

What is Vision for our parish?

Pastoral Council, over the last 3 years through the vision process, has reviewed and created change in our Parish by:

- Creating a Parish Manager position
- Creating a Facilities Planning Committee
- And most recently, creating a School Task Force to develop and review multiple options for our school.

Why Now?

- Parish comments during FPC meetings provided clear feedback that the school was a major source of concern.
- Changes in MSD structure provide an opportunity to review our school's mission
- Economic pressures on the parish
- Need for St Matthew to continually improve our academic standards

School Task Force

➤ Develop and review strategies for changing our school.

Review focused on: Enrollment, cost structure, personnel structure, educational quality, revenue, and faith-based environment.

This generated multiple options for consideration:

- Combine grades
- Multi-Age Group and instruction
- Subject focused Curriculum
- Charter School
- Close School
- Support Catholic education at other locations (St Philip, Corpus Christi,...)
- Close CCM Preschool
- Add back 6th, 7th, & 8th
- Reduce programs offered at St. Matthews
- Increase programs offered at St. Matthews
- Differentiated Student Instruction

What is the change?

- Change the structure of St. Matthew School from traditional graded classes to a pilot program of multi-age classes as part of the school day in the 2010 – 2011 school year
- Apply differentiated instruction methods to raise individual academic performance

Why this change?

- It will give greater flexibility to respond to changes in student population and enrollment.
- It will maintain the high academic standards we set and continue high student performance.
- It will provide an immediate cost reduction in the Parish subsidy.

What is Differentiated Instruction?

- Teaches and challenges students beyond the minimum
- Requires students to learn to their ability and not the norm
- Requires teachers to plan differently to deliver the material well
- Uses more project-based work to help individualize the learning process

How will a Multi-Age classroom work?

- Current plan is to group the classes as follows:

K – 1

2 – 3

4 – 5

Advantages:

- It blurs the line of advancement so that early student development has time to mature.
- It works well with differentiated instruction: challenges fast learners and offers a slower pace for students who struggle.
- Avoids potential distress for students held back a grade.
- Requires deeper investment by teacher in each student's performance.
- Allows older students to develop leadership skills in order to mentor the younger students.