

Governance of the Owensboro Catholic Schools

A Message from Jim Mattingly, Superintendent, Diocese of Owensboro Catholic Schools

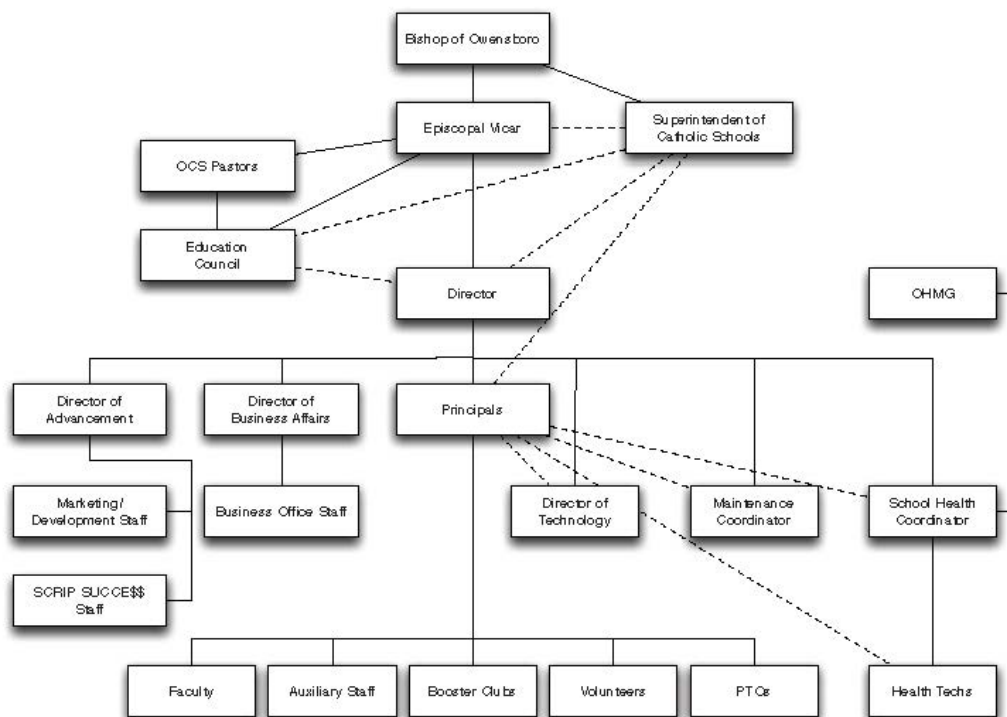
To the OCS families, relatives, and friends:

Thank you for your support of the four Catholic schools in Owensboro. A Catholic education is a priceless gift, a gift that keeps on giving.

A Catholic school system of more than 1300 students requires a defined governance structure that addresses the needs of students at all grade levels. Occasionally the diocesan Catholic Schools Office receives calls from OCS parents with concerns about their children or concerns about the school and/or school system, and the parent wasn't sure who to contact. In that situation, I encourage the parent to contact the teacher if the concern involves classroom teaching, and to contact the principal if the concern is a school-wide issue. The great majority of issues can be handled at the school level. But if the issue is not resolved at that level, it is best to call – in order - the OCS Director, the Episcopal Vicar, or the superintendent.

The OCS Organizational Flow Chart (below) clearly defines the schools' governance structure. If you have questions or concerns about the Chart or the OCS governance, it is best to contact the OCS Director.

Owensboro Catholic Schools ORGANIZATIONAL FLOW CHART



You will note that the Organizational Flow Chart does not place the superintendent in a role of authority. A Catholic school superintendent's role is different from the role of a public school superintendent. The public school superintendent is responsible for all the schools in his or her district. In our Catholic schools, that authority belongs to the Episcopal Vicar, appointed by the Bishop, if the school serves multiple parishes. In a one-school/one-parish arrangement, the Pastor has the authority over the school.

The role of the Catholic school superintendent is more consultative than authoritative. The superintendent and staff work with all 17 schools in the Diocese to continually improve their schools. The diocesan Catholic Schools Office is consisted of the superintendent (Jim Mattingly), assistant superintendent (Ann Flaherty), administrative assistant (Lauren Johnson), food service director (Bill Blincoe), and food service administrative assistant (Sonya Evans).

Responsibilities for the Catholic Schools Office include, but are not limited to:

- Oversee the federal Nutrition and Food Service in 16 schools
- Organize the diocesan schools' Rainbow Mass every other year
- Assist administrators as needed with strengthening their school's Catholic Identity
- Sponsor annual Professional Development for teachers and administrators
- Oversee the KTIP (Kentucky Teacher Internship Program) for first and second-year teachers
- Oversee compliance with CREDO (Certification for Religious Educators of the Diocese of Owensboro)
- Review and revise Diocese of Owensboro Academic Standards for all subject areas in a six-year cycle, and assist schools in aligning curricula, instruction, and assessment
- Conduct quarterly meetings with school administrators
- Organize the evaluations of administrators and teachers annually
- Sponsor annual Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference at Lake Barkley State Park
- Organize annual standardized testing. MAP for KG through 6th grade; ACT-Aspire for grades 7-8; ACT-Early High School for 9th or 10th grade: ACT for all juniors
- Oversee the Governor's Scholars Program annually for high school juniors
- Organize data that schools are required to send to the Catholic Schools Office
- Superintendent chairs the Education Committee of the Catholic Conference of KY
- Assistant Superintendent reviews and revises Accreditation documents for the Kentucky Non-Public School Committee on a five-year cycle
- Assist schools to access federal funding
- Visit schools several times each academic year
- Sponsor an Advancement Forum annually