

Goal Program

Philosophy

The heart and spirit of our school reveals itself in the faith conviction that all God's children can learn and be actively involved in their own education. Children develop differently and our teachers are very aware of this. Teachers evaluate individual learning styles and needs and then accommodate accordingly. The Goal Program, which is rooted in Response to Intervention, has this philosophy imbedded in its goals and objectives.

Staff Development

It is each teacher's responsibility to attend workshops and in-services and enroll in graduate classes that prepare them to offer differentiated instruction to their students. There are various other resources which also assist in this process. Principals assist in organizing the Goal Program for their faculty and staff and there is a Diocese Committee that sets the tone for the program. Goal is an acronym for Growth Opportunities for All Learners and this is the foundation that each school adheres to.

ICEP

The Individual Catholic Education Plan is a learning plan that supports the unique abilities of all students within the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Superior. The ICEP is a universal plan that is recognized and implemented by all 15 schools within the diocese. The significance of this plan is found in its widespread application to all students from the elementary through the secondary years, and from all learning challenges that children face.

The curriculum in general provides an in-depth study of all core subjects and is a broad based learning tool. In the Goal Program, individual learning styles are identified and then integrated into these core subjects throughout the school year. Changes are modified as skills are reinforced and enriched.

Principles

Some of the principles that are part of the Goal Program are:

- +All students can learn.
- +A student who learns differently is not inferior by virtue of that difference.
- +All students have skills, talents, and gifts to offer to the school and classroom community.
- +The uniqueness of the individual student is to be recognized, respected and valued.
- +It is more appropriate and more productive to focus on ability and possibility than on disability and limitation.
- +Acceptance and integration into school and parish life flow from a Catholic philosophy of education.

+Classroom teachers acquire the desire and the instructional and assessment skills to teach all students.

+Classroom teachers are willing to take responsibility for dialoguing with parents, the principal, and peers regarding students' needs.

Tradition

In conclusion, the learning needs of all students are accommodated in the Goal Program. This isn't new to St. Mary School because we are very fortunate that we have been doing this for generations.

Accommodating individual learning needs through differentiated instruction is one of our strongest traditions. The Goal Program will continue in our faith based education with the support of parents, teachers, students, the principal, the pastor, the bishop, and the superintendent of schools. It is truly what St. Mary School is about.