



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HIGH SCHOOL**

217 Cottage Hill Avenue
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
p. 630.530.3460

www.ichsknights.org

ICHS Planning Process
Progress Report
AUGUST 2011

During the spring of 2011, Immaculate Conception High School asked its extended community to “weigh in” on (1) the state of the school today and (2) emerging priorities for the future. To do this, ICHS conducted an online survey, asking those in the school community to share their input on several issues. A total of 468 people took the survey and 95 people participated in one of six focus group meetings. Here is an update on current action items in response to recommendations of the planning participants:

- **Vision**

Many recommendations centered on the need for ICHS to identify its preferred vision for the future. Follow-up on this theme began with a board envisioning process in July and will continue in the fall with the creation of an *ad hoc* Vision and Mission task force – a group comprised of board, high school, current parent and alumni leadership. Their primary task is to work with the school’s current strategic plan as well as the data from the planning process and identify the 3-4 core areas of focus that will shape IC High School’s preferred future for the next 3-5 years.

- **Enhancing Programs**

Flowing from the work of the Vision and Mission task force, the board has chartered three additional *ad hoc* task forces to look at areas that emerged in the planning as critical in IC High School’s planning for the next 3-5 years. Like the Vision and Mission team, each task force will be comprised of a mix of board, high school, current parent and alumni leadership. The task forces: (1) Academics, (2) Recruitment and Enrollment and (3) Co-curricular Activities.

- **Staffing and Additional Program Enhancements**

In an effort to further enhance our academic course offerings, athletics and co-curricular programs, school leadership has taken two immediate steps for the upcoming school year:

- (1) We hired an Assistant Principal/Director of Student Activities. This person will oversee all areas of extra curricular programs including athletics, activities and clubs.



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(2) We established a new daily bell schedule that will allow more focused time for extra curricular activities and clubs to meet during the school day. After a year of research and planning, school leadership found that this new bell schedule should lessen interference with other after school activities, including athletic games and practices. In addition, Chorus and Band have been integrated as course offerings into the context of the school day.

- Created Professional Learning Communities (PLC) /Faculty

In order to facilitate constructive professional dialogue and collaboration within and between academic departments, ICHS will implement a schedule that allows for Professional Learning Communities. These communities will meet monthly according to the school calendar. This time will be spent discussing departmental goals, inter department projects, school initiatives, and/or best practices for the improvement of instruction.

- Created Project Learning and Clubs (PLC) / Students

In order to promote student participation in activities, ICHS will implement a schedule that allows clubs/activities to meet within the context of the school day. This opportunity will occur monthly according to the school calendar. Depending upon the nature of the clubs/activities offered, students may participate in one or two clubs/activities. Some organizations and clubs will also meet outside the regular school day.

- **Advancement Updates**

After careful planning and research, school leadership made the decision to restructure the Development Office. Shifting responsibilities and hiring additional staff will allow us to operate more effectively and efficiently –truly maximizing our resources.

Starting this fall, we will begin seeking funds through leadership gifts/pledges to support the most pressing facility needs of the high school. To this end, Advancement Partners Inc, a national consulting firm with an



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exclusive focus on Catholic secondary education, has been retained to continue its partnership with ICHS in this initiative and will work closely with the administration, Board of Trustees and Development Office to significantly increase philanthropy to our high school.

Additional information on progress and next steps on each of the above-mentioned items will be available later this fall. For further information, please contact Ms. Pamela M. Levar, President/Principal at 630.530.3460.

Thank you for your continued support.