

# The High School of Saint Thomas More

## Strategic Plan



FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

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## **Introduction**

Located in Champaign-Urbana, IL, The High School of Saint Thomas More (STM) is one of seven 7th high schools of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. STM is the only high school in the area that is based on the teachings and philosophies of the Roman Catholic Church. Opening its doors in August of 2000, this comprehensive, co-educational, four-year high school offers academic excellence consistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. It provides a continuation of the Catholic Education from grade to high school that area families seek for their children. The High School of Saint Thomas More has been blessed by donations of time, talent and treasure of the local Catholic community, the parents and the students it serves, the growing number of alumni, and the dedicated faculty and staff. Because of these countless acts of generosity, The High School of Saint Thomas More has provided to its students a strong spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical foundation in a Christ-centered environment.

The High School of Saint Thomas More owes its successes to all those supporters whose dedication and sacrifice have made possible its young history. This strategic planning process allows The High School of Saint Thomas More to adapt in response to current circumstances to reinforce its strengths and seize opportunities to address those challenges it faces. **The strategic plan allows us to be faithful to and live out our mission.**

The following pages outline The High School of Saint Thomas More Strategic Plan developed by the steering committee and continued by the St. Thomas More Advisory Committee . We believe that a successful strategic plan requires broad input from within and even outside of the school community.

## **Mission**

The High School of Saint Thomas More exists to assist parents in forming students spiritually, morally, intellectually and physically in a Christ centered atmosphere of love, respect and reverence consistent with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, sending them forth to fulfill their baptismal call as His disciples in the world.

## **Vision**

We believe that The High School of Saint Thomas More has, at the center of its life, the person of Jesus Christ: through prayer, scripture, and worship; through catechesis which leads to evangelization and service; and through an education and formation based upon the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

We believe that a collaborative and cooperative spirit will be fostered between home and school at The High School of Saint Thomas More.

We believe that all Christians are called to imitate Christ in his role as servant, and therefore must render lifelong service to all their brothers and sisters.

We believe that The High School of Saint Thomas More will foster engaged learners who will accept the responsibility to achieve their greatest academic potential.

We believe that The High School of Saint Thomas More will respect each student's unique development spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically, and culturally.

We believe that the administration and faculty of The High School of Saint Thomas More must serve as role-models of Christ's love by establishing and exhibiting an atmosphere of mutual respect.

We believe that in The High School of Saint Thomas More, all individuals should have the opportunity to benefit from the unique combination of intellectual and spiritual formation that characterize a Catholic education.

### **Catholic Identity**

- We will place Christ at the center of everything we do as a Catholic High School by creating cohesion across all teaching departments infusing Christ centered teaching and curriculum in all content areas.
- We will form students, staff, and families into disciples of Christ.
- We will increase student familiarity and participation in the Catholic Culture of the school through traditions and practices.

### **Academic Excellence**

- We will improve our students' reading comprehension skills. By 2018, we will be able to demonstrate that 80% of our students have met or exceeded benchmarks in PLAN Reading and 85% of our students have met or exceeded benchmarks in ACT Reading for at least three consistent years.
- We will improve our students' ability to analyze deeply universal and natural truths. By 2018, we will be able to demonstrate that 45% of our students have met or exceeded benchmarks in PLAN Science, 60% in PLAN Math, 92% in PLAN English; and 50% of our students have met or exceeded benchmarks in ACT Science, 60% in ACT Math, 92% in ACT English for at least three consistent years.

### **Enrollment Management (Student Recruitment & Retention)**

- We will increase the overall enrollment of the school by 5-10 students per year for the next five years (beginning with the 2017-2018 school year).
- We will increase the percentage of students who continue on the tradition of Catholic education through 12th grade. By 2018-19 School year, we will be able to consistently draw above 65% of the students enrolled in our partner schools.
- Retain 90-95% of those students that enroll as Freshman at STM through Senior Year.

### **Marketing**

- We will create a comprehensive and focused marketing strategy that is based on the needs of partner school students, Catholic families not attending partner schools, and Latino families.

## **Development**

- We will increase the percentage of budget financed by fundraising efforts from 10.5% to 15% by 2018–2019.
- We will increase the percentage of alumni donating to the school from 6% to 15% by 2018–2019.

## **Facilities**

- We will develop the infrastructure to fully support and integrate 1:1 instruction by 2018.
- We will create and implement a schedule for short- and long-term maintenance projects.

## **Finances**

- The school's budget will be balanced every year.
- We will establish and grow a contingency fund for long-term capital expenditures.

“Father in heaven, you have given us a mind to know You, a will to serve You, and a heart to love You. Be with us today in all that we do, so that Your light may shine out in our lives.

“We pray that we may be today what You created us to be, and may praise Your name in all that we do. We pray for Your Church: may it be a true light to all nations; May the Spirit of Your Son Jesus guide the words and actions of all Christians today. We pray for all who are searching for truth: bring them Your light and Your love.

“Give us, Lord, a humble, quiet, peaceable, patient, tender and charitable mind, and in all our thoughts, words and deeds a taste of the Holy Spirit. Give us, Lord, a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of You. Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation, dullness in prayer. Give us fervour and delight in thinking of You and Your grace, Your tender compassion towards me. The things that we pray for, good Lord, give us grace to labour for: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

**Prayer of St. Thomas More**