



# St. Agatha Catholic School est. 1911

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Learning. Faith. Service.

## Accreditation Team Report Summary

### **Criterion #1 Involvement and Collaboration in Self Study Process**

There is clear evidence that the self-study process was a collaboration of the entire St. Agatha Catholic School community. The process was effective and resulted in a sound self-study. The St. Agatha community has provided input on the Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLEs) assuring all stakeholders that students receive an education that is rooted in Faith, Learning and Service.

### **Criterion #2 Schoolwide Learning Expectations (SLE's)**

A relationship between the school's mission statement and philosophy and its SLEs are clearly effective and apparent in the school. The philosophy acknowledges the importance of drawing upon the resources of the entire St. Agatha School and community. That sense of community rooted in Catholic Church traditions encompasses the mission statement and the foundation of the school's SLEs.

### **Criterion #3 Assessment Process**

The use of professionally acceptable assessment process has been effective. Classroom teachers employ a wide variety of formative and summative assessments. Assessment data is the basis for measurement of each student's progress in achieving the grade level subject area expectations, regular evaluation and improvement of curriculum and instruction, and allocation of resources.

### **Criterion #4 Quality of School Program**

Acceptable progress toward students attaining SLEs is evident, and St. Agatha School's progress is effective. The faith and service components of St. Agatha School's SLEs are strong and effective. The staff uses information garnered from formal assessments to place students in appropriate programs, and to determine teaching direction and modifications for students on all parts of the learning spectrum. The staff has worked together to adopt programs and implement curriculum that stresses higher-level thinking skills and open-ended questioning. St. Agatha School has been highly effective in serving as an instrument for evangelization. The school community is dedicated to instilling in students the Schoolwide Learning Expectations of Faith, Learning and Service. The staff is committed to continually forming their faith and modeling integrity and high morals. The students practice their Catholic faith in many ways; they are encouraged and expected to work toward their academic potential and to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

### **Criterion #5 Organization for Student Learning**

The entire St. Agatha School community continually works toward creating an effective learning environment through constant communication, partnership with parents, continual improvement of curriculum, and fostering a safe and healthy school atmosphere. School administration encourages input and participation from members of the school community.



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## **Criterion #6 Curriculum and Instruction**

St. Agatha Catholic School is effective in providing a challenging, comprehensive, and relevant curriculum that utilizes a variety of teaching methodologies for students. The SLEs and religion are integrated into all curriculum areas and the textbook adoptions are aligned with the curriculum guidelines set by the Archdioceses of Portland. Specialized instruction in music, P.E., technology is provided to students and specialists collaborate with classroom teachers to provide integrated, and relevant curriculum. St. Agatha School would benefit from expanded specialized curriculum, such as foreign language, and extra-curricular activities, such as band, to enrich student learning. Teachers use a variety of assessments tools to gauge student progress towards SLEs and grade level expectations.

## **Criterion #7 Support for Personal, Spiritual and Academic Growth**

The school has an effective program that supports student personal, spiritual and academic growth through a variety of support systems that enhance the Schoolwide Learning Expectations. The pastor is actively involved with the students at St. Agatha School. A small community and smaller class sizes are conducive to individualized attention. Teachers take an active role in recognizing the needs of all students. St. Agatha School is highly effective in establishing and promoting Catholic Identity. Evidence of promoting the Schoolwide Learning Expectations is strong. The administration, staff, and parents support and design myriads of service projects that include students in Christian service within the school, the parish, the local neighborhood and extensions to the larger Portland community. Each grade level teacher emphasizes respect for, love of, and participation in the Catholic community and surrounding neighborhood. Teachers and staff communicate the importance of Catholic values, personal responsibility, recognition of individual spiritual gifts, and application of religious concepts to social interactions, using these principles as guidelines for problem solving in daily living.

## **Criterion #8 Resource Management and Development**

St. Agatha Catholic School does a reasonably effective job of maintaining the operational budget to support the year-to-year operation of the school. All of the school's financials are reviewed with the School Advisory Council and Parish Administrative Councils. St. Agatha School's enrollment has held steady over the last five years but is consistently below capacity. The administration recognizes that increased enrollment is a priority for ensuring stable funding and support into the future. Future enrollment looks promising with an influx of young families in the parish as well as an increase in the number of kindergarten students in the Sellwood community. Currently, the St. Agatha School Advisory Council is creating and implementing a 3-5 year plan that includes curriculum, facilities, development, a financial plan, and the school's Catholic Identity. The school is in the process of revising an annual strategic planning process for revenue and expenses for future line item budgeting. The principal has been consulting with the School Advisory Council to increase marketing and development plans for future growth of student enrollment. It would be helpful in the budgetary planning process to shift financial dependency from fund raising for daily operating costs to a more reliable revenue stream.