

John F. Kennedy Catholic School
Our Lady of Victory Parish
Annual Progress Report to the Community for 2004-05

The new school logo represents the work of the marketing committee and the Our Lady of Victory Board of Education to define the essence of John F. Kennedy Catholic School. Introduced to the public at the November Gala, the logo illustrates the connection between parish and school, the Catholic identity of the school, and the caring and education of children just as Mary cared for baby Jesus. The logo is also in similar style to the stained glass windows of the church. New marketing materials featuring the logo and highlighting JFK's identity and strengths stress that there *is* a difference in education at JFK.

Scott County Regional Authority Grant-Funded Projects

Electrical Upgrade:

- Seven four-plex outlets were added to each classroom on a new circuit.
- Approximate grant value: \$21,850
- Completed: Summer 2004

Restroom Renovation:

- Restrooms outside the gym will be renovated to become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, energy and water efficient, and aesthetically pleasing.
- Approximate grant value: \$65,000
- Completion target date: August 10, 2005

Window Replacement:

- East wing classroom windows, kitchen windows, and 42nd Street windows will be replaced.
- Approximate grant value: \$20,950
- Completion target date: Summer 2005

Library Renovation Exploration Begun

The School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC), appointed by the OLV board of education and comprised of parents, staff, students, and community members, has been given the task of exploring a library renovation. Some of the top issues are listed below. Grants would be pursued to fund the renovation:

- Unifying and maximizing the shelving for materials for K-8th grade sized-students
- Expanding the work/media storage area and blending it in with the rest of the media center
- Addressing natural and artificial lighting needs
- Updating all of the materials within the library
- Separating the computer area from the library area by switching to a laptop computer system
- Providing some spacious and comfortable seating for both the younger and older students
- Making the media center an aesthetically pleasing and inviting place

OLV's Board of Education: School Issues

- Revised its constitution and by-laws, approving the following committees: nominating, finance, policy, marketing/public relations, grant writing, strategic planning, School Improvement Advisory Committee, and Generations of Faith/Faith Formation.
- Approved a third tier of tuition rates for members of other Catholic parishes and carefully examined the rates to keep the increases in costs modest, especially for families with multiple children at JFK.
- Raised teachers' starting salaries to 80-85% of the Davenport public schools' salaries and added a health insurance plan available to all OLV employees for 2005-06.
- Began to explore the feasibility of operating a daycare and appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate educational programming for summers.
- Approved a "United by Agreement" statement that identified how Scott County Catholic Schools could work together with an advisory board. This Scott County Catholic School Advisory Board began to meet in 2005. This advisory board will examine issues common to all of the Catholic schools and provide recommendations to the local parishes' boards of education for their consideration.
- Received a needs assessment/long-range planning document prepared by the principal with input from the JFK staff and School Improvement Advisory Committee. This document, which addresses such issues as personnel, class sizes, curricular areas, extracurricular activities, assessment, staff development, marketing, financing, communications, and building/facilities, will form the basis for the strategic planning committee's work.

Technology

Ad Hoc Technology Committee:

This committee of staff and parents began its work in February by examining and affirming the "Vision for the Use of Technology at JFK" developed in 2002. The committee has examined JFK's progress in each of the vision areas for students' and staff's use of technology and is prioritizing acquisition and training issues to continue the progress. A new technology plan to be completed this fall will contain the "Vision," the new diocesan technology curriculum, and a prioritized implementation plan for addressing future technology needs at JFK.

Communications:

- A comprehensive OLV and JFK website is scheduled to go "live" before the start of the 2005-06 school year. This website will be a "one-stop" source of all information for the school and parish.
- A "parent group" for e-mailing informal communications and electronic versions of documents is being utilized.
- A web-based grading program that allows for specialized e-mail communications and parents' access to viewing their own children's progress was again utilized. Several grades will utilize customizable report cards in 2005-06.

Special Activities

BMX Bike Show
 Traveling magnet show
 Steve Trash's magic and ecology show
 Diocesan band festival and Adventureland trip
 Fruitland Jackson's guitar playing blues
 Spelling Bee and Vocabulary Bowl
 ThinkFirst for Kids injury prevention program
 Crusader Chronicle newspaper and literary magazine

Young Writers' Workshop at St. Ambrose
D.A.R.E., Mikey the Medic, and Red Ribbon Week
Catholic schools' week talent show
Spring into Summer Reading Program
Team-building activities at Camp Abe Lincoln
Field trips to the University of Iowa, Brookfield Zoo, Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, Coralville Dam and Geology Tour, St. Ambrose
Circa: Joseph and the Technicolored Dreamcoat and drama workshops
Science Fair and Mock Trial
Civic Oration: A Great Time in American History
Home & School's Movie Nights, Skate Nights, Fun Night, and Pumpkin Run
Catholic League and Dad's Club Athletics
8th grade fall play, manners' unit, and job shadowing at KWQC

Faith Formation at JFK

Highlights of JFK's Masses and Prayer Services:

- Students attend "class Masses" each week.
- Students participate in all-school Masses at least twice per month, and, once per month, a grade attends Mass at Ridgecrest.
- All Catholic schools' Mass at Assumption High School during Catholic Schools' Week.
- Holy Thursday prayer service featuring 3rd, 5th, and 7th graders.
- Praying the Rosary in remembrance of Pope John Paul II.

Service:

- Holy Childhood Association and Pennies for Patients.
- Christmas giving to those in need rather than student gift exchanges.
- Valentine's cards for the residents of Ridgecrest.

Expanded Learning about the Catholic Faith:

- Catholic Schools' Week Theme: Faith in Every Student, Faith in Every Land:
 - How we have faith in every student at JFK.
 - How the Catholic faith is practiced in various countries throughout the world.
- The National Evangelization Team retreat for 7th and 8th graders.
- Connections to People:
 - The entire community wears bracelets saying "We pray 4 MSK" as a reminder to keep Melissa Kern, a JFK 7th grader, in our prayers as she undergoes her medical treatment.
 - The 8th graders' visit their resident partners at Good Samaritan weekly.
 - The Eighth Grade Athlete of the Year award is renamed the Rick Denger Crusader Award in memory of Rick Denger.

Academics

Not only does JFK have rigorous academic standards and expectations, the success of JFK students is evident by their academic achievements in high school and their grades, Iowa Tests of Basic Skills scores, and academic related accomplishments at JFK.

JFK Graduates' Success in High School:

- Keeping its streak alive in 2005, a JFK graduate has been an Assumption High School valedictorian for ten of the last twelve years.
- Thirty-three percent of Assumption's National Honor Society members were JFK graduates.
- Eighty-five percent of JFK's graduates in the Assumption class of 2005 had GPAs above a 3.0. Fifteen percent of the students who graduated with GPAs above a 4.0 were former JFK students. JFK graduates had similar success at West, North, and Central high schools.

Academic Related Accomplishment:

While every student in grades 5-8 writes a research paper and competes at the school level in Modern Woodmen of America's Speech Contest, 8th grader Eleena Gradert advanced to the national level of competition in 2005.

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Results for Grades 4 and 8:

Reporting three years worth of data for 4th and 8th graders' reading comprehension, math, and science ITBS scores to the community is one requirement of the Iowa Department of Education. Due to the small class sizes and low numbers of males and females in each grade, fairly large year-to-year fluctuations can be seen. The following tables illustrate the percentages of students who are proficient:

4th Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores

Year	Reading Comprehension			Math			Science		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
02-03	85%	90%	88%	100%	70%	82%	92%	85%	88%
03-04	86%	79%	83%	86%	71%	79%	93%	79%	86%
04-05	86%	100%	93%	86%	92%	89%	93%	92%	93%

8th Grade: Percentage of Students Proficient According to ITBS Scores

Year	Reading Comprehension			Math			Science		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
02-03	86%	71%	81%	86%	43%	71%	93%	86%	91%
03-04	73%	100%	89%	80%	91%	86%	80%	95%	89%
04-05	86%	71%	76%	72%	71%	72%	72%	93%	86%

Local, State, National Comparisons

Local proficiency data according to ITBS scores must also be compared to state and national averages for 2004-05 in reading and math for 4th graders and in reading, math, and science for 8th graders. Graphs are available in the complete report distributed to the entire parish community. The complete report is available in the school office for your review. The graphs indicate the percentage of students proficient in each subject area.

Iowa Tests of Basic Skills Results for Grades 3-8:

JFK students continually score above the national grade level equivalents on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. In 2004-05, this difference was even increased in three of four targeted areas. A chart is available in the complete report distributed to the entire parish community. The complete report is available in the school office for your review. The chart shows how much above national grade equivalents JFK students in grades 3-8 scored.

Annual Progress Report Goals:

JFK sets and reports upon annual progress goals in relation to ITBS reading comprehension, math total, and science scores. The following are the goals for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Reading:

2004-05: JFK's reading goal was to increase the percent of students in grade 4 who are proficient in reading comprehension as measured by ITBS scores.

2003-04: 82.8% 2004-05: 92.5% Change: 9.7%

2005-06: To increase the percent of students in grade 8 who are proficient in reading.

Math:

2004-05: JFK's math goal was to increase the percent of students in grade 4 who are proficient in math as measured by the ITBS scores.

2003-04: 79.3% 2004-05: 88.8% Change: 9.5%

2005-06: To increase the percent of students in grade 8 who are proficient in math.

Science: JFK's goal must be written for 8th grade students.

2004-05: JFK's science goal was to decrease the percent of students in grade 8 who are not proficient in science as measured by the ITBS scores.

2003-04: 11.1% 2004-05: 14.3% Change: 3.2%

To help address this goal, the following actions will be undertaken:

--Identify individuals who are struggling and in need of additional individual attention.

--Provide identified students with tutoring.

2005-06: To increase the percent of students in grade 8 who score in the high performance level in science.

Comprehensive School Improvement Plan

Comprehensive School Improvement Plan:

JFK's 2004 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) was submitted in September and approved by the Iowa Department of Education. This plan is available at the DE's website.

JFK's CSIP Committee Work:

Each CSIP committee is responsible for leading the entire staff in activities related to its focus area:

Gospel Values and School Climate:

- Implemented the "Don't Laugh at Me" anti-bullying program, taught students playground games associated with the "Six Steps to a Trouble Free Playground," revised the playground rules, formally recognized students' positive behavior through the "Gospel Values" challenge, and agreed upon the characteristics of a model JFK student.

- Compared November 2004 school climate survey data with November 2002 data:

Students: Greater percentages of students rated the school's climate more favorably in 2004 than in 2002.

Parents: Significant positive changes were noted in parents' perceptions of the school climate between 2002 and 2004. The most notable changes in the average ratings were from the parents of students in grades 3-5 and 6-8.

Teachers: Positive changes in teachers' perceptions between 2002 and 2004 were noted in five of the six areas.

- Compared November 2004 Gospel values knowledge assessment with November 2002 data: positive changes in the knowledge of students of the same grade levels outnumbered declines by a margin of one and a half to one.

Reading:

- Reviewed guided reading strategies.

- Researched and previewed intensive work with graphic organizers in all subject areas:

Illustrated how four of the nine most effective general instructional strategies have graphic organizers as a common element.

Identified the four types of graphic organizers that will be focused upon and discussed how their use can increase students' analysis and generalization abilities.

Determined the levels of mastery in using the graphic organizers that will be expected of students in various grade levels.

Math:

- Increased time for math activities.

- Collected data regarding the daily use of fractions, estimation, and multiple-step problem solving. Previewed how the collection of this data will extend to both math and subject areas other than math.

Science:

- Continued identifying ways to align science curriculum throughout the grades at JFK.
- Selected new 6th-8th grade textbooks for 2005-06.
- Continued to emphasize the scientific method through hands-on science activities in all grade levels. Since data collection began in 2003, there has been a three-fold increase. A graph is available in the complete report distributed to the entire parish community. The complete report is available in the school office for your review.

Scott County, Diocese of Davenport, and U.S.C.C.B Initiatives

- A Scott County K-12 capital campaign entitled "Embracing Our Future" was launched. Funds are to be used for tuition assistance, staff benefits, and marketing. As a result of this campaign, the "Family Tuition Plan" is currently available to help make K-12 Catholic school education available for all families.
- Bishop Franklin celebrated his 75th birthday with the receipt and dissemination of the work of three task forces: Celebrating the Faith, Living the Faith, and Passing on the Faith. The Passing on the Faith task force's work dealt with faith formation and Catholic school education. OLV's "Faith Formation Assessment" of all parish programming was used as an exemplar.
- According to an independent audit, the Protecting God's Children Program in the Diocese of Davenport has reached nearly 5,000 people and goes beyond the minimum requirements set forth by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops.
- The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops issued a new document in support of Catholic school education: "Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium." It can be found at www.usccb.org.