

AP 152 – PARISH RELATIONS AND LIAISING

Background

Catholic schools are extensions of the families they serve. A high quality partnership between families and schools leads to increased student achievement. “Partnership between a Catholic school and the families of the student must continue and be strengthened: not simply able to deal with academic problems that may arise, but rather so that the educational goals of the school can be achieved. It is not a question of convenience, but a partnership based on faith.” Partnerships between school, home and parish must continue to be affirmed and developed so that the faith life of the child is nurtured.

The Division recognizes the importance of the partnership that must exist between our parish, our Division and its schools. The Division seeks to enhance the quality of this partnership through a variety of practices. The Division affirms and supports appropriate parish involvement in major decisions affecting our educational community.

Procedures

1. Relationship with Parish Priest

- 1.1 The Deputy Director of Learning shall obtain Diocesan approval for:
 - 1.1.1 Religious Education Programming (religious education resources, programs, permeation, course offerings);
 - 1.1.2 All religious education speakers.
- 1.2 The Deputy Director of Education shall obtain approval by the parish priest of:
 - 1.2.1 “FIT Framework” i including initiatives, faith-related professional development; and
 - 1.2.2 Faith Formation initiatives (RCIA, Faith Mentorship).
- 1.3 The Director retains responsibility for consulting with the parish priest relative to:
 - 1.3.1 Administrative actions regarding faith related personnel issues;
 - 1.3.2 Strengthening the relationship and facilitate joint actions between and among the home, school and parish;
 - 1.3.3 School system support for the Priest and the parish (Parish Supper, technology, Youth Mass); and
 - 1.3.4 Catholic Education issues (same sex orientation, political challenges to Catholic Education, immunization).

2. The Faith Integration Team (FIT) is responsible to report regularly to the Deputy Director of Education to reaffirm directions in student and staff faith formation to ensure faith leadership support and laity participation.

3. The Faith Specialist and Faith Integration Team (FIT) shall liaison directly with parish priests regarding mass schedules and planning, faith events, program delivery participation, etc. The Faith Specialist and FIT members will also be the only staff members to solicit faith based instructional questions directly to parish priests. All staff are to direct all instructional questions to the Deputy Director of Learning.
4. The Catholic school is part of the parish community and as such shares in the total mission of the Church. Parish priests and members of religious orders play a major role in the life of the school by their presence among teachers and students. School principals or their designated staff member(s) are to:
 - 4.1 Meet with the parish priest to plan scheduled activities.
 - 4.2 Maintain close communication with the priest in preparing for the reception of the sacraments.
 - 4.3 Arrange for general and classroom Masses.
 - 4.4 Invite the parish priests to various school programs and functions.
5. Principals are to ensure a distinctively faith-based environment is established.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 367 Education Act
The Religious Dimension of Education in Catholic Schools, #42 Congregation for Catholic Education, Rome, 1988
www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_19880407_catholic-school_en.html