

Little Flower Catholic Elementary School

306 3rd Ave SE – Rugby, ND 58368

School Phone: 701-776-6388

Email: ifs@gondtc.com

Principal: Jorgen Knutson
Secretary: Rita Mitzel
Business Manager: Linda Schneider

Pastor: Fr. Tom Graner
School Board President: Rhonda Livedalen

July 22, 2015

Dear Little Flower Parishioners,

This past spring the Little Flower School launched a strategic planning process with the ultimate goal of strengthening our school and ensuring its long term viability. As one of the first steps of that process you were asked to participate in a survey. To date we have collected 157 surveys. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate with you our next steps and ask you to prayerfully consider continuing to be a part of our continuous improvement process.

As our guide for improving the school we are relying heavily on resources from Loyola University Chicago and the Center for Catholic Schools Effectiveness. A link to the standards can be found online at <http://catholicschoolstandards.org>. This website gives a comprehensive overview of the standards, and also includes a variety of great tools to help build understanding of the importance of Catholic Education in the life of a parish and the Catholic Church as a whole. We encourage you to take the time to review this rich resource. If you do not have internet access please contact the parish office and we will be happy to provide a printed copy of the standards for you.

To that end we have formed a Steering Committee to guide this process. Jorgen Knutson, Amy Casavant, Rita Graber, Linda R. Duchscher along with Father Tom Graner have all agreed to help move this process forward from a leadership perspective. Each steering committee member will take on the responsibility of heading one of the standards areas:

1. **Mission and Catholic Identity**-Rita Graber
2. **Governance and Leadership**-Amy Casavant
3. **Academic Excellence**-Jorgen Knutson
4. **Operational Vitality**-Linda R. Duchscher

Father Tom will help to be sure the Steering Committee receives the necessary support to complete their work. We are asking you to consider serving on one of these committees. Serving on the committee would mean about a ten hour commitment of time from August 30-November 1. The work you would be asked to do is to review the surveys specific to your designated standard area with your committee members and help set goals and create a plan to enhance the standard. The more diverse the committee

membership, the stronger our end results will be, so even if you do not have children in our school we ask you to consider participating.

If you are interested in signing up with one of the committees please contact Amy Casavant (701-290-7042 or amy.casavant@annecenter.org) and share which committee you would prefer to be a part of.

At this time we would like to reiterate our gratitude to those people who took the time to complete the survey. Each of the surveys has been read and will be a part of the data we use to set the course for the future of our school. Some of the general trends the surveys have shown are indicated below:

- The school's accomplishments and success need to be made more visible so the parish community can celebrate the successes together.
- There needs to be a greater degree of transparency as to the finances of the school's operation and longer term planning.
- There is a significant amount of pride in the school that needs to be acknowledged and leveraged for its future success.
- There is support to continue the school's operation and mission.
- There needs to be increased promotion of the school to help increase awareness of the school's successes for those with children as well as potential students, donors to OR benefactors of the school and parishioners in general.

These are only a few of the common threads that have come through the initial analysis of the results of the survey. Our next step of creating committees to delve deeper into the data will allow a more in depth investigation into the school community and provide a foundation for concrete goals of a strategic plan to be clearly defined.

Yours in the Peace of Christ,

The Little Flower School Strategic Planning Committee

Amy Casavant, Rita Graber, Linda R. Duchscher, Jorgen Knutson-Principal, Father Tom Graner
Michael Smith-Diocese of Fargo Superintendent of Catholic Schools