

Dear Members of the AOD Catholic School Community,

The Academic Excellence Committee (AEC) is a standing committee of the AOD Catholic Schools Council, and the charter of the AEC is to support and ensure that our schools continue to develop and implement a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates faith, virtue and knowledge, meeting or exceeding all national standards for academic performance. Therefore, working with our partners at the University of Detroit Mercy and Madonna University, we are implementing the Catholic Identity Program Effectiveness Surveys across the AOD to provide stakeholder perceptions regarding the school's general alignment to the National Catholic Standards and Benchmarks regarding Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality. These surveys were developed by the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness (Loyola University, Chicago) to align with the standards, and they have been used by Catholic schools across the country to inform improvement efforts.

The data collected from school faculty/staff, students, and parents and community members this year will provide important results which will be incorporated and become the foundation for the current strategic planning process. Then, annually it will help guide individual school efforts related to developing/implementing school improvement plans, teacher and administrator professional development, curricula development, and parent/community engagement. Additionally, through the collection of robust data across the AOD, the Catholic Schools Office and university partners will be able to more effectively engage with schools to provide support as these schools seek to drive continuous improvement. As such, these surveys are intended to assist local stakeholders in their efforts to ensure they are meeting the National Catholic Standards and Benchmarks, and ensuring that all their students are receiving an academically excellent education in a Christ-centered environment. The AEC thanks you for your work and dedication to the Church's mission being carried out in our Catholic schools.

May God continue to bless your efforts,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Pogodzinski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Ben Pogodzinski, chair Academic Excellence Committee