



Executive Summary

Saint Joan of Arc School

Diocese of Trenton

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

St. Joan of Arc School is located in Marlton, Burlington County, New Jersey. Our Catholic school welcomes students from many neighboring communities, including Cherry Hill, Atco, Mount Laurel and Medford. Our population numbers 406 students, 25 full-time faculty members, with an approximate student/teacher ratio of 22/1. This ratio helps us to create an effective learning environment. We have 2 sections of each grade for Kindergarten through 8th grades. St. Joan of Arc School is served by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA, and a committed group of lay teachers. The school community strives to incorporate the Sisters of St. Joseph vision and mission statement into its own philosophy and mission statement.

St. Joan of Arc is built on the strong foundation of those who have gone before us. The dedicated faculty and staff of St. Joan of Arc believe that we are called to provide a Catholic education to the children of the twenty-first century. In a God-centered environment, we work together to meet the spiritual, emotional, academic and physical needs of our students. Dedicated to educating the whole child, we stress the importance of being rooted in Christ's teachings. Through prayer, scripture, liturgies, prayer services and classroom instruction our students come to a deeper understanding of the Gospel message. This understanding leads us to reach out locally and globally to those in need while respecting all of God's creation.

The faculty and staff recognize the variety of learning styles and multiple intelligences of each child. Aware of brain compatible strategies, we provide high challenge/low threat activities throughout the everyday curricula. Each teacher provides a variety of techniques so that basic skills are mastered, higher level thinking is developed, and creativity is fostered.

School policies and procedures stem from our mission statement, which is described in detail on the following page. Relationships are built on respect and reverence for oneself and others. Students, parents, faculty and staff together provide our school community with a positive climate for learning. Following the policies and curriculum guidelines of the Diocese of Trenton and incorporating the mission and vision statements of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the faculty and staff pledge to celebrate the many learning experiences of our students.

Our School Campus is directly connected to the church of St. Joan of Arc. Our facilities include a separate gym, cafeteria, media center and prayer garden. Each classroom has incorporated tools of technology including, interactive whiteboards, laptops, desktop computers and I-pads.

Our school has incorporated a Before and After School Program (BAC) to address those childcare needs of working parents. It has grown tremendously in the past three years and allowed many parents the opportunity to choose St. Joan of Arc School to be the nurturing environment for their families.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Our school's mission statement is as follows:

"The community of St. Joan of Arc School is dedicated to educating the whole child in a God-centered environment. Living in the light of Christ's teachings, we celebrate and value the dignity of each child. To our children, we entrust Christ's mission on Earth."

Our mission statement is evident throughout the building in our welcoming atmosphere and décor of our hallways and every classroom. It is evident in school communications such as the monthly newsletter, bulletin inserts, our website, and handbook. Our mission statement is recited in morning announcements twice a week and used as a model for behavior. Our mission statement is evident throughout our curricula, as we strive to teach our children faith, knowledge, and service as life skills.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

St. Joan of Arc school's most notable achievements are seen in the lives and accomplishments of our graduates. It is also evident in the supportive Christian community that our families experience while sending their children to our God-centered school.

St. Joan of Arc recently attained Middle States Accreditation (2013). This Study acknowledged that St Joan of Arc school has met the standards for defining appropriate goals, maintaining a qualified faculty, successfully assessing outcomes of programs, responding to parent concerns, providing continuity, and planning for the future.

In the past three years we have continued to enhance our technology in every classroom. As of September of 2015, every classroom has an interactive whiteboard. Every Classroom has a set of desktop computers, as well as access to our redesigned Media Center. All of this does allow more opportunities for each student to be involved with technology on a daily basis.

Beginning in the Fall of 2015, we will be celebrating our school's 50th Anniversary. The accomplishment of maintaining a healthy school population and affecting the spirituality of our community for over 50 years is certainly a cause for celebration, not only with our current students, but for those of the past five decades.

Each year our graduating students have received thousands of dollars in scholarship to local area high schools and numerous accolades and awards from community organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and the Marlton Business Association.

Our PTA and parish community have provided thousands of dollars in financial support through successful fundraisers and our parish carnival. This has allowed every student in St. Joan of Arc to receive a scholarship and kept our tuition affordable. We have maintained a healthy enrollment and are working toward keeping our school viable with an annual fund and alumni outreach.

In the future, we plan to connect with and incorporate our alumni's experiences with our current students.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

We appreciate the support of our parish community and are fully aware that their support offers the means to provide a quality, Catholic education to our students.