



Executive Summary of the Report of Findings

St. Patrick Catholic School, Tacoma WA



St. Patrick Catholic School (SPCS) is dedicated to continuing the accreditation cycle, rooted in the three pillars of the Standards of Excellence (SE) protocol set forth by the Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA): Catholic identity, academic excellence and continuous improvement. In following best practices outlined by the National Standards and Benchmark for Catholic Schools (NSBECS), the framework that guides the SE protocol, SPCS identified the following Key Strengths and Goal Areas.

Key Strengths:

Domain One

- Use of the mission statement is pervasive in correspondence, publications, and visual displays throughout the building
- Catholic culture and faith are frequently expressed through visual arts lessons, music instruction, drama, and architecture
- All SPCS faculty, regardless of whether or not they teach religions, participate in the faith life of the school community by attending religious events, spiritual retreats, and becoming catechesis certified

Domain Two

- A recent alignment with School Commission recommendations from the Archdiocese of Seattle has set the School Commission up for success and effectiveness moving forward
- The school administration works closely with the Pastor, the School Commission, the faculty, and stakeholders to address all school considerations

Domain Three

- SPCS adopted research-proved ELA, math, and social-emotional curricular materials across all grade levels in the past three years
- SPCS has provided intentional UDL training for current staff for the past four years
- Faculty routinely use Data Analysis Protocols to inform instruction in all disciplines

Domain Four

- SPCS has a five-year school budget plan with annual financial presentation to the School Commission, a long-range technology plan, and utilizes a communication and marketing plan
- Significant and successful efforts to raise teacher salaries competitive with local elementary Catholic schools and geographic local public schools
- SPCS employs a communications manager, development director, assistant development director, and registrar

Domain-Specific goals:

Domain One

- Develop a schoolwide “missionary discipleship program” that incorporates Catholic Social Teaching through service, parent and staff education, and retreat opportunities in connection with the Parish.

Domain Two

- School Commission will establish and implement an annual self-evaluation protocol and new member nominating and onboarding process to ensure high engagement and best practices of School Commission.

Domain Three

- SPCS will intentionally provide UDL and Responsive Classroom training for new teachers and provide parent education specific to the strategies and outcomes of UDL.

Domain Four

- SPCS will provide transparency and communication of school finances, facilities, and marketing plans to all stakeholders.

Visiting Team Summary & Final Thoughts:

The WCEA Visiting Team for Saint Patrick Catholic School is grateful for our time spent with the SPCS community teachers, staff, students and parents. The Visiting Team affirms the principal and vice-principal for seamless work in their leadership throughout many administrative transitions. Under the strong, faithful and diligent oversight of the principal and her leadership team, the Visiting Team commends the fidelity of the accreditation process as it was implemented at SPCS and the integrity in completing the self-study document. The Visiting Team visited classrooms that illustrated on-going professional development and implementation of UDL and Responsive Classrooms. We heard the chiming of bells, choral chants, and caring conversations between students and teachers throughout the school. We heard from the administrative team who daily supports the school through the financial planning, development work, and attention to advancement. We witnessed students caring for their peers' emotional well-being. Student work samples and artwork brings life and color to every hallway and stairwell. School Commission members praised the recent retreat emphasizing the awareness of their call to serve the community of SPCS. Parents acknowledged the school mission as the cornerstone for decision making. The students and parents praise the teachers for the relational efforts celebrating and affirming all efforts to be Responsible, Inclusive, Spiritual and Excellent. RISE!

Our three day visit affirmed the Self Study and led to a very successful accreditation. The WCEA visiting team has submitted the comprehensive Report of Findings to the Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools WCEA Commissioner, which will yield final status at the end of May 2024.

Thank you for your generous hearts and hospitality. Your building provides a beautiful view of the Puget Sound inspiring all to care for God's creation. We leave you with a prayer and a reminder to us all. The shield of St. Patrick, *"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every person who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me. **I arise today!**"*

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