

## School Improvement: June 2017

During the spring of the 2016-17 school year the School Improvement Team created and implemented surveys to collect information from students, teachers, parents and alumni. Thank you to all who participated; your responses will help the team continue in the process of attaining accreditation for Aquinas through AdvancedEd. The team gathered recently to assess the results and wanted to share a brief summary of the findings.

**Parent surveys** asked for more clarity in regards to the goals and direction of the Aquinas Mission. Using technology, such as our website, email and Facebook, as well as bulletin boards, we will continue to show/display ways that we are working to fulfill the Aquinas Mission Statement. We will also use these instruments to share reminders about services we offer, such as SCIP team, Peer Tutoring, etc. and ACT/ITBS testing benchmarks and results. Communication is always a key component in maintaining a working relationship with all involved in the Aquinas Community.

**Student surveys** revealed that overall students felt safe at Aquinas and had good relationships with peers and teachers. Some did cite a desire for more class selections. One way we can help is to promote online class options for non-required classes by revising our class registration sheets, especially with juniors and seniors who have more class options.

**Alumni** from the last five years were surveyed and felt they had good relationships with their peers and teachers during high school. Their responses reflected that their Aquinas teachers were knowledgeable in preparing them for college. One way teachers will be encouraged to continue this preparation is by incorporating technology, like Blackboard, in their classrooms.

**Teacher surveys** showed a desire for improved communication and opportunities to collaborate with colleagues. The addition of 10 A.M. starts for faculty meetings, presentations and such will allow time for teachers to communicate and collaborate with administrators and colleagues.

As a whole the goal of the School Improvement Process is to not only promote learning but to encourage students to become independent learners who set goals for themselves in regards to their education and take ownership in achieving those goals with the guidance of their parents and teachers and administrators at Aquinas.