

between our values, actions and our faith.

- Our retreats for high school and middle school students are an integration of human values and faith;
- Our Religious Education Coordinator and the High School staff lead student retreats at both the middle school and high school levels. While encompassing elements of prayer and meditation, the main focus of these retreats is on providing students with an understanding of our faith values and an opportunity to grow in them.
- Our core values integrate faith and human values.
- Our FNMI program values Aboriginal spirituality within the context of Catholic faith.

Likewise, I further interpret “Students perceive faith as a free response to the gift of God Himself” to mean that:

- Our catechetical programs are always conceived as an invitation for the students to encounter God in freedom;
- Our catechetical programs are focused on the life of the Trinity which is grace for us in the Spirit of Christ;
- Students are always invited and not forced into the gift of daily and regular prayer in their schools;
- Students are invited to freely participate in high school and middle school retreats;
- Faith is embodied in growth in virtue, a free acceptance of God’s Spirit – this is the approach of our philosophy of discipline and character formation.

While participation in our liturgies and prayer life at school is always viewed as an invitation to be part of our faith community, non-Catholics who wish to enroll in our system do so with the understanding that their children are respectfully present during prayer, religion classes, liturgies, etc.

Furthermore, I interpret “Students experience the person of Christ in their lives” to mean that:

- Students experience regular prayer and liturgies whose center is Christ;
- Our discipline policy is conceived of as being a disciple, a follower of Christ;
- Our catechetical programs are focused on the mystery of Christ and ask for prayer as part of the students’ encounter with Christ;
- Our core values are seen as a life in the Spirit of Christ

An example of the above statements would be that students in our schools can expect to find Christ referred to in any of their subject areas and not just in religion class. This would be as a result of our belief in the permeation of our faith throughout our school experience and not just in one respect of the student’s school

day.

Finally, I interpret “Students” daily lives exemplify faith values” to mean that:

- Our discipline philosophy guiding students is faith-based;
- Our core values call for students to live their life based on faith;
- Regular prayer and service and charitable activities exemplify faith values in our students’ lives.

Examples of this interpretation are found daily as our students engage in activities designed to give of themselves to assist others who are less fortunate (Santa’s Anonymous, Food Bank, Fair Trade Market, Share Lent, Backpacks for the Homeless, Out of School Care Sock program, Teens for Change, etc.) **Our Teens for Change Teacher Advisor and a team of students travelled to Ecuador over spring break to participate in a service work project at the school that the Holy Trinity Teens for Change group raised funds to build.**

I certify that the above information is accurate as of April 18, 2016.

George McGuigan
Superintendent of Schools