

St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Catholic School
Long Prairie, MN 56347
MNSAA
Annual Progress Report
2012-2013

Black: 2009-2014 SSP

Green: 2010-2011 SSP

**Purple: * notes that this was carried over from the 2010-2011 SSP
to the 2011-2012 SSP**

Blue: 2011- 2012 SSP

2012-2013

If a * follows the progress report, this Action Step
will be part of our 2013-2014 school year and
possibly our 2014-2021 School Improvement Plan.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: 2007-2014

(Objective 1)	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will create a marketing and development committee to address issues of financial and enrollment viability in order to continue providing educational services to students.			
	(Strategy 1) Research St. Cloud Diocese Schools' tuition, fundraising, grant, and subsidy policies/efforts. (Action Steps 1-3 Archived June 7, 2012.)			
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 4 Research possible grants to supplement current income.	June, 2008	Brenda Gugglberger (Principal)	<p>2010-2011 Brenda applied for a SHIP grant this year to supplement our summer gardening project and our healthy snack wagon initiative. While we did not receive the grant – due to an error on Brenda's part with the deadline – we have been asked to resubmit the grant for the 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>2011-2012 This year St. Mary's received several grants. We received a \$5,000 construction grant from CUF to redo our windows. We also received a \$1600 grant to purchase a laptop computer and high definition camera system to videotape our programs and give students the opportunity to create videos. Our 4th-6th graders enjoyed an overnight sleep-in at the MN Science Museum through a grant from MN Science Museum and Flint Resources.</p> <p>2012-2013 We continue to utilize grants as much as possible. Last year we received a grant from The Catholic Foundation to purchase our first year of FastDirect, which is our new information system. We also applied for a grant from The Catholic Foundation to purchase Otter Boxes and Blue Tooth keyboards for our new ipads. We are waiting to hear from this grant. Lastly, we also applied for a CUF grant to purchase additional ipads for our lab.</p>
	(Strategy 2) Research previous fundraising profitability of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School and restructure our current fundraising activities/efforts. (Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)			
	(Strategy 3) Promote, encourage, and create community awareness and involvement in St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School to inspire businesses, organizations, and individuals to financially support our school.			
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 1 Create a website to increase communication with alumni, parents, and the community.	September, 2007	Randy Mechels, Impact Technology	<p>*We are excited to expand on this during the 2011-2012 school year with possible on-line gradebook, attendance, and a school Facebook page.</p> <p>2011-2012 This year we were able to access on-line attendance and created a Facebook page. In April, our staff</p>

				<p>trained with FastDirect, a company that will allow us to have an online gradebook, attendance, tuition schedule, and will alert parents when we post on our website and Facebook page.</p> <p>2012-2013 As noted in Objective 1, Strategy 1, Action Step 4, we implemented FastDirect this past year. This program, which is our grading and information program, was linked to our website. We also created a new website with Vista Print, as our old website was not user friendly for the principal, who was also the manager of the site. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, we will use only the new site. *</p>
	<p>Action Step 2 Discuss possibility of renting space in the District 7253 monthly newsletter and having a monthly space on KEYL radio to promote our school – volunteers, business supporters, etc. Also, post minutes of school board meeting, or print minutes on back of weekly newsletter or in District 7253 monthly newsletter.</p>	<p>March, 2008</p>	<p>Brenda Gugglberger (Principal) and Jill Dempsey (School Secretary)</p>	<p>2010-2011 In addition to the upgrades we were given last year by our public school, we now have many of our public school links on our website, as we work closely with our public school to present a united educational front to our community.</p> <p>Instead of printing our council minutes on the back of the District 7253 newsletter, we have begun posting our minutes on our website.</p> <p>2011-2012 We continue to utilize our public school’s resources. Our families are called, emailed, and texted when there is a school emergency, snow day, or other pertinent information that our public school sends to their students.</p> <p>We also placed an auction bill in the Long Prairie Leader, noting the donors to our 27th annual auction/dinner.</p> <p>2012-2013 Our new FastDirect information program gave us more exposure to the public, as not only was our website linked on FastDirect, but FastDirect was linked from our website, which gave viewers the ability to view our newsletters, handbook and etc.</p>
<p>(Strategy 4) Promote our school to parents who desire their children receive a quality academic education in a Catholic school environment.</p>				
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	<p>Action Step 1 Make a conscious</p>	<p>August, 2007</p>	<p>Brenda Gugglberger</p>	<p>2010-2011 Brenda continues to speak at the Anglo and Hispanic masses twice per year to</p>

	<p>effort to speak at all the masses (Anglo and Hispanic) and invite all parishioners to register at our school.</p>		<p>(Principal)</p>	<p>encourage parents to enroll their children in our school.</p> <p>2011-2012 Brenda continues to – and loves to – speak at all of the masses during Catholic Schools’ Week. She also speaks each summer before the beginning of the year to encourage parents to consider sending their children to St. Mary’s. Last week, she spoke at all the masses at a neighboring parish, thanking them for their support of Catholic education and encouraging the parents to send their children to one of the surrounding Catholic schools.</p> <p>2012-2013 Our principal continues to speak at all of the masses during Catholic Schools’ Week. In addition, she is again scheduled to speak at neighboring parishes this summer and will speak in Grey Eagle the week before Catholic Schools’ Week, 2014. *</p>
	<p>Action Step 2 Run ads in the local paper, <u>The Long Prairie Leader</u>, to promote the successes of our school and invite all community members to consider our school as their school of choice for their children in grades prek-6.</p>	<p>March, 2008</p>	<p>Brenda Gugglberger (Principal)</p>	<p>2010-2011 We continue to place a yearly full-page Catholic Schools’ Week ad and several other yearly registration and promotion articles. In addition, our local paper is very wonderful about coming to our concerts and highlighting our events and accomplishments – such as test scores, Presidential awards, and etc.</p> <p>2011-2012 This year we continued to place our yearly Catholic Schools’ Week full-page ad that promoted our school. In addition, we send in several articles each year to highlight the strengths of our school. We are fortunate that our local editor’s son attends our school, so we receive many front-page highlights. In addition, we run all of our registration in both sections of the newspaper for two weeks twice a year.</p> <p>2012-2013 As usual, we ran a full-page ad in our local newspaper during Catholic Schools’ Week. This year we were able to get two ads for</p>

				<p>the price of one, as the first week the color did not print correctly, so a second week was printed free of charge. In addition, we sent pictures and articles to the local paper to be published during the year. We also sent all of our registration information to the local paper and the Hispanic newspaper.</p>
	<p>Action Step 3 (Archived June 7, 2012.)</p>			
	<p>Action Step 4 Have available in Spanish all communications to parents and potential parents.</p>	<p>August, 2011</p>	<p>Father Richard Walz, Pastor; Brenda Gugglberger (Principal)</p>	<p>2010-2011 We have a new Hispanic secretary at the church, and she has translated to Spanish all of our registration and information, which has made it easier for our Hispanic population to register their children in our school. Because we have been able to provide this service, we have seen an increase in our preschool Hispanic population, and we are working to license our preschool and add more sections to accommodate this population need.</p> <p>2011-2012 Unfortunately our Hispanic secretary found new employment, but she was here long enough to help with fall registration. We had a bi-lingual student teacher who also helped us translate during the year. In addition to Father Richard speaking Spanish, Father Mark joined us in October, and he speaks Spanish fluently and is always willing to translate when necessary. Having all items translated into Spanish is certainly one of the most difficult aspects of the principal's job.</p> <p>* We are hoping to hire a part-time teacher during the 2012-2013 school year. She would be our first Spanish/English speaking employee, and part of her assignment would be to translate paperwork as needed.</p> <p>2012-2013 We hired a part-time bilingual prek and daycare helper for the 2012-2013 school year. She was able to translate not only our information but also directly to our parents as needed. With her help, we were able to update our Hispanic</p>

	<p>Action Step 5 License a “Special Family Daycare” under Minnesota Statutes 245A.14 SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NONRESIDENTAL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>August 2011</p>	<p>Brenda Gugglberger, Father Richard Walz, Preschool Instructor Joni Young, and Todd County Daycare President and St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Parent Melissa Pesta</p>	<p>student information.</p> <p>*Our goal for the 2011-2012 school year is to provide a church daycare for 14 students. These 14 students would go to our St. Mary of Mt. Carmel preschool for a set number of hours each day. If this daycare can be housed in our former religious education building or the former bank across the street from the school, no busing will be necessary. If we need to run one year of this daycare offsite, we would most likely contract with Rainbow Rider to provide transportation – cost covered by the school – for the children. We believe the only way to keep our school viable is to consistently make our preschool program – and now daycare program – as competitive as possible. Because the public school receives many grants to fund preschool and early education classes, we must constantly look at new ways to be a service to our community, and hopefully this service to them will lead them to enrolling their children in our prek-6 school.</p> <p>2011-2012 We were set to begin remodeling our former convent when we were told by our licensing director that we would be unable to be a part of the family daycare food program. This additional expense would not have been made opening the daycare financially feasible for us or the parents.</p> <p>*We did learn in March that the food program requirements had changed, so we have begun remodeling our building and plan to open for the 2012-2013 school year a “special family daycare” in our former convent. This daycare will have the potential to enroll 14 children. We are once again very excited about this project.</p> <p>2012-2013 We did it! On September 5, 2012, after a summer of non-stop cleaning, remodeling and paperwork, we opened our daycare. The daycare has allowed parents to send their children to our preschool without having to come back into town or take off work to get them. Students were walked to another building on campus. There were many glitches along the way – especially the food</p>
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				<p>program denial – but we are confident that our quality program will be a seller to families who want their children in a first-rate daycare and school. During the 2013-2014 school year, we will review our options for changing from a licensed family daycare licensed by Todd County to a daycare center licensed by the State of Minnesota. This will give us the ability to care for more children at one time. *</p>
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(Objective 2) **St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will make capital improvements to its school building to ensure the safety and quality education of all students and staff.**

(Strategy 1) Continue the St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Improvement Campaign that was begun in June 2006.
(Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)

(Strategy 2) Obtain energy grants to help subsidize new windows and lights at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School.
(Action Steps 1 - 2 Archived June 7, 2012.)

		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 3 Research possible grants and/or loans and survey parishioners on possible school additions (gym).	July, 2011	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Visioning Committee, Pastor, and Principal	<p>2010-2011 Arneson Construction from St. Rosa, MN, evaluated our third floor to assess what the cost would be to make it usable and safe. We were given three possible scenarios, and the cost was approximately \$120,000 to update the electrical, safety, and building construction. While this is a wonderful opportunity, our school is first researching the possibility of purchasing the former bank across the street, as it would be more user friendly, and it would be easier to get a license for our preschool utilizing the bank building. Our trustees and parish priest have been working on this project for several weeks, and we hope to make a final offer on the property in the next few weeks.</p> <p>2011-2012 After learning that we could not have a licensed daycare in the former bank building but might be able to license a preschool in our former convent, we began getting bids for work to be done on the building – instead of focusing on our school gym. We replaced the boiler in the building. However, due to a daycare food issue, we stopped further remodeling, as the daycare did not open.</p> <p>*Our maintenance committee received a bid from Arnzen Construction of \$150,000 to update our school gym, which is located on the third floor.</p>

				<p>Father Richard and the parish trustees have discussed starting a building campaign and prioritizing projects for the school and church. The building campaign would begin during the 2012-2013 school year, and repairs would be implemented during the 2013-2014 school year.</p> <p>2012-2013 As noted in Objective 1, Strategy 4, Action Step 5, we did remodel our former convent and open a daycare. This entailed a new kitchen, new flooring, new windows, painting, fencing and etc. Because of this and the sudden illness of our pastor, the larger building campaign was postponed until the 2013-2014 school year. Our new pastor, Father Mark Willenbring, will oversee a committee that will prioritize necessary items on our campus. We hope to build a gathering place with common parish and school offices, allowing our current space to be used for Title I, computer and prek rooms. *</p>
(Strategy 3) Continue to make improvements to the school based on the income generated from the improvement campaign and grants.				
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 1 Replace lighting and windows in all classrooms and install handrails on all outdoor steps.	September, 2009 - 2012	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Visioning Committee	<p>2011-2012 We were able to replace all of the windows in the school, and this was done with the final price coming in below the bid. This summer we will paint all of the sills and apply for the energy rebate.</p> <p>2012-2013 With all of the remodeling at the daycare, the school window sills were not painted last year. They are being painted as this is being typed.</p>
	Action Step 2 Rewire electrical work and replace old plumbing in all areas of the school.	September, 2011 September, 2012	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Visioning Committee	<p>*During the 2010-2011 school year, we hired a new custodian. He has been working closely with the maintenance committee to upgrade the electrical and plumbing as needed. Again, until a firm decision on preschool and daycare settings are made, it would not be fiscally sound to make major improvements in our building. These decisions will most likely be made during the summer of 2011 (this summer!).</p> <p>2011-2012 With the new windows in, our maintenance committee has asked for bid to determine the cost of a new boiler in the school. These bids are currently being gathered, and there is a</p>

				<p>maintenance meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2012.</p> <p>2012-2013 As noted in Objective 2, Strategy 2, Action Step 3, all work other than the daycare was put on hold due to the illness of our pastor.</p>
	<p>Action Step 3 Remodel rooms necessary to ensure the safety of all students and staff.</p>	<p>September, 2014</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Visioning Committee</p>	<p>2011-2012 St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will be remodeling it's library and Title I room this summer to create an enclosed computer lab. We currently have an open lab, which makes it difficult when there is a library class and a computer class at the same time. While this is not a safety issue, the remodeling will incorporate adequate exits for students, which will require additional work.</p> <p>2012-2013 We did not remodel the library and Title I room last summer as we were unsure about other remodeling that had been put on hold. We did not want to put money into a project that might not be necessary for the following year. We are happy we waited, as we found with proper scheduling, we could run both the library and the computer lab in the same area. We will revisit our options when the capital campaign committee meets later this fall. *</p>
(Objective 3)	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will research and implement a standardized testing procedure for all students in grades K-6 to help evaluate students' and school's progress on curriculum objectives.</p>			
	<p>(Strategy 1) Review curriculum standards and objectives and align assessments to St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Standards. (Action Step 1 and 3 Archived June 7, 2012.)</p>			
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	<p>Action Step 2 Review St. Mary of Mt. Carmel standards and objectives at the beginning of each school year.</p>	<p>August, 2007 - 2014</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff</p>	<p>2010-2011 See Objective 3, Strategy 1, Action Step 1.</p> <p>2011-2012 At the August 24, 2011, staff meeting, teachers discussed the standards and objectives for the year.</p>
	<p>Action Step 4 Create a report card that details students' progress in each standard and objective.</p>	<p>August, 2008</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff</p>	<p>*We plan to implement the new report card for the 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>2011-2012 During the summer of 2011, we worked on creating standards' based report cards. Staff spent a full day working with the Brad Evenson, Curriculum Director at LPGE. They then worked on their own and met for a half day in August. Because of the</p>

				<p>great amount of time involved in creating a good standards' based report card, staff agreed to focus on language arts this year and math for the 2012-2013 year. At our August, 2011, meeting, teachers finalized the standards' based language arts grading and will focus on math for the upcoming year.</p> <p>*We purchased a new grading program for the 2012-2013 school year – one that is more user friendly for standards.</p> <p>2012-2013 We utilized our new grading program and created a standards' based report card, starting with language arts this year. During the 2013-2014 school year, we will break down our math grades into core standards. In 2014-2015, we will asses our science curriculum and break down our science grades into core standards. In 2015-2016, we will continue this process in social studies. *</p>
(Strategy 2) Research area schools' (both public and parochial) use of standardized tests. (Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)				
(Strategy 3) Evaluate standardized tests. (Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)				
(Strategy 4) Implement standardized tests in grades k-6. (Action Steps 1 – 2 Archived June 7, 2012.)				
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 3 Review results of standardized tests and make adjustments in curriculum, pedagogy, etc. as needed.	Fall, 2008	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff	<p>2010-2011 This year in May, we tested our 5th graders using the MCA Science test. This was an online testing situation, and it was a good way to test our ability to utilize online testing. We have not received our results at this time, but we are very excited to continue this testing and monitor our science curriculum and student achievement.</p> <p>2011-2012 Due to computer issues – not enough and some not working – we were unable to give our 5th grade students the MCA Science Test. We were disappointed, as we were very interested to see the results. Last year we expected very high scores, and while we scored above average, we were well below what we thought our students knew. Because of this, we wanted to test an additional class and get more information. We did get the practice science test to give to our students so we could better understand in which</p>

				<p>areas we were excelling and in which we needed improvement.</p> <p>*We are completing a new computer lab, and our goal is to test during the spring of 2013.</p> <p>2012-2013 We were unable to test our sixth graders in science again due to computer limitations. We did, however, review our MCA II Reading and Math scores and noted that implementing the basic fact tests in grades 3-5 was helpful. Overall, our math improved from 73% to 90% of our students meeting and/or exceeding the standard. We are looking for writing and grammar skills to supplement our reading series, Houghton Mifflin. *</p>
	<p>Action Step 4 * Added June, 2010 Research writing programs and/or tests to monitor and improve student writing.</p> <p>* Added June, 2011 Research writing programs and/or tests to monitor and improve student writing.</p>	<p>Spring , 2011</p> <p>Spring, 2012</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff</p> <p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff</p>	<p>2010-2011 This goal was not accomplished, as there were many changes being made to our school setting. We combined our school and religious education programs to create an education center. We will move this Action step to the 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>2011-2012 We aligned our standards' based report cards to the MN State Language Arts Standards to ensure continuity in our curriculum. In addition, our staff continued to focus on the Six Traits of Writing.</p> <p>2012-2013 We continued to utilize the Six Traits of Writing.</p>
	<p>Action Step 5 Review long-term (3- or 4-year) results of tests to evaluate curriculum, pedagogy, and student and school achievement.</p>	<p>Spring, 2012</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff</p>	<p>2010-2011 We continue to score well overall as a school on the MCA Math and Reading tests. Each year we look at trends – not only in our school – but in the state to assess if our curriculum is meeting the needs of our students. This year we noted that our current 4th grade class struggles, so we need to supplement our current Everyday Math curriculum, which has always worked well with other classes.</p> <p>2011-2012 We continue to score well overall as a school on both math and reading. Because the results show that most of our students do exceptionally well and a few do quite poorly – very few average scores – we offered after school tutoring in math and reading. In addition, we offered dyslexia screening</p>

				<p>for students who struggled but did not qualify for special education. At this time, we have four students who will receive further diagnostic testing for dyslexia, and we have three teachers who will be trained in the Orton-Gillingham Reading Method.</p> <p>2012- 2013 Three of our staff attended Barton training to help students who struggle with reading and writing. One of these teaches is now a Barton tutor and will train in levels 5-7 in August. Teachers who trained have implemented many of the techniques used in Barton, and this gives students who struggle more success in the classroom.</p>
(Objective 4)	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will research issues of educational “best practices.”			
	(Strategy 1) Staff will attend workshops or classes that focus on educational best practices.			
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 1 One staff person, in addition to the principal, will attend one workshop each year relating to educational best practices.	June, 2008 - 2012	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff	<p>2012-2013 – The second grade teacher and the principal attended a best practice reading seminar. The principal attended the Orton-Gillingham Reading Workshop.</p> <p>2012-2013 See Objective 3, Strategy 4, Action Step 5.</p>
	Action Step 2 During a six-week time frame, staff member attending best practices workshop will report/share information learned to the rest of the staff.	December, 2008 - 2012	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff	<p>2011-2012 The principal and second grade teacher presented to the staff during a school workshop.</p> <p>2012-2013 During our August 27, 2013, workshop, the three teachers who attended the Barton training talked about ways we could implement some of the good practices into our curriculum, most notably, in kindergarten through grade 3.</p>
	Action Step 3 Staff members will review best practices workshop information, and if they believe it is of value, will implement ideas in classroom.	May, 2008 - 2012	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff	<p>2011-2012 – Three staff members will receive training in Orton-Gillingham this summer, and staff will use this method to help struggling students.</p> <p>2012-2013 Our first and second grade teacher use some of the Orton-Gillingham methods in their classrooms, and the Title I teacher</p>

				reinforces this with the students she works with on a one-on-one and in a small group setting.
(Strategy 2) St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School Staff will visit and observe other school. (Action Steps 1 – 4 Archived June 7, 2012.)				
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 5 Staff will propose “best practice” classroom settings to school advisory council.	September, 2009	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff	<p>* To continue during 2010-2011 school year with faith and education council.</p> <p>2011-2012 Because of our growing class sizes – yes! – we are not looking at combining classes. We are, however, looking at how to add additional classes in social and science – have 5th and 6th separate instead of combined – without adding additional personnel. This is the best year to implement this, as we are in the six grade cycle of the fifth/six grade social and science.</p> <p>2012-2013 At the June 3, 2013, council meeting, the principal proposed combining the 5th and 6th grade in all areas except math and language arts for the next two school years due to the small class size of the 5th grade. There are six students, and staff believe it would be beneficial to combine these students with the 6th graders so they are challenged and develop more social skills. This will work well as we had separate classes last year, and the cycle will begin with grade 6 and then to grade 5 next year. After this time, we will review the class sizes and pros and cons of this decision. *</p>
(Strategy 3) To create a staff library of publications that address “best practices” in elementary education. (Action Step 1 Archived June 7, 2012.)				
		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 2 Through each school year, staff members will collect and submit publications to committee head.	September, 2008-2014	St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff	<p>2010-2011 The staff library continues to be housed in the principal’s office, and each year staff adds books, articles, and etc. as deemed necessary and important. This year our most loved book is <u>Making Sense of Adolescence</u>, as our staff has taken over the religious education program – in addition to our elementary school program.</p> <p>2011-2012 Our focus this year was information on language arts and standards’ based report cards, so teachers brought in pertinent articles.</p> <p>2012-2013 With the purchase of staff</p>

				ipads and one set of 14 student ipads, the majority of information gathered this year related to ideas to best utilize the ipads in education. The other area of discussion this year was the Orton-Gillingham – Barton training.
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(Objective 5) St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will create a parent/teacher organization that supports the mission and philosophy of St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School.

(Strategy 1) Create a mentoring program for new families at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School.
(Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)

(Strategy 2) Plan three events for school families that are just for FUN.
(Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)

(Strategy 3) Create a unified front with good communication.
(Action Step 1 Archived June 7, 2012.)

		Timeline	Responsibility	Progress Report
	Action Step 2 Create a website and update monthly for events and have interactive registration, homework, and other features.	February, 2008	Technology Committee	<p>2010-2011 We did not get the SSP from June 15, 2010, posted, as we were working on getting teachers proficient with the website. This year's SSP will be posted on June 15, 2011.</p> <p>2011-2012 We continue to post all items as in previous years. In addition, we were able to post our SSP. We have contracted with FastDirect, and this will allow parents to receive notice when we post on our website, Facebook page, and the FastDirect site.</p> <p>2012-2013 FastDirect was a wonderful tool to update parents on school activities and schedules. There was a link to and from our website, so parents were able to utilize either for information. We did not allow parents to view report cards online, and we will not be doing so in the future. Elementary school is more about the learning process, and we feel this is best used in secondary. Several teachers posted important assignments on FastDirect, and parents were very receptive to this type of contact.</p>
	Action Step 3 Schedule two "business" meetings per year with parents and teachers to keep everyone informed of the school's successes and	March 2008 (first meeting). Each August and March during 2009-2014.	PTO Chairperson	<p>2010-2011 Parents are invited to our August open house, all council meetings, and to all fundraising committee meetings. Each year our fundraising committee tends to be the core group of volunteers who help with open houses, fundraising, and PR. This is a very active group, and they continually gather more support for our school.</p> <p>2011-2012 We continue to have 100%</p>

	<p>challenges and to allow everyone a voice in the future of our school.</p>			<p>attendance at our fall and spring conferences, but we struggle to get parents to PTO meetings, so we work with parents during the conferences to go over items that we would typically cover at the PTO meetings – volunteering, fundraising, and etc.</p> <p>2012-2013 We invited all parents to the COFFEE Club, but only 5 or 6 parents attended during the morning. While we continue to have a strong core fundraising group, we discussed at our April and June, 2013, council meetings about how to broaden this group and make it a PTO. We did decide to have a St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School picnic the Sunday before the open house in August, 2013. In addition, we are negotiating a salary with a parent to take over the fundraising, and we hope this person will work into a PTO leader. *</p>
<p>(Strategy 4) Create a strong Home and School Organization utilizing the strengths of the parents currently involved with our fundraising committee. (Action Steps Archived June 7, 2012.)</p>				

(Objective 6)	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School will identify and address the needs of its gifted/talented/creative (GCT) students. (Strategy 1) (Action Steps 1 – 3 Archived June 7, 2012.)</p>			
	<p>Action Step 4 Discern factors (money, time, education, etc.) to create the most effective program for GCT students.</p>	<p>August, 2009</p>	<p>St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Staff</p>	<p>*We know that we have a strong interest in the Math League, and we have already solidified the resources needed to support two teams for the 2011-2012 school year.</p> <p>2011-2012 Because we focused on the struggling students, we did not have a math league team. This was very disappointing, as this year’s sixth grade was perhaps our “smartest” class ever. Because we did not offer a stipend to coach the team, we did not get a volunteer. In retrospect, the principal very much regrets not offering a stipend and having a team.</p> <p>*Because we are rewriting our faculty handbook, the math league position will be included as a paid extracurricular position for the 2012 – 2013 school year.</p> <p>2012-2013 This was not</p>

				<p>accomplished this year due to lack of interest by students. We will offer students the opportunity to be part of math league again this year. If we can secure six students, we will pay an instructor to coach the math league. Several students have expressed interest in a speech club, but because our high school does not have speech, we have not moved forward with speech. Our first grade teacher worked with two students who excelled in both math and reading and had them work on independent creative projects. GCT is definitely an area in which time, money are resources are needed.</p>
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