



LEARN, SERVE, LEAD, SUCCEED

Hallmarks of Catholic-school students

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EVERY EFFECTIVE INSTITUTION OR BUSINESS has a brief mission statement that precisely identifies its goals or objectives to accomplish particular outcomes or results. Generally speaking, Catholic education intends to form youth to know their identity as children of God, to develop a relationship with God, and to continue to learn, serve, lead, and succeed throughout their lifetime. What might that include?

LEARN

- I absorb something from everyone, even if it is what not to be!
- I admit mistakes and view them as stepping-stones; I benefit from failure.
- I recognize personal faults and idiosyncrasies, transforming them into teaching tools.
- I recognize my strengths and acknowledge my limits.
- I seek wisdom from many sources; I consider all viewpoints.
- I reflect on the pros, cons, and consequences of all angles of an issue before making a decision.
- I establish consistency, routines, and systems to aid my learning style and study needs.
- I choose friends and environments that support my goals and beliefs.

SERVE

- I am more concerned about others' needs than my own preferences.
- I value the common good above my personal wishes.
- I adopt the JOY mindset: Jesus first, others second, yourself last.
- I am responsibly independent and respectfully assertive.

- I accept responsibility for my choices and consequences.
- I live out the values expressed in the Peace Prayer: "Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

LEAD

- I care more about giving than receiving, as in the Peace Prayer: "O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love."
- I initiate, taking the first steps in a project, a conversation, or an apology.
- I practice conflict-resolution skills.
- I value ideas and process more than product, and I value effort more than results.
- I encourage others; I recognize and name their skills, efforts, accomplishments, and strengths.
- I contribute without dominating, manipulating, or monopolizing.
- I come prepared with the materi-


als, tools, or resources that support the project at hand.

- I accept responsibility for failure without passing blame to others.

SUCCEED

- I am persistent and diligent; I follow through on tasks and keep my promises.
- I live out the maxim: "Plan your work and work your plan."
- I apply steady care over time to long-range projects.
- I meet deadlines; I finish tasks.
- I cultivate time-management practices and organizational skills.
- I set realistic time expectations and seek help when needed.

JOURNAL

Write yourself a letter. Summarize the message you take from each of the four hallmarks discussed here. What is your plan to continue growing to be a person who learns, serves, leads, and succeeds? 

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