

Refer to all the children as our children; do not promote that there is a significant distinction between RE kids and St. Peter's School kids

Have Children's' Mass followed by kid's socials for all St. Peter's Parish kids

Have common projects for all parish kids to do together
School classes and religious ed students participate in some Masses

Have people understand that we are ONE parish community and not separate entities. i.e. Church, School, K of C, CCW, etc.

B-3 How do we increase communication between the school and the parish?

Strategic Solutions:

Improve St. Peter's School website by addressing current events, including curriculum, school report card (Terra Nova Testing) and strengths; and by including involvement in community events

Identify a newspaper PR representative

Community Forum Solutions:

Develop a structure for communication between school and parish, i.e. parish website and school website

More information about school events in the bulletin

B-4 How can we support St. Peter's School Board to make St. Peter's School the school of choice?

Strategic Solutions:

Continue strong academic curriculum

Publicize the competence of our teachers

Promote St. Peter School in community events by word of mouth, banners, signs and newspapers

Recruit kindergarteners

Offer creative financing options to new students – scholarship fund, endowments

Do a gap analysis between St. Peter's School and area public schools

Create better understanding by Parish

Community Forum Solutions:

Priest(s) to be more of an advocate for the school

Let the parishioners, especially those who do not have children in the school, know how to donate their time and talents to the school

School Board needs to make the needs and issues more public; more marketing and public relations

Give School Board more authority and accountability in decision-making

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM "C":
YOUTH & FAMILY

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Youth and Family Planning Team is to create a plan that will establish programs and provide resources to involve the youth, young adults, couples and families in living their faith through St. Peter's Parish.

Challenges

C-1 How can we create programs and activities that will engage the youth in parish life?

Strategic Solutions:

Create a committee to identify youth programs (look into current programs) and funding options, help look into hiring a Youth Minister if necessary and research youth programs from other parishes. (suggestion: include youth, Mrs. Leonard, a deacon, parents and students on this committee)

Create a youth music ministry

Create volunteer programs

Bring summer workshops/trade programs to the parish

Funding options e.g. extra envelopes for youth ministry, fund-raising events

Community Forum Solutions:

Create a social, youth and family ministry separate from religious ed.

Program for youth to help seniors with chores

Create a Bear Buddy program – mentoring of K/1st graders by older students to transition to school life. Process starts at Baptism. (See John Shaffer for details)

Youth sports in school gym – volleyball, basketball, etc.

Reunions of past classes and groups

Survey the children

Create a Youth Council to consist of mentors, facilitators, church elders, etc.

Youths help seniors with yard work, painting, errands, etc

Investigate the possibility of a Catholic High School and develop a plan to have one in a couple of years

Teen Masses

C-2 How can we get more families involved in the parish?

Strategic Solutions:

Identify a family coordinator committee

Create a baby-sitting plan for the parish (who, where, how)

Create activities all family members can participate in

Create enticing programs such as faith-based parenting classes to strengthen marriage and family life

Start a parenting class or other topics of interest during CCD classes

Provide a list of resources for family crisis and family counseling

Start home-based discussion groups

Coordinate with Education and Facilities and Grounds about creating a men's ministry and the improvement of the cry room

Community Forum Solutions:

Have a parish coordinator reach out and contact new and young families

When there is a funeral and the family has the fellowship afterwards in Fr. Frawley Hall, there should be a priest or a representative of St. Peter's to give the prayer

Visit other successful churches to see what they are doing and adopt/modify to fit our needs

Free baby-sitting – parents afternoon out

Have a welcoming committee call the new parishioners to find out about them and their interests and to get them involved

Keep the Rock Cycle going