



St. Mary School

PO Box 340 | 303 St. Mary Street | Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

February 3, 2022

Dear School Families,

I received quite a blessing when I was appointed to St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. Since my arrival in September, I have come to know a community that is made up of dedicated and passionate people who value the long standing tradition of providing a Catholic education for their children.

As you recall, my appointment began in mid-September. Since then, I have been working toward becoming familiar with all facets of the parish and school. At this time, I am directing my attention to the School Advisory Council (SAC).

In accordance with our school accreditation process, it is time to evaluate how the current practices of our SAC align with the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS, Loyal University Chicago).

Central to the mission of the Church is the work of Catholic school education. The success of this mission depends on the key components of effective governance, which provides direction or authority, and leadership, which ensures effective operations. Catholic school governance and leadership can be seen as a ministry that promotes and protects the responsibilities and rights of the school community. Governance and leadership based on the principles and practices of excellence are essential to insuring the Catholic identity, academic excellence, and operational vitality of the school. Although governance models vary based on the sponsorship of the school, those who serve on the governing body or leadership team in Catholic schools provide for an environment for the teaching of doctrine and Sacred Scripture, the building and experiencing of community, the serving of others, and the opportunity for worship. (Governance and Leadership NSBECS)

The school administrative team, SAC executive members, Principal Megan Glynn, and I will be conferring with a consultant who has experience with various advisory councils. In order to give us time to benefit from the consultation and to review the mission, by-laws, and structure of the committee, I am implementing a pause in the meetings of the SAC. I anticipate that this process will take a few weeks. The February meeting will not take place as scheduled.

I look forward to sharing with you new insights learned and putting them into practice. Please pray for me and our school leadership team as we move through this endeavor.

In His service,

Dr. Benjamin Martin

Rev. Benjamin Martin, Administrator