



Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

3624 Market Street, 2 West | Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

Phone: 267-284-5000 | www.middlestates.org

November 22, 2011

Mrs. Eileen Sullivan
Principal
Saint Matthew School
100 Seymour Avenue
Edison NJ 08817-3747

Dear Mrs. Sullivan:

Enclosed you will find the response from the Commission to the Progress Report which was submitted for your school. We appreciate your report and the time and energy of all those who worked to complete it.

This review should have given the school the opportunity to examine the progress it has made on its strategic goals and to formulate new goals to continue your school improvement. It is hoped that this response will assist your school with that movement.

All of us here at the Middle States wish you well as you continue on your school improvement journey.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Rineer

Alexandra Rineer
Manager for Accreditation Reports and Records
Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

**MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
PROGRESS REPORT ANALYSIS**

Third Year Report

Sixth Year Report

School: Saint Matthew the Apostle School
100 Seymour Avenue
Edison, NJ 08817

Principal: Mrs. E. Sullivan

Name of District/Diocese (if applicable): Diocese of Metuchen

Superintendent: Ms. Ellen Ayoub

Report prepared for: Single School
 District-Number of Schools

LIST STRATEGIC GOALS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. To implement strategies to deal with bullies through an anti-bullying program
2. To establish formal Spanish language classes

COMMENTS ON PROCESS USED TO COMPLETE REPORT:

This report represents a concerted effort by the administration and faculty to enhance their scholastic program. They discussed, pondered and evaluated various avenues to improve their overall educational offerings. They also made suggestions for new directions that would further enhance their mission. The result was this reflective document that focuses on improving areas that will be most beneficial to the entire scholastic community. The Sixth Year Progress Report was shared with the parish and school community.

COMMENTS ON PROGRESS OF STRATEGIC GOAL IMPLEMENTATION:

Through clearly delineating and implementing their objectives, St. Matthew the Apostle School has creatively and systematically enhanced their educational agenda. Their first initiative is

timely and praiseworthy since we inhabit a world fraught with violence. Strides in this area envelop children utilizing effective strategies to deal with bullying behaviors and “no bullying” bulletin board themes. The overarching effect on the tone of the school setting has been one of calm reserve allowing children to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner while honing problem solving skills. Part of the original design of this first goal has been modified. Paving a “Peace Walk” has been shelved due to budgetary constraints. In its stead, the school will plant a “Peace Garden”. Their second objective has not only been fully actualized but has surpassed original expectations. Pupils (K – 8) are having their cultural perspectives expanded through instruction in Spanish. Furthermore, this World Language Program makes St. Matthew competitive with their public school counterparts. Accolades on all accounts!

COMMENTS ON NEW STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

Strategic planning efforts for the future will focus on the following endeavor: bolstering writing skills in Language Arts and Writing Road Map by one grade. The target date for this is the end of 2013 with designated committees in place to facilitate the completion of this goal.

COMMENTS ON SCHOOL STATUS:

The school is a parish elementary school operating under the aegis of the Diocese of Metuchen who, in turn, entrusts the responsibility for its ministry to the pastor. Student enrollment has remained relatively stable. Under the leadership of the principal, prescribed policies/procedures are implemented and the faculty is encouraged to pursue professional development opportunities.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE OVERALL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT:

St. Matthew the Apostle School provides their students a firm foundation in the Catholic faith and offers them a viable means to realize academic achievement. The diligent administration and teaching staff accept the challenge of furnishing a value-centered education steeped in Christian tradition. They engage children in a variety of learning experiences through a developmentally appropriate curriculum. This empowers their pupils to actualize their maximum potential in the spiritual, scholastic and physical domains. Additionally, a diverse palette of co-curricular and extracurricular activities fosters a positive cultural and social climate as well as promotes leadership abilities.

Report accepted as submitted Yes No

Progress Report Reviewed by: Judith A. Urban, M. Ed.

Date of Report: October 6, 2011