



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS
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Dear School Communities,

May the Peace of Christ be with all of you.

Welcome back to the academic year of 2011-2012! It is my hope that each of you has found some rewarding rest during the summer months with family and friends. It sometimes baffles me on how time flies when we are either having fun or working tirelessly to achieve our goals. I must say personally, that I cannot believe this is my second year with you as your superintendent, but how grateful I am that God has allowed me to minister to you.

During my first year I engaged the Office of Catholic Schools and Centers and all the school communities to join me in creating a strategic plan that would allow us, as a diocese, to plan for the future of Catholic education. We have developed a plan called "We have Faith in Catholic Schools." This plan identifies five goals which will allow us to boldly provide a road map that will create more viable and vital schools for the future. Last year each of the schools underwent an intensive process of self-examination and validation of projections and trends. This time allowed my office and the strategic planning committee to analyze and interpret the data, and as a result, create a diocesan strategic plan for Catholic education. Attached I provide you with a copy of the executive summary to the strategic plan and a description of the goals.

We are entering the second year in the planning process, goals are set and we begin implementing many of the objectives of the goals. Please allow me to share some with you.

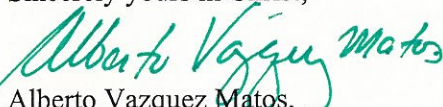
Professional development opportunities will be more available to teachers and administrators in many of the areas of their day to day work. A committee is working on creating a Catholic Identity Assessment that will insure the Catholicity of all our institutions. We are working on creating and implementing new programs that will allow schools to analyze student data and create college readiness plans and/or interventions. In collaboration with the Diocesan Office of Parish and School Accounting we are standardizing financial and account practices to give administrators more accurate data for effective decision making. There has been an increase in collaborate initiatives such as E-Rate funding and State federal programs that will allow schools to advance and increase programs in the area of educational technology and educational programs. A reorganization of my office was recently done with the purpose that the office can be present and available to each of you based on needs and services. We continue to create stronger partnerships with Catholic universities for professional leadership opportunities, such as Notre Dame and Fordham universities.

These are just a few of the projects that are ongoing and you will, in some way, be a part of them. I am very excited to see that, with our hard work, we have so much to look forward to this year. The strategic planning teams continue to work in monitoring the success of the plan and making sure that I, as your superintendent, stay on course.

It is my hope that you will find much success and fulfillment this academic year; either as an administrator, parent, teacher, staff, or student. Each of you will participate in a wonderful and blessed Catholic education in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

With prayerful best wishes I remain.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Alberto Vazquez Matos,
Superintendent of Schools