



## **St. Benedict Preparatory School Chicago, Illinois**

### **New Mission Statement FAQ's**

**1. What is a mission statement and why is it so important?**

A mission statement is a concise, compelling statement that describes what the school is called to do and positions the school as unique among all other schools. The statement is so important because it is used to drive strategic planning, day-to-day decision making, and advancement/development purposes.

**2. What details should be included in a mission statement?**

The mission statement should contain the following elements: why the school exists, who the school serves, what kind of academic program is offered, and what values are held most precious.

**3. Who wrote the mission statement?**

The Writing Committee consists of faculty, staff and a board member selected by administration and the board strategic planning committee.

Karla Stearns, Board Member

Phil Siegel, Innovation Coach

Erico Ramirez, World Language Chair

Megan Harris, Grade 5 Lead

**4. What was the mission statement writing process?**

The mission statement writing process was led by the School Advisory Board in conjunction with our strategic plan consultants at Catholic School Management

(CSM). Over the course of several months, feedback was gathered from the community, including administration, faculty, and parents. A day-long workshop was held with a cross-section of our community, including administration, faculty, school advisory board, parents, students, parishioners, and alumni to explore and document St. Benedict Preparatory School beliefs and values. These inputs were taken by the Writing Committee and developed into a first draft of the mission statement. The mission statement went through several rounds of feedback from faculty, parents, administration, and parishioners before being finalized and approved by our Pastor Fr. Steve Kanonik and our Head of Parish School, Ms. Rachel Gemo.

**5. Why is the Mission Statement as long as it is?**

There is not a set length for a mission statement. The mission statement needs to be as long as needed to cover the following points: why the school exists, who the school serves, what kind of academic program is offered, and what values are held most precious.

**6. Why is no explicit mention of technology or arts programs present in the mission statement?**

Technology will be talked about in our vision statement, as we are still in the process of developing this program. We will talk about our arts programs and their impact on learners in our Profile of the Graduate at Graduation.

**7. Why was high school preparedness not mentioned?**

The mission statement is one of four documents that are being rebuilt, including the Profile of the Graduate. In the Profile of the Graduate at Graduation, the specific outcomes from an education at SBPS will be described - including high school preparedness.

**8. What does the term 'inclusive' mean at St. Benedict Preparatory School?**

At our school, inclusivity is a principle that we apply to every aspect of our community. We define this term as the range of supports and challenges that we offer to individual learners in our classrooms, as well as the way in which we welcome students, families, and staff members from diverse backgrounds.

**9. Why was the quality of staff not highlighted?**

After we have completed the process of rewriting our foundational documents,

we will be updating many of our school's marketing materials. We are planning to highlight staff experience, quality, and dedication in these documents.

**10. Are there any other strategic documents that need to be updated because of our updated school mission?**

Yes, there are several additional documents that will need to be updated. The Writing Committee will partner with the Administration on writing the next foundational documents for the school. Those include the following:

Philosophy:

The Catholic school philosophy identifies what the school is called to be. The essential elements of a Catholic school philosophy were articulated by Catholic Bishops in 1972 in a Pastoral on Catholic education entitled "To Teach as Jesus Did." A Catholic school philosophy essentially identifies that the school exists to "integrate elements of faith with the learning process."

Vision Statement:

A vision statement describes the ideal state that can be achieved in the future if resources are no obstacle. The vision should be inspiring, motivating, and far reaching, articulating what the school aspires to be in the future at its best. Typically determined by the school leadership, the vision statement should provide an aiming point for the future. A vision for a school is often attained through a strategic plan, one that is grounded in the school's mission and which defines strategies that further the school's mission.

Profile of the Graduate at Graduation:

Every Catholic elementary, middle, and secondary school should be able to describe a successful graduate. The profile of the graduate at graduation represents the consensus of faculty, administration, and Board regarding essential expectations for student development and accomplishments. In general terms, the profile categorically enumerates characteristics of the ideal Catholic school graduate: academically, religiously, spiritually, socially, and physically.

**11. What will the school do with the Mission Statement now that it is written?**

The Mission Statement will be a catalyst for the writing of future documents that speak to our vision, values, and goals. We will also use the Mission Statement as

a way of introducing ourselves to the community for those who are looking at us for the first time, as well as a way of describing what we do to those who are already a part of our community. Because the mission statement is used to drive strategic planning, day-to-day decision making, and advancement/development programming, we will use it as a lens to review and guide future progress in all areas of school operations.