



Executive Summary

Sacred Heart Apostolic School

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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?

Sacred Heart Apostolic School exists for a very specific reason and is consequently geared towards a specific group. Sacred Heart Apostolic School's primary goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment in which young men, in a spirit of true freedom, can discern a possible calling to and prepare for the Catholic priesthood in the Religious order of the Legionaries of Christ. The school was conceived and brought into existence for this purpose. It therefore lives within a very particular community which necessarily affects its whole being. This fact is important and relevant to understanding many aspects of Sacred Heart Apostolic School.

Sacred Heart Apostolic School exists within a number of distinct community settings. As a reflection of this reality, there is a particularly long list of stakeholders associated the school, the most important of which include the following:

- Students
- Parents and families of students
- Teachers
- Support staff
- Legionary formators
- Legionary vocational directors
- Benefactors
- Visitors to the school (i.e. prospective future students)
- Foreign students
- Legionary Superiors and Dean of Studies, both national and international
- Sister apostolic schools, within the US and outside of it.
- Local and regional Regnum Christi members
- Local community of Rolling Prairie and LaPorte
- Legion of Christ
- Bishop and local clergy
- Catholic Church

Two of the most important communities within which Sacred Heart Apostolic School exists include: 1) the physical, geographical location of the school, and 2) a larger meta-geographical setting, made up of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi Movement.

The first aspect consists of a typical rural, Midwestern setting, close to Chicago. This allows for a relatively quiet, "hometown" atmosphere which is beneficial for a boarding school, all the while maintaining a fairly close proximity to an important urban center with all of its advantages.

Sacred Heart Apostolic School also finds itself a member of the meta-geographical community of the Legion of Christ (religious order of Catholic priests) and the Regnum Christi Movement (Catholic lay association), both of which exist within the Roman Catholic Church. The very nature of Sacred Heart Apostolic School (to help prepare candidates for Legionary seminaries) makes it an integral part of the life of this

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religious congregation. The school is maintained and operated by members of the Legion and many of its students are Regnum Christi children. As an integral part of this structure, Sacred Heart comes under the authority of both the hierarchy of the Catholic Church (i.e. the Pope and his Curia, the local Bishop of the diocese of Gary) as well as that of the Legion of Christ (i.e. General Director, Territorial Director). The school's participation in this meta-geographical community is in fact the more prominent.

Within this latter community, it is worthwhile noting that Sacred Heart Apostolic School is also closely tied to an international group of twenty similar, legionary apostolic schools (not necessarily legally associated, but rather through the fact that all serve the same purpose and all are part of the "meta-geographical" community described above), located in 11 different countries in three continents. In particular, Sacred Heart is one of three apostolic Schools within the United States. Although ties with these other schools are somewhat indirect, communication between them is frequent and relevant.

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.

The mission of Sacred Heart Apostolic School is to provide the highest quality education and to foster integrally formed Christian leaders, while at the same time prepare prospective Catholic priests for the religious congregation of the Legion of Christ.

Our vision is to provide a healthy atmosphere in which young men discern a missionary vocation to the Catholic priesthood in the Legion of Christ, in which they are integrally formed and graduate with:

- A sound intellectual formation
- A solid religious and moral formation rooted in Judeo-Christian values
- A detailed character formation focusing on the person's conscience and will, and
- An apostolic formation based on the Christian call to spread the Good News to all people.

The beliefs that we hold at Sacred Heart Apostolic School are fully in line with Catholic doctrine and are rooted in the Catholic Church's millennial experience and knowledge of both the human person and the education of youth:

1. Teaching and education are some of the most important and noble of human enterprises.
2. The primary role of education is to guide students towards becoming better persons by fully developing all of their faculties. This is reflected in the importance given to personalized attention.
3. Good education is essential for the proper growth and maturity of every human person.
4. Well educated persons are the substrate for a healthy and prosperous society.
5. Education involves much more than the mere communication of information; it is something which encompasses the full person. This belief is reflected in our pedagogical motto: to teach, to educate, to form, i.e. to teach - transmission of knowledge; to educate - helping the student to grow as a person, assimilating and integrating what he learns; to form - leading the student to develop positive habits and virtues which will help him live as a genuine Christian.
6. In the process of effective teaching, the teacher's knowledge, preparation, example, behavior, demeanor, enthusiasm, and pedagogy are all important.
7. Teachers are also students, in that they must also continually learn and grow, in their mastery of course material, their pedagogical dexterities, as well as their human and Christian virtues.
8. For students in their adolescent years, almost every occasion is a learning opportunity. For this reason, the entire milieu of the school (e.g. academic excellence, discipline, cleanliness and order, natural light and contact with nature, family environment, mutual respect, amount of rest, exercise and times of recreation, outings, etc.) is important and can influence the students learning.
9. A student's learning must be based on self-conviction, i.e. the student must want to learn and take personal responsibility in his own education.
10. Positive motivation is at the heart of self-conviction, i.e. finding those ideals which spur the student to really want to learn. These can include both human values (e.g. becoming a mature man, forming one's will and conscience) as well as spiritual values (e.g. love of Christ and for souls, helping the Church, fidelity to God's call, becoming a good apostle).

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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.

Notable areas of improvements and achievements:

In the academics:

- We have implemented the PE class divided into age-appropriate fitness techniques and endurance training.
- The addition of the Geometry program for grade 10.
- Latin and Greek academies have been implemented.
- We have extended our High school program from three to four years. This has enhanced the learning opportunities for students of all grades.

Some improvements done to our facilities are:

- 2/3 of the school building roof has been replaced.
- Level playing fields used for soccer, flag-football, baseball, ultimate-frisbee have been finalized.
- A fully functional science lab has been built. This includes all of the necessary scientific equipment, lab tables, laboratory safety gear, etc.
- A state of the art Audio-visual conference room is in use. This room also doubles as a band and music room.
- New high-efficiency double-paned windows were installed last year. This has increased the heating efficiency of the school building.
- We have acquired a 45-passenger school bus to use when transporting our students together with prospective students.
- One member of our staff is a highly qualified trained bus driver with CDL.
- Key members of our governing body are certified by the American Heart Association for adult and child first aid and CPR services.
- The second gym has been equipped with a recreational games room, bathroom and shower facilities and a new heating and cooling system.

Areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve:

Personnel

- 70 students
- 7 teachers
- 2 more custodial and maintenance staff
- 2 more priests
- 2 more deans
- Fundraising team
- Admissions Director

Building and facilities

- 1/3 of the school roof
- Renew insulation of school building
- Soccer fields

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- Improve cleanliness
- Science lab apparatus
- Buses and drivers
- Landscaping
- Other renovations in school building (offices, flooring, classrooms)
- Fix new wing dormitory and bathroom
- New house for religious
- Kitchen

Academics

- Improve physical education, music, and computer classes and include on transcript
- Latin and Greek academies
- Improve level of Latin, Greek, and Spanish classes
- Improve spelling and general, basic knowledge level (geography, history, religion, mental math)
- Develop apostolate class
- Add advanced math class
- Text books - drafts for all and one published

Students' formation

- Pray better
- Sense of work and responsibility
- Improve level of integration
- Raise level of students' human formation
- More and better apostolate for students

Stakeholders

- Regular newsletter
- Maintain and improve family spirit
- Improve communication with all stakeholders, especially parents, legionary, benefactors and local clergy
- Increase benefactor base, both monetary and gifts in kind
- Institutionalize weekend retreats and special activities
- Become Midwest hub for Legionaries

Administrative

- Improve and institutionalize school IDs
- Improve and institutionalize filing system
- Improve and institutionalize scholarship program
- Improve and institutionalize emergency plan (crisis management)

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Additional Information

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

No further comments at this time.