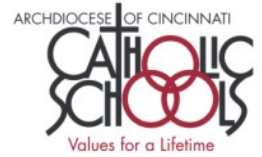




2009-2010 Initiative for Catholic Schools

A program of the Xavier Center for Catholic Education



Introduction

Through the generosity of the Clement and Ann Buenger Foundation, Xavier University, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has pioneered an outstanding professional development program for Catholic elementary educators in the Greater Cincinnati area for the past five years -- *The Initiative for Catholic Schools* (ICS). Fifty area elementary schools have already participated in this unique educational opportunity. An on-line application form can be found at: <http://www.xavier.edu/education/ics.cfm>.

Topic for 2009-2010: Professional Learning Communities

Workshop Leaders

Dr. Michael Stabile, *Xavier University*, Terry Chapman, *Our Lady of Visitation*, Kathy Kane, *Our Lady of Victory*

A professional learning community focuses on learning rather than teaching while working collaboratively and holding the professional accountable for results. The year long series of workshops will concentrate on developing a professional learning community in your school. Application for participation is again open to any Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This program will develop a leadership team to implement the Professional Learning Community program. The leadership team must include the Principal.

Initiative Goals:

- ▶ To develop and strengthen leadership in Catholic elementary schools
- ▶ To improve student learning and retention
- ▶ To implement a student oriented pedagogy

2009 - 2010 Calendar:

May 8, 2009: 12pm-3pm (w/lunch)
Sept 11, 2009 (8:30am - 3:00pm)
Oct 16, 2009 (8:30am - 3:00pm)
Nov 13, 2009 (8:30am - 11:30am)
Dec 11, 2009 (8:30am - 11:30am)
Jan 8, 2010 (8:30am - 11:30am)
Feb 12, 2010 (8:30am - 11:30am)
March 12, 2010 (8:30am - 11:30am)
April 16, 2010 (8:30am - 11:30am)
May 7, 2010 (8:30am - 11:30am)

Ann Buenger Catholic Speaker Series - 10/29/09:

- ▶ Matthew Kelly, Internationally Known Speaker

The requirements for a participating school include:

- participation of the principal and 1 to 3 teacher leaders
- Pre session team meeting on May 8, 2009
- monthly Friday workshop attendance (September - May) 8:30am - 11:30am (with afternoon planning opportunities)
- member schools' entire faculty attend the Ann Buenger Catholic Speaker Series event on October 29, 2009
- school meetings with ICS facilitator to support the implementation of Professional Learning Communities

Team Commitment and Benefits:

- developing and empowering teacher collaborators/leaders
- willingness to shift from a focus on teaching to a focus on learning
- providing common planning time/creative scheduling
- using results-oriented data to create student assessments
- shared decision making through team leadership
- heightened sense of teacher professionalism and cohesiveness
- a renewed passion for teaching

Each participant in the program will receive two graduate credit hours. The textbook, *Learning By Doing* by Richard DuFour, will be distributed at the May 8, 2009 meeting.

