

Catholic Schools: Safe Places to Grow

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Justice

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence, Solidarity, Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

Good morning. As we begin our reflections on school improvement planning, safe schools and student achievement, let us take a moment to invite God into our work, that it might produce abundant fruit in our school communities.

OPENING BLESSING AND PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer: In the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, we come together today as disciples of Jesus your Son, seeking vision and guidance to make our schools safe places to learn and grow. We ask you to open our minds and hearts to your wisdom in one another's words. May your Holy Spirit direct our work, so that it might bring unity, peaceful order and growth in knowledge to all in our school communities. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

READING

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 19-21)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The word of the Lord.

(pause)

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION

All that we do in our Catholic schools is about nurturing the promise of eternal life that has been planted in every child. However, we can only educate the soul if we are willing and able to safeguard our students' physical and emotional well-being. We strive to impart a knowledge that is suffused with the Gospel. This requires that we establish environments where young people can learn and grow without fear. We ourselves recognize our need for improvement and growth in carrying out these tasks as disciples and members of the educational community. We need vision and practical planning to guide our steps along the way.

We recognize Christ's joy in the faces of our students. We also recognize in them his suffering, and are moved to respond. We establish rules and practices to foster a safe and reassuring environment for all students where reverence for their dignity will help them to learn and grow – spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

The knowledge that we impart is but a foretaste of the fullness of knowledge that awaits us all at the end of life's pilgrim way. By providing a learning environment that safeguards our students' well-being as we accompany them for this brief part of their journey, we are investing in lives that go on forever, and storing up treasures in heaven.

Let us gather up all of our concerns and the needs that can seem so much greater than our own human abilities, and entrust them to the care of God, who journeys with us always:

Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER:

We thank you God, for the marvelous way in which you have called us to share in the work of your Kingdom. May all that we do this day reflect your desire to see your children come to fullness of life. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. Amen

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.