

AdvancEd Review Findings:

The four member review team for AdvancEd visited Aquinas Catholic Middle – High School on March 18th-20th. The team listened to a presentation by Mrs. Heermann and Mrs. Pokorny on the evening of the 18th. The presentation consisted of a summary of the school's five year School Improvement Process.

On the 19th, the team met with administrators, teachers, students and parents to discuss various topics regarding Aquinas Catholic. The following is a short summary of their initial report:

*The culture of faith at Aquinas is evident throughout the school and its stakeholders. There is a positive feel to the school, and it is evident that all stakeholders are proud to be a part of the Aquinas "family".

*Monthly faculty meetings and the professional development instruction provided at these meetings provides more structure to the school. The Strategic Plan process has been productive and aided in the structure as well.

*Aquinas has high expectations for learners, and opportunities for online classes, dual credit courses along with course offerings at David City Public help to expand the curriculum.

*Students and parents commented that teachers are supportive and caring; students and teachers have good relationships. Students feel that they will be prepared to handle their future college courses and parents agreed with this as well. Students also had high praise for the Campus Ministry options they can take part in.

*Technology is an area where Aquinas can improve; not only in class options specific to technology but also the integration of technology in the classroom by teachers. Differentiation in learning options, such as allowing students more choices when it comes to assessment, is another area Aquinas can look at to improve. While Aquinas teachers have a great deal of knowledge, less lecture time is encouraged so that students are more engaged in the learning process.

On the 20th, the team continued to analyze data and forms provided by the Aquinas School Improvement team and shared a brief review before leaving. Aquinas Catholic is only in the third year of applying ideas using AdvancEd recommendations. The suggestions provided by AdvancEd can help guide our next 5 year process. A formal report will be sent to Aquinas Catholic in no less than 30 business days. We will share a more formal assessment of their review when it is received. We will then look to survey stakeholders to guide the next 5 year School Improvement process.

*The School Improvement Team consisted of Ann Heermann, Bobbi Schmid, Vanessa Munter and Teresa Pokorny. This team restructured the School Improvement Process so that all teachers are involved in the planning. The next team that will guide the process will include Shelly Mayo, John Wehrs, and April Sypal along with data provided by John Svec.