



DeSales Catholic School

The Start of Something Great

Annual Report

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2011 - 2012 Brings New Educational Programs to DeSales

Throughout this past year our local newspapers have been rife with stories of budgetary cutbacks within public school systems and how they will affect the programs offered to students. However, DeSales Catholic School is proud to say that we are expanding our programs in an ongoing drive to provide the very best Catholic education to our students.

This September, DeSales is proud to welcome Ms. Jennifer Cohen as our school based counselor. Her role at school will be to attend to the ongoing guidance concerns encountered by students in every school, and also to work directly with our newest middle school students on a weekly basis. Ms. Cohen has designed a program to help build the transition skills required of all grade 6 students, and also the ethical and moral development of these young adolescents. Additionally, this year we are renewing our dedication to our religious roots with a variety of faith-based programs. The central focus of this effort, under the direction of our Religious Education Coordinator, Mr. Paul Schuster, is to help mold DeSales students into the faith-based leaders of tomorrow's Catholic Church.

In last year's letter, I wrote about how schools are historically measured through the excellence of their academic accomplishments, and that has not changed. Now, in an attempt to stay well ahead of the curve, DeSales is proud to discuss the expansion of our Academic Intervention program as well as our Response to Intervention (RtI) program. The 2011-2012 school year sees two new faces joining our Academic Intervention team. Mr. Edward Beard and Mrs. Stacey Pellicano, specialists in math and literacy respectively, have a great depth of knowledge in intervention and enrichment that will allow them to both support and challenge our students to expand their minds past their perceived limits. Additionally, Mrs. Pellicano, while continuing to teach our youngest preschool students, will begin a new role as our Response to Intervention Director. In her role as RtI Director, Mrs. Pellicano will work very closely with classroom teachers in Kindergarten through grade four to more closely evaluate and recommend courses of action for literacy progression.

As you can see, we have been very busy this year and the budgetary heartache felt in many districts has not been cause for despair at DeSales. We firmly believe that the above programs, coupled with the rigorous standards DeSales has always held, continue to allow us to say that our school is truly The Start of Something Great!

Scott C. Fike, Ph.D., Principal

DeSales Board Earns National Recognition

DeSales Catholic School was recognized by the National Catholic Educational Association as an Outstanding Board for 2011. The NCEA, founded in 1904, is a professional organization that provides leadership, direction and service to fulfill the evangelizing, catechizing and teaching mission of the church. NCEA members include more than 7,000 elementary, middle and high schools as well as parish religious education programs and seminaries.

After a thorough review process, the Executive Committee of the NCEA Department of Boards and Councils found the work of the DeSales Board over the previous three years to be an outstanding model for other governance groups. This honor was presented to only seven organizations throughout the United States. When asked about this honor and what it represents, Mr. Samuel Burruano, current President of the DeSales Board of Trustees, stated that "This incredible recognition is a testament to the tremendous efforts of our Board and Committee volunteers, who are unified in the common purpose of providing a rewarding and challenging educational experience to DeSales' students, inside and

outside the classroom." Several members of the board and DeSales administrative staff, as well as representatives from the Education Department at the Diocese of Buffalo accepted the award at the NCEA annual conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana in April.



Accepting the NCEA Outstanding Board Award are (left to right) Burruano, board member David Wohleben, DeSales principal Dr. Scott Fike, Ellen Roth, director of advancement, and board member Anne McCaffrey.