



## St. Dominic School STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT

### OBJECTIVE 1

The school will retain middle school students in grades 6 - 8 through improved programming and increased opportunities.

### STRATEGY 1

Develop and implement exploration classes for grades 6 - 8.

	ACTION STEP 1	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS REPORT
	Research successful models of exploration classes.	Fall '09	Teachers, Leadership Team	2009-2010 The principal and MS teachers took a look at the model St. Wenceslaus was using and had some discussions with staff from that school.
	ACTION STEP 2 Discuss models observed.	Winter '09	Teachers, Leadership Team	2009-2010 Again, the principal and MS teachers discussed options. We also shared ideas and sought feedback from other staff.
	ACTION STEP 3 Implement trial week.	Winter '09	Teachers	2009-2010 We jumped right in, rather than implementing a trial week!
	ACTION STEP 4 Map curriculum	Fall '10	Teachers	2009-2010 Teachers are currently in the process of mapping curriculum.
	ACTION STEP 5 Implement full exploration class	Spring '11	Teachers	2009-2010 Throughout the school year, staff spent time revising the plan that was in place. We had some challenges due to the shared-time schedule we are dealing with at the public Middle School. The revisions were also based on student and staff interests and needs. We will again be revising this summer for the coming school year.

### STRATEGY 2

Develop leadership opportunities for middle school students

	ACTION STEP 1	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS REPORT
	Ask for student input on leadership opportunities in which they are interested.	Fall '09	Teachers	2009-2010 The students were involved in initiating service projects (individual, small group, and school-wide) and leading the school Talent Show. This will continue in the coming year.
	ACTION STEP 2 Develop Student Council Model	Spring '11-Fall '11	Teachers Counselor	2009-2010 We did not accomplish this but still feel some kind of model would be valuable to have at St. Dominic. We need to spend time looking at other schools and how they handle it with a population of our size. We may need to address this next fall, because we will have a brand new teacher in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade

				and a long-term substitute in 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> grade due to a maternity leave. We also no longer have a counselor on staff
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Offer student council opportunities.	Winter '11-'12	Teachers Counselor - if reinstated	
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Lead multi-age service learning opportunities.	January '10	Teachers	2009-2010 This year, the MS students and teachers led many multi-age projects, including Feed My Starving Children, money collections, Hats for Haiti, and a Family Service Night. This will continue in the coming year.

### STRATEGY 3

The school will implement more technology within the Middle School classroom.

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b> Research information on laptops and other technology for classroom use.	Spring '10	Teachers Tech Comm	2009-2010 We purchased 15 laptops from another school, but we need to spend more time developing guidelines for using them.
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Search for appropriate grants or other avenues to help with cost.	Spring '10	Principal and Dev Director	2009-2010 A short time before our annual auction, another Catholic school had given us the chance to purchase some of their used laptops. The night of the auction, we had the laptops be a part of our "Electric Moment." Our process for that needs some work, so it was not as successful as we would have liked. However, it did allow us to purchase 4-5. We combined that with money from our Technology fund to purchase a total of 15 laptops.
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Outline 2-3 phases of implementation	Spring '11	Teachers Tech Comm	
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Implement phase 1 in the classroom. Develop guidelines for using laptops.	Fall '10	Teachers	2009-2010 We already started using the laptops, but we need to develop more specific guidelines for their use. We also purchased a Smart Board and installed it in our computer lab. We have found this is not the best location for it and have plans to have it moved to another classroom.
	<b>ACTION STEP 5</b> Implement phase 2 in the classroom	Fall '11	Teachers	

### STRATEGY 4

The school will provide instructional variety to 6 - 8 grade students.

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b> Explore, research field trip opportunities within a 60 mile radius of St. Dominic	<b>TIMELINE</b> Fall '10	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b> Teachers	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b> 2009-2010 Providing field trips for our 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> graders continues to be a challenge for us due to our low numbers of students and high cost of transportation.
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				Another challenging aspect of this is dealing with scheduling due to our shared-time program with the public Middle School. If we take full day field trips, the students are missing schoolwork from the other school. As we discussed this action step in the spring, we decided that we may need to look more closely at bringing people into the school, rather than us traveling places more often.
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Determine possible sources of funding for field trips and new programming	Winter '10	Teachers, Principal, Dev Dir - we no longer have a development director	2009-2010 I still think taking field trips is important and provides students with opportunities they may not otherwise receive. Because of this, I believe we still need to look for sources of funding for field trips. We also may need to have funding to bring people into the classroom, as well.
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Provide numerous interdisciplinary field trip opportunities	Spring '10	Teachers And Principal	
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Strengthen our experience of traveling to Maltrata, Mexico and connect more to the families in Northfield.	'10-'11 School Year	Teachers	

**OBJECTIVE 2**

St. Dominic School will provide 21<sup>st</sup> century technology opportunities for students

**STRATEGY 1**

Update St. Dominic School's Technology Plan

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
	Solicit members for a formal Technology Committee	Fall '09	Computer Teacher	2009-2010 Members of the teaching staff joined the technology committee, but we still need to solicit parent volunteers. The meetings need to be held in the evening to accommodate them.
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Schedule a minimum of 3 meeting dates	Fall '10	Computer Teacher, Tech Comm	2009-2010 Three meetings were held but more were needed. I also think work in between is necessary. This is where parent involvement could be very beneficial. Part of the challenge this year was having a new Computer Teacher.
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Survey staff and other constituents to determine needs of the school	Dec '10	Tech Comm	2009-2010 A formal survey was not done this year, but we will be doing one this coming year.
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Review previous plan and update	2010-2011	Tech Comm	2009-2010 The Technology Committee didn't really get going until the spring. They worked on determining needs and wants with a second Smart Board and did not address the school's tech plan.

**STRATEGY 2**

Expand Technological Resources

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
	Place portable Smart Board in strategic area	Fall '09	Principal	2009-2010 Instead of purchasing a portable board, we installed a board in the computer lab. We have found that this is not the best place for it, though, and plan to move it this fall.
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> All teachers will attend an in-house training on using the Smart Board	Winter '09	Computer Teacher	2009-2010 We were blessed to have someone from the parish volunteer to train our staff on the Smart Board. We will try to do another training this fall.
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Explore opportunities to purchase additional Smart Boards and projectors	Fall '10	Computer Teacher, Tech Comm	2009-2010 We are in the process of purchasing another Smart Board with the help of a parishioner. The Tech Committee worked to find estimates on a couple of different boards. The committee will continue to determine our needs and make a plan. Part of this plan needs to include the location of the next board and projectors.
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b>	Summer -	Teachers	2009-2010 Due to several unforeseen circumstances, we

	Teachers will attend formal training on Smart Boards	Fall '10		did not schedule training over the summer. Training will resume late fall '10.
	<b>ACTION STEP 5</b> Students will be instructed how to use a smart board from the computer teacher.	Fall '10	Computer Teacher	2009-2010 Students of varying ages had a chance to work with the Smart Board and will continue to have opportunities this coming school year.
	<b>ACTION STEP 6</b> Portable Smart Board will be rotated through teacher classrooms for 3-4 weeks	2010-2011 school year		2009-2010 Not applicable

### STRATEGY 3

Ensure that the day-to-day technology is working properly and consistently

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b> Secure the St. Olaf Telephone Company as our technicians	<b>TIMELINE</b> Fall '09	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b> Principal	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b> 2009-2010 This school year, St. Olaf provided us with free technical assistance. It was not as consistent as we would like and are trying to determine if we need to work with someone else.
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Develop a system for reporting tech problems	Fall '09	Computer Teacher	2009-2010 This was a challenge for us due to the way our technician did and did not respond to us. The secretary and I often ended up being the contacts for any issues encountered. We are trying to finish a list this summer and then will determine how to proceed.
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Purchase needed equipment based on Tech Plan	Fall '10	Staff	2009-2010 We purchased 15 laptops this spring for using mostly with our middle school students. Creating the tech plan and determining our needs continues to be something the tech committee needs to work on.

### OBJECTIVE 3

St. Dominic School will create a formal partnership with at least one of the local colleges.

### STRATEGY 1

In cooperation with St. Olaf or Carleton, develop a cooperative Science curriculum.

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b> Contact colleges to determine level of interest.	<b>TIMELINE</b> Winter '09	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b> Principal / Dev Director	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b> 2009-2010 The Development Director contacted St. Olaf in the fall. Students began working with us specifically on composting. Other students began working with us in the late winter/spring on some science curriculum.
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	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Set goals and develop curriculum for the program.	Spring '10	Staff in cooperation w/ college staff	2009-2010 A panel of students from St. Olaf worked in cooperation with the teachers to develop a plan. Also, two students worked with us throughout the year on composting. Our students had opportunities to work with college students in the classroom, visit St. Olaf Science building, listen to presentations, and plant things for the St. Olaf Farm.
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Determine source of funding.	Spring '10	Staff, Finance comm.	2009-2010 We needed funding for composting containers, and the student from St. Olaf applied for and received a grant.
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Implement full curriculum	Fall 2010	Teachers	

### STRATEGY 2

Create an opportunity for the college students to enhance our Music program.

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
	Determine the level of interest with the colleges.	Fall 2010	Principal, Music Teacher	
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Create a cooperative partnership and support.	Spring 2011	Staff in cooperation w/ college staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Implement and assess the program.	Fall 2011	Principal and staff	

### STRATEGY 3

Create a supportive curriculum between the school and college with the theatre department.

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
	Contact colleges to brainstorm possible availability.	Winter 2011	Principal and college staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Create a cooperative plan and determine grades that will participate.	Spring 2012	Principal and staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Determine when and where activity will take place.	Spring 2012	Principal and staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Implement the plan	Fall 2013	School and College Staff	

**OBJECTIVE 4**  
**St. Dominic School will meet the needs of high achieving students**

**STRATEGY 1**  
 Assess academic needs of students at St. Dominic School  
 Research current trends of educational programs for gifted and talented students

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
	Survey parents, students, staff	Spring 2011	Principal and Staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Review assessment data, analyze, and determine student needs	Spring 2011	Principal and Staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b>			

**STRATEGY 2**  
 Develop and implement a gifted and talented program

	<b>ACTION STEP 1</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PROGRESS REPORT</b>
	Create a leadership team to research gifted and talented program	Fall 2012	Principal and Staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 2</b> Read and research gifted and talented programs	Fall 2012	Leadership Team	
	<b>ACTION STEP 3</b> Visit other schools and teachers who have implemented this type of program	2012-2013	Leadership Team	
	<b>ACTION STEP 4</b> Develop a written philosophy for the Gifted and Talented Program	Spring 2013	Leadership Team and staff	
	<b>ACTION STEP 5</b> Develop criteria for students to participate in the Gifted and Talented Program	Fall 2013	Leadership Team	
	<b>ACTION STEP 6</b> Determine funding needs	Fall 2013	Leadership Team, Principal	
	<b>ACTION STEP 7</b> Implement the created program	Winter 2013	Staff	