops, teachers working hard!	B
Community Building Objectives	Notes/Thoughts	Grade

<b>Wellness Program</b>	Big success in 2017-18, and it's carrying over to this year. I'd like to come back to this explicitly in 2019-20.	B
<b>Book Club</b>	Due to Fides et Ratio I did not host a parent book club last summer. Due to the incredible amount of long-term leaves I do not plan to take on the Arbinger Institute this school year. I am focused on maintenance!	N/A
<b>Eagle Encounter</b>	Great program that has had a deep impact on our kids and teachers.	A
<b>Building Aesthetic Objectives</b>	<b>Notes/Thoughts</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>Gym &amp; Exterior Speaker System</b>	This went very smoothly and it's been a great addition.	A+
<b>Classroom Carpeting</b>	Again, a process that is paying off in increments.	A
<b>Roof</b>	Fixed...but two persistent leaks. Ugh...	B-
<b>Basement Remodel</b>	Looking better, but a full overhaul would be tremendous.	C+
<b>Fundraising</b>	Exceeded all goals and records for our auction and GTL Day.	A+
<b>Alum List</b>	We have sputtered in our Development office due to a hire who was unable to meet goals, a Joy of Gospel grant submission not received, and the transition to a new hire. Lots in limbo...hoping for progress and a new grant in 2019! At this time we have no progress.	F
<b>Spring Fling</b>	Nice growth (and nicer weather!). Love the direction of this program.	A
<b>Other Objectives</b>	<b>Notes/Thoughts</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>Endowment</b>	The new Monsignor Tucker Endowment has eclipsed \$120,000, but much education remains. We also had the Easley family start an endowment that we hope grows quickly!	B
<b>The Scholarship Moment</b>	From \$3500 to \$20,000 in just three years, the Scholarship Moment has had a deep and far-reaching impact on CRC's neediest families. Still, need remains...	B
<b>Prosper Lincoln</b>	Mr. Ekeler continues his work with Prosper Lincoln, and the building of relationships has been a catalyst to Cathedral's growth and development. He has been selected to chair a committee of faith-based early childhood facilities.	A+

## 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan

*“Start with Compassion.”*

Spiritual Enhancement Objectives	Notes/Thoughts
<b>Piloting of “Family of Families”</b>	FoF is a baked-from-scratch program that my wife (Susan) and I are leading along with Sarah & Brandon Kauffman. The goal is to create small communities of families who pray together, as men/fathers, as women/mothers, and as children to build a community inside of a community. Those families then recruit others who build their own FoF group, exponentially spreading Christ’s love and community within the larger parish.
<b>Love Made Visible</b>	A specific goal for this program (which is a Holy Hour dedicated to our past, present and future staff) is that at least THREE people who do not typically take part in Adoration try our Eagle Adoration Hour.
<b>Retreat</b>	Our Cathedral School Family Association will pay for a retreat for any staff member interested. To date, in 2018-19, we have three teachers taking advantage of this awesome opportunity. I’d love to hit TEN.
<b>The Anatomy of Peace</b>	This series is not specifically Catholic, but is focused on how we create bonds of love with ourselves (self-compassion) and with those in our lives. There are 3 books in the series; our focus is “Anatomy of Peace.”
Curricular Development Objectives	Notes/Thoughts
<b>Math Curriculum</b>	Next up in our strategic approach to curriculum we will review our current math curriculum and look for gaps, overlaps, and resources. We will use diocesan, state and national standards, as well as outside experts who will team up with our teachers.
<b>Impact of Guided Practice Spectrum</b>	Cathedral has come a long way in terms of quality unit, lesson and sub-lesson understanding and implementation. We will drill down on the impact of the Guided Practice Spectrum, especially in regard to the “You do and I help” component.
<b>Eaglet Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom</b>	We will be learning from year one of our huge increase in enrollment (from 17 to 48 to 70!): tuition, staffing, lunch program, etc. All of this is under the microscope as we continue to build upon our new reputation as a leader in Early Childhood.
<b>Behavior Intervention Team (BIT)</b>	The goal is for teachers to efficiently and frequently submit students in need to our BIT Buddy program.
<b>Use of Teach like a Champion</b>	Now embedded in our daily language and classroom approach, we will continue to use this tremendous work.
<b>Continuous Teacher Observations</b>	An annual goal. The hope is to visit classrooms at least 150 times per year.
<b>WINGS &amp; Dyslexia Team Consistency – Coordinator?</b>	We have clearly reached our saturation point with Special Education instruction and coordination. The Cathedral School Family Association is game-planning an approach to fund a position to assist Mr. Ekeler as a Coordinator or SpEd and Behavior focused Assistant Principal.
<b>Grade Buddy Program</b>	This program pairs K with 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> with 4 <sup>th</sup> , and 2 <sup>nd</sup> with 5 <sup>th</sup> grade. Monthly students/classes pair up and work on projects or themes under the guidance of the teachers (who meet the week prior to plan). Research indicates that such “soft mentor” programs increase respect and kindness.

<b>Community Building Objectives</b>	<b>Notes/Thoughts</b>
<b>Grand-Friends Day</b>	We enter year three of these special luncheons for grandparents, aunts, uncles and "Grand-Friends"! This year each lunch group gets its own lunch, Dignity Ambassadors host and welcome, and we expect the event to grow even more!
<b>Book Club</b>	Under the direction of Mr. Ekeler there will be a parent book club on either "The Learning Habit" or "The Secrets of Happy Families". This will be offered to CRC folks first, but opened to the city if spots don't fill.
<b>Outside Resources (Tool Time, Eagle Encounter)</b>	In an attempt to engage our community (both in parish and at-large), and especially the men, we are inviting guest speakers and folks in the trades to assist in our Eagle Encounter Speaker Series and Tool Time programs, respectively. Good for the kids, great for the community.
<b>Alum List/Little Green Light/Development Director</b>	A project conceived by Monsignor Tucker to reconnect and re-engage graduates. There are implications for community, fundraising, and re-investment. His departure has left this project one to focus on, and the sputtering finances (Joy of Gospel) has impeded the work of Development. We made a great hire (Erin Trummer) and finally see progress!
<b>Building and Aesthetics</b>	<b>Notes/Thoughts</b>
<b>Classroom Carpeting</b>	Twelve rooms down, 15 to go!
<b>Basement Remodel (Library)</b>	A work in progress as the music room is complete. Now we turn to library and need work from Miss Hanigan.
<b>Fundraising</b>	We need to fund a Coordinator/AP and an \$550,000 addition. Wanting to land \$70K at the auction, \$60K at Give to Lincoln, \$300,000 grants.
<b>Others</b>	<b>Notes/Thoughts</b>
<b>The Alumni Way</b>	Absolutely necessary as we have grown from 270 to 381 students in five years. This addition would allow us resource space, common room, meeting rooms and the safest entryway possible: \$550,000
<b>Endowment</b>	A primary objective in such a large and influential parish, we have lofty goals for establishing this financial vehicle. We hope to break \$250,000 in the Tucker Endowment, and grow the Easley endowment.
<b>The Scholarship Moment</b> (Must determine how this fits into diocesan plans)	With a dozen children assisted, and a 300% growth in funding, this venture has helped keep struggling Catholic families inside our walls where they belong. A goal for 2019 is \$20,000 in available funds.
<b>Prosper Lincoln</b>	Mr. Ekeler continues his work with Prosper Lincoln, and the building of relationships has been a catalyst to Cathedral's growth and development. He will chair a faith-based early childhood consortium for Prosper Lincoln.