

# Immaculate Conception † St. Joseph School Newsletter

[www.boscocatholic.org](http://www.boscocatholic.org)

October 28, 2021

With support from families, we respect and encourage students to reach their potential **Spiritually** by developing a strong relationship with Jesus and knowledge of His church, **Academically** by igniting learning, leadership and life skills, **Physically** by learning about and living healthy habits and **Socially** by becoming active members of the community who serve others as stewards of the Gospel so they are the light of Christ in the world.

## From Mrs. Douglas-

Three years ago, in school year 2019-2020, we decided to become a Leader in Me school. What is the Leader in Me? Well, the Leader in Me is a process designed around a belief that every child can be a leader. Schools and parents can help children realize their potential by valuing their unique worth, giving them opportunities to lead and providing them with a foundation of timeless universal principles and practical skills. It is a whole-school transformation model that includes training for teachers, administrators and staff, as well as implementation support, materials for both students and classrooms and access to an online community with resources.

Becoming a Leader in Me school takes time! It begins with teaching our staff about Leader in Me and helping them to grow in both their personal and professional lives. We spent a lot of time training teachers and that is an area of ongoing professional development. Next, we began to introduce students to the 7 Habits. Hopefully, you have heard some of the language associated with them, like: be proactive, begin with the end in mind, put first things first, think win-win, seek first to understand and then to be understood, synergize and sharpen the saw. Each classroom has an established time each week called "Lead Time". It is during this time that specific lessons are taught to teach more about these habits.

Now, in year three, we are working towards the goal of educating families more about Leader in Me and the 7 Habits.

On Monday, November 1st, we will be holding an assembly with our students and letting them know about an opportunity to share the habits at home. We are also including a faith component as we know that our Faith is the bedrock of our character and meshes perfectly with the 7 Habits. As you begin to learn more about them, you will discover this connection as well!

Your student will be bringing home a flyer letting you know more about this on Monday!



### **Leaf Raking Service Project**

Tomorrow the middle school students will be participating in our annual leaf raking service project for the elderly and disabled citizens of our community.

Each middle school student needs to have a rake, bring a sack lunch, and dress for the weather. Please label your rake. NO rakes on Waterloo buses!

### **Veteran's Day Celebration**

Bosco Catholic Schools will be celebrating Veteran's Day with an assembly in the St. Mary Center Gym on Thursday, November 11 at 9:15AM. All are invited to join us as we celebrate those Veterans within our community and those veterans who have passed away. Veterans and their guests are invited to join us for a reception in the St. Mary Center Commons at 8:45.



**Please send all newsletter items to [icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org](mailto:icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org) by 3:00pm on Wednesday, November 3.**



### **Conferences**

Thank you to all of our families that attended conferences this fall! These dedicated times for our teachers to be available is so important to strengthening the School-Family partnership that we work for here in the Bosco Catholic School System!

Last spring, we had 92% attendance in grades K-8. We set a goal for 98% attendance this fall. Unfortunately, we fell short and K-8 only had 90.55% attendance. Grades K-5 came close with 95.2% attendance; Grades 6-8 came in at 78.94% attendance.

We know things come up that make attending conferences challenging sometimes but we are keeping our goal for K-8 at 98% for Spring!

I know we can do it! [Mark your calendars now for Monday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 15.](#) See you there!!

### **PTO News**

Our next PTO meeting will be held at 6:00pm on Tuesday, November 2 in Ms. Sandman's classroom. Enter the south doors of the high school. Ms. Sandman's room is 104. Note location change. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Bosco's Fall Play**

The Bosco Drama Department will present their fall play *The Crimson House Murder* on Friday, Nov. 5; Saturday, Nov. 6 at 7:00PM; Sunday, Nov. 7 at 2:00 PM in the Don Bosco Gym. Admission is \$5.00.

This murder mystery spoofs private eye shows of the past and is sure to give you plenty to laugh about. The cast and crew are made up of 7-12 graders from Don Bosco, Immaculate Conception, and St. Athanasius. We hope to see many of you there for a night of thrills and chills mixed with lots of fun!

### **Christmas Concert Information**

Mark Your Calendars! The K-5 elementary art show and Christmas program will be on Wednesday, December 1. Families may arrive at 5:30pm to view all the wonderful artwork, the concert will begin at 6:00 in the DB gym.

The middle and high school art show and Christmas program will be on Wednesday, December 15. Only students involved in the middle school band and choir will perform for this concert, but all middle school students and families are encouraged to attend to view their artwork and enjoy the concert. Families may arrive at 6:30 to view the artwork, the concert will begin at 7:00pm.

A concert for all middle school students is being planned for the spring. More information to come at a later date.

### **Preschool News**

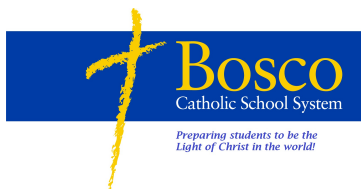
The Preschool classes have been learning all about Fall for the month of October. The children have made colorful fall leaves, have worked on cutting a glueing skills making Jack-O-Lanterns to display in our classrooms, and have made spooky Halloween decorations such as monsters, bats, and spiders. We also took a class field trip to Heartland Pumpkin Farm with some high school helpers and enjoyed a hayride, corn maze, bounce houses and petting the goats and horse.

Each year the Preschool Program has an unannounced visit from a representative of the Iowa Department of Human Service to ensure that we are meeting the standards needed to keep our preschool up and running with quality care and a great learning environment for our children. We are happy to say that our program is and has been in compliance with DHS rules and regulations for the last seven years.



### **Strategic Planning Committee Members Needed**

The Bosco Catholic School System School Board recently approved the Strategic Planning Committee's goals for the next several years. The strategic planning committee is focused this year on Marketing and Communications. Anyone interested in helping the committee in these areas should contact Development Director Chris Kangas at [ckangas@boscocatholic.org](mailto:ckangas@boscocatholic.org) or 319-296-1692. See the Strategic Plan Goals below.



**Bosco Catholic School System † PO Box 256 † Gilbertville, IA 50634  
IC 319-296-1089 † SJ 319-233-5980 † Fax 319-296-3847**

### ***Plans For a New St. Joseph Preschool Playground***

The goal for the growth of our St. Joseph preschool program is to build a new playground. DHS rules and age limits on the current playground equipment in Raymond restrict the usage of our current equipment for our preschoolers. We would like the playground to be fenced in with a safe rubber fall surface and for it to be located to the East side of the church behind the garage, not attached to the garage. We need to have 75% square foot per child and we are planning on making it large enough for at least 30 children. Thoughts about making it larger than needed have been talked about to add a grass area as well as the rubber surface inside the fence which would be accessible for a riding lawnmower. For questions regarding the playground plans, please contact Heather Marvin 319-404-5722 or [hmarvin@boscocatholic.org](mailto:hmarvin@boscocatholic.org).

If you would like to hear more details about this, there is a BCSS PTO meeting next Tuesday November 2 at 6:00pm in Ms. Sandman's classroom through the south doors of the high school. The classroom is closest to those doors in the middle school hallway. We would like to hear parishioners input before or during this meeting so we can start planning for fundraising on this project.

### ***Nurse's Notes***

Trying to have a healthy Halloween? Here are some ideas from the American Heart Association that might help. Plan a healthy meal before trick or treating. Try using a smaller container that will look full faster. Be sure to check all food before it is eaten. Check for foods that may contain allergens or that are expired. Try walking your Halloween route instead of driving. Wear comfortable shoes and take a good flashlight. Try healthier options such as cuties, sugar free gum, 100% juice boxes or snack size bags of pretzels or trail mix. Non food ideas may include glow sticks, stickers or stamps, slime or putty. Have a plan for anything that is left over. Happy Halloween.

We have had a few cases of strep throat reported here at school. Strep throat is a bacterial infection treated with antibiotics. The symptoms may include a sore throat, fever, abdominal pain, and headaches. Students should remain at home for 24 hours after starting the antibiotic and return only when their symptoms are improving. Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections and do not help with viral infections such as the common cold, influenza or COVID-19. Please remind your children to wash their hands frequently, use the hand sanitizer that is available, keep their hands off their face and not to share supplies. Clean common surfaces with a cleanser that is effective against strep including door knobs, light switches, counter tops, and phones, paying close attention to the time it needs to be on the surface to be effective. We are trying to follow these same guidelines at school. Germs are not for sharing. Marianne Hickey RN

### ***Middle School Girls Basketball***

It's that time of the year again, Basketball season. The 7th & 8th grade girls middle school season will start on November 8. We will have practice from 3:30-5:00, Monday thru Friday. I look forward to the season, any questions feel free to contact me at [brian.k.weber.bw@gmail.com](mailto:brian.k.weber.bw@gmail.com) or 319-504-7833. Thanks, Coach Weber.

### ***Middle School Boys Basketball Informational Meeting***

There will be an informational parent meeting about the middle school Boys Basketball team in the St. Mary Center commons on Monday, November 1, at 6:15pm. Middle school Boys Basketball is open to students in grades 7th & 8th. If your son is interested in basketball this year, please attend the meeting. There is also a sign up sheet by the water fountain in the middle school hallway.

### ***Blood Drive***

Don Bosco National Honor Society is on a mission to help save lives by participating in the American Red Cross high school program! Through this program, our students have the chance to take part in a meaningful effort to give hope to hospital patients in need. We will host a Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, November 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the high school gym, and your support can help make this blood drive a success!

Did you know almost 20 percent of the millions of blood donations made each year come from high school and college blood drives? Now, eligible Don Bosco students and their families will have a chance to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients, accident and burn victims, and many other blood recipients in our area and across the nation. This is a community service project that is both easy and rewarding!

Giving blood at this drive can also help our students earn scholarships! We're proud to take part in the American Red Cross High School Scholarship Program. Scholarships are awarded to students that demonstrate leadership in the coordination of Don Bosco's blood drives.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or contact the high school office 319-296-1692.

### ***Pee Wee Wrestling***

Team Bosco Pee Wee wrestling will begin on Sunday, Nov 28 at 4:00 PM in the wrestling room. Everyone between PK-2nd grade is welcome to come learn about wrestling and have fun while at it. Practices will be each Sunday at 4:00 PM through the beginning of February. If you have any questions, please contact Isaiah Corbin at 712-389-5174 or [Isaiah.Corbin@gmail.com](mailto:Isaiah.Corbin@gmail.com).

**---Pee Wee Wrestling Practice Schedule:---**

Sunday, Nov. 28	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 5	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 12	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 19	4:00-5:00 PM
TBD	Team Bosco Kid's Tourney
Sunday, Jan 2	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Jan 9	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Jan 16	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday Jan 23	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Jan 30	4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday, Feb 6	4:00 PM, Dodge Ball and Pizza Party

### ***Jr. Dons Girls Basketball Season Begins***

Basketball practices for girls in grades 2-6 will begin next week. Girls in grade 2 will work on fundamentals and the basics of the game. Girls in grades 3-6 will be playing scrimmages against other local teams in the coming months. Our practices will focus on both fundamentals and game strategies. All skill levels are welcome. We are here to instill the love of the game and to have fun! Mark your calendar for the following dates and times.

Additional practice schedules will be set at a later date. Participants please bring gym shoes and a water bottle.

-Tuesday, November 2nd: 4-5:30pm @SMC

-Sunday, November 7th: 3:30-5pm @SMC

-Sunday, November 14th: 3:30-5pm @SMC

-Sunday, November 21st: 3:30-5pm @SMC

-Sunday, November 28th: 3:30-5pm @SMC

Please reach out to Jess Steils ([jess.steils@gmail.com](mailto:jess.steils@gmail.com)) or Crystal Frost ([crystaleven@hotmail.com](mailto:crystaleven@hotmail.com)) with any questions. Thank you!

### ***Jr. Dons Boys Basketball***

All boys in 3rd through 6th grade who are interested in playing basketball this year please reach out to:

Jessica Steils (5th/6th graders) - [jess.steils@gmail.com](mailto:jess.steils@gmail.com)

OR Ross Fagerlind (3rd/4th graders) -

[rossfagerlind@gmail.com](mailto:rossfagerlind@gmail.com)

We are planning to start practices in December, and have developmental league games in January and February. More info to follow!



# The 7 Habits of Happy Kids



## Habit 1- Be Proactive: You're In Charge

- I am a responsible person.
- I take initiative.
- I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.
- I do not blame others for my wrong actions.
- I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

## Habit 2- Begin with the End in Mind: Have A Plan

- I plan ahead and set goals.
- I do things that have meaning and make a difference.
- I am an important part of my classroom and school.



## Habit 3- Put First Things First: Work First, Then Play

- I spend my time on things that are most important.
- I say no to things I know I should not do.
- I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.
- I am self-disciplined and organized.



## Habit 4- Think Win-Win: Everyone Can Win

- I want everyone to be a success.
- I don't have to put others down to get what I want.
- When a conflict happens, I look for a third solution.
- I believe that we all can win!



## Habit 5- Seek First to Understand Then to be Understood:

### Listen Before You Talk

- I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.
- I try to see things from their viewpoints.
- I listen to others without interrupting.
- I share my opinions and ideas.



## Habit 6- Synergize: Together Is Better

- I know that everyone is good at something
- Everyone needs to get better at something.
- We can all learn something from each other.
- Working in groups helps to create better ideas than what one person can do alone.

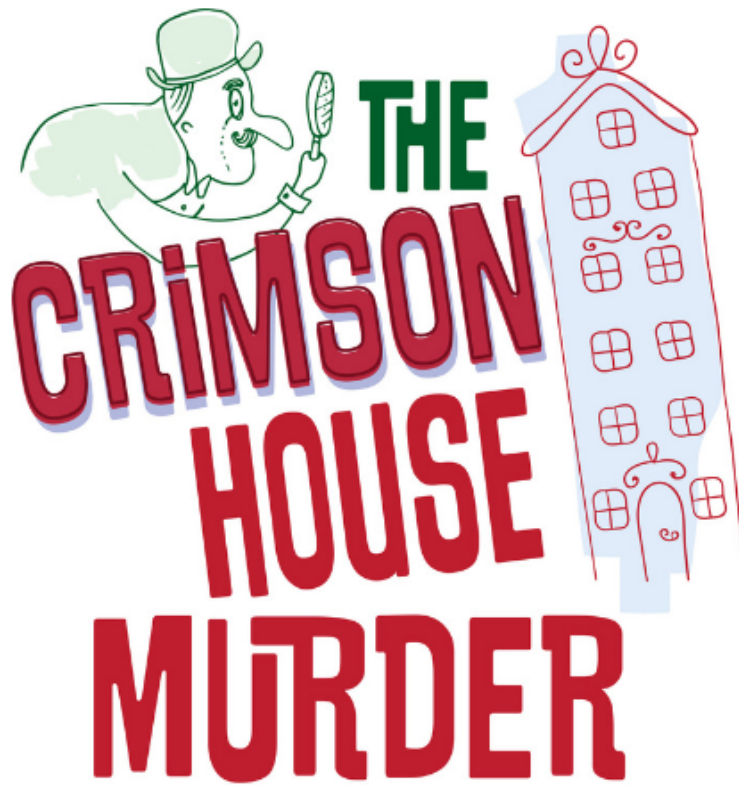


## Habit 7- Sharpen the Saw: Balance Feels Best

- I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep.
- I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school.
- I take time to help others.



**The Bosco System Drama  
Department Presents**

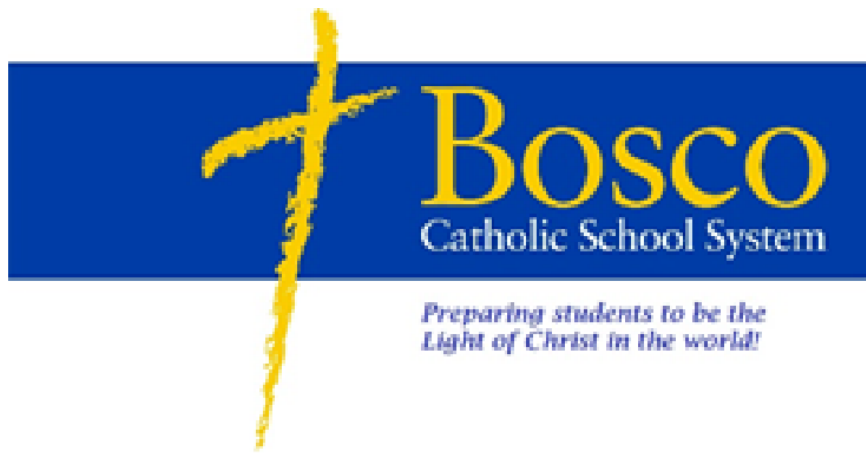


  
BY TIM KELLY

**Friday, November 5 7:00PM**  
**Saturday, November 6 7:00 PM**  
**Sunday, November 7 2:00 PM**

**Don Bosco Gym | Admission \$5**

**Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.,  
Denver, Colorado**



# STRATEGIC PLAN



# INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2019 the Bosco Catholic School System joined the rest of the schools in the ArchDiocese of Dubuque in undertaking the task of updating our Strategic Plans. This is a four-year process that will take our vision for our schools out for the next 10 years. In year one we updated our Schools' Mission Statement, Vision Statement and our Profile of a Graduate upon Graduation which can be seen in the following pages. Despite delays due to the pandemic we have continued to move the process and conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis using a broad cross-section of our users (Alumni, Current Parents, Parish members and staff). This feedback allowed us to develop our goals for the duration of this plan. They have been reviewed and approved by our school board and will drive our decision-making for the duration of this process.

If you'd like to join our planning committee please contact our Development Director, Chris Kangas, at [ckangas@boscocatholic.org](mailto:ckangas@boscocatholic.org) or 319-296-1692.



## MISSION

***With support from families, we respect and encourage students to reach their potential Spiritually by developing a strong relationship with Jesus and knowledge of His Church, Academically by igniting learning, leadership and life skills, Physically by learning about and living healthy habits and Socially by becoming active members of the community who serve others as stewards of the Gospel so they are the Light of Christ in the world.***

## VISION

***We are the model of Catholic PK – 12 education where leaders of the future are shaped Spiritually, Academically, Physically, and Socially to impact the world by leading lives of Faith, Integrity, and Service to others by being the Light of Christ in the world. We are proud to provide this excellence in Catholic education to a diverse and ever-growing number of students.***



# GRADUATE PROFILE

*We, with support from their families, achieve development of all students to prepare them to continue to grow in the following areas upon graduation:*

- *Spiritually by developing a strong relationship with Jesus and knowledge of His Church*
- *Academically by valuing current and lifelong learning*
- *Physically by learning and accepting healthy living habits*
- *Socially by becoming active members of the community who serve others joyfully*

*We provide all students with a challenging overall experience with focus on developing the whole person. Upon graduation, graduates should be able to set goals and achieve balance in the following:*

## **Spiritual Goals**

- *Understand and appreciate the uniqueness and value of every person*
- *Understand and appreciate the relevance of Scripture and prayer in their daily personal lives*
- *Form opinions on moral issues with clarity using a Christian conscience and strong sense of social justice*
- *Exhibit faith, leadership, and the principles of Christianity as taught by the Catholic Church*
- *Further develop their personal relationship with God through prayer, liturgy, and a sacramental life*

## **Academic Goals**

- *Use effective skills to acquire knowledge*
- *Utilize current technologies as a learning tool*
- *Listen and communicate effectively, expressing ideas clearly through oral and written expression*
- *Demonstrate a strong work ethic through organizational skills, study habits, and effective time management*
- *Think critically and apply knowledge to seek understanding of new situations both independently and collaboratively*
- *Recognize quality work and choose to pursue excellence by relying on self-discipline, initiative, creativity, and integrity*

## **Physical Goals**

- *Understand and appreciate the value of maintaining a healthy lifestyle*
  - *Participate in regular physical activities*
  - *Get adequate daily rest*
  - *Maintain a healthy diet*
- *Strive for a positive outlook on life*
- *Daily time for self-reflection*
- *Demonstrate initiative and perseverance*

## **Social Goals**

- *Interact successfully while treating everyone with respect (Think win-win)*
- *Treat others with dignity, respect, and compassion by appreciating cultural, religious, and economic diversity*
- *Accept responsibility for their actions*
- *Act with compassion toward everyone including those less fortunate*
- *Productively contribute to a local, national and global community*
- *Use their gifts, talents, and blessings to be of service to others*
- *Exhibit social responsibility, community service and promote the common good*
- *Use technology responsibly to be a positive digital citizen*



# STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

## MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- Bosco Catholic School System will foster internally inspired Catholic spiritual development for each individual
- Bosco Catholic School System will foster externally inspired Catholic spiritual development for each individual
- Bosco Catholic School System will integrate Catholic theology into every aspect of formation

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Bosco Catholic School System will nurture academic excellence by developing incentives to attract and retain highly qualified staff, maintaining low staff to student ratios and keeping current with our curricular offerings

## FINANCE

- Bosco Catholic School System will continue its efforts to be on par or better compared to Archdiocesan schools comparable to our size in regard to staff benefits (i.e., pay, retirement, tuition discount)

## FACILITIES & TRANSPORTATION

- Bosco Catholic School System will create and implement a comprehensive buildings and grounds maintenance plan.
- Bosco Catholic School System will become transportation sufficient for all needs

## TECHNOLOGY

- Bosco Catholic School System will maintain and evaluate technology initiatives

## GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- Bosco Catholic School System will annually evaluate the effectiveness of the School Board and Administrative structure to strengthen and sustain the system
- Bosco Catholic School System will continue growth and engagement of the School Board and its committees in promoting accountability for fulfilling the school's mission and achievement of its strategic plan

## OPERATIONAL VITALITY

- Bosco Catholic School System will achieve enrollment goals through enhanced communication, marketing, and nurturing of positive relationships with current and prospective families
- Bosco Catholic School System will maintain growth in current revenue streams and evaluate potential new sources to provide funds for the system to address identified needs
- Bosco Catholic School System will improve our efficiency by effectively utilizing shared educational resources (i.e. staff, buildings, campuses)