

CATHOLIC IDENTITY STATEMENT

WE ARE CATHOLIC

As a community of students, faculty and staff, we believe in the grace and authority of the Catholic church, both local and universal. We are in full communion with the church as we proclaim the gospel message to our students within our educational community.

WE ARE CHRIST-CENTERED

We believe our salvation is through Jesus Christ and we promote a personal relationship with Him that transforms us as individuals and as a community.

WE ARE SACRAMENTAL

We believe that the sacraments of the church, particularly the Eucharist, are central to our faith life as a community. The Sacraments both signify and make present the grace Christ desires to give us, and thereby help us experience the created world in a new light. Our community is further enriched by prayer and retreat opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

WE ARE JESUIT

We believe our Ignatian spirituality animates and challenges us to intellectual and spiritual growth toward a faith that does justice. Like St. Ignatius, we propose the truths of the church, especially where its message of challenge and hope most needs to be heard. Our prayer and discernment are inspired by the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

WE ARE ECUMENICAL

While remaining distinctively Catholic, we are a community that includes people from various faiths called to seek the truth. We honor the freedom and sincerity of people who have been nurtured in other religious traditions. While we propose with confidence what the Catholic church teaches, we believe all are enriched by honest dialogue with those of other traditions.

WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION

We believe that Catholic social teaching and our Jesuit tradition call us to what St. Ignatius describes as the “magis,” serving the “greater” glory of God. Community service and social outreach provide students, faculty and staff the opportunity to serve God by serving others. We are preparing our students to proclaim the gospel and address the structural causes of injustice which contradict Jesus’ vision for the world.



IGNATIAN FORMATION PROGRAM

Expectations for Catholic instruction

- For years 3-6 one class from one of the following areas is required: Liturgy, sacraments, scripture, moral theology, Catholic social teaching, church history, the creed, prayer.
- All course fees, mileage and child care (if applicable) are paid by the Ignatian Formation Program.

Ongoing spiritual growth

- Optional overnight silent retreats (see BPS calendar).
- Optional retreats through the Archbishop Brunet Retreat Center at the Palisades.
- The 19th Annotation Retreat (tbd in consultation with Dcn Jim).

Ignatian Formation Team

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BELLARMINE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Rationale

Bellarmino faculty, staff, and administration are called to grow in their spiritual lives. A desire to hear and answer Christ's call to discipleship is evident in the program. Campus Ministry offers Bellarmine faculty. Employees deepen their faith through two day long retreats each school year, and through faculty led prayer and reflection on Tuesday mornings, about twice monthly. New faculty members are engaged in an ongoing Ignatian formation program over a six-year period. This includes additional retreats, instruction, in-service, “Ignatian Evenings,” and companionship with a veteran teacher who supports and walks with him/her.

As a Jesuit institution, this orientation to Ignatian spirituality upon which Bellarmine is based includes instruction in the foundations of Catholic faith as well as formational opportunities for further growth.

Ignatian formation is vital for our religious identity to ensure that Bellarmine maintains its character as a Jesuit/Catholic institution. To educate students according to the Ignatian charism, faculty must embody that charism themselves ~ something gained over time in the Ignatian Formation Program.



Basics for all new faculty and companions

- Attend a weekly mass at least once a month with companion.
- Attend all prayer and reflections.
- Lead classes in prayer.
- Lead a prayer and reflection once every three years.
- Attend a Magis, encounter, Pilgrimage, or Xavier Plunge once every three years.
- Meet with member of IFT twice per year for review (Jan, Jun).

SEQUENCE OF FORMATION

Year One: Teachers and Companions

We Are Jesuit

- Attend orientation on August 24 (8:00 AM - 12:30 PM, includes lunch): *What Makes a Jesuit School Jesuit?* and *Profile of Bellarmine Teacher*.
- Attend two one-day retreats (Oct 15 and Feb 24)
- Attend two Ignatian evenings on Ignatian Educator's Prayer - Teacher Profile (Nov 18, Mar 8) (1st years and their companions)
- Read and discuss *the Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything*, chapters 1-7. Selected chapters with reflection questions will be provided for first year teachers and companions.
- Meet with large group four times (Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar) after school 3:00-4:00 PM.
- The online or CCP class during year is optional.

Year Two: Teachers and Companions **We Are Christ-centered**

- Attend orientation on Aug 24 (11:30 AM - 4:00 PM, includes lunch): the Examen
- Attend the provincial retreat Sep 23-25 at Palisades.
- Read and discuss *the Jesuit Guide To Almost Everything*, chapters 8-14. Selected chapters with reflection questions will be provided for second year teachers and companions.
- With companion, watch the first 4 *Catholicism* DVDs by Fr. R. Barron, two per semester. Meet, discuss, fill out evaluation for each one. Turn in to IFT.
- Attend one Ignatian evening (Feb 3)

Year Three: Teachers and Companions **We Are Catholic**

- Attend IFP luncheon on Aug 24 (11:30 AM - 12:30 PM).
- Pray with *Challenge* by Mark Link, SJ. Meet as a group once per quarter from 7:15-7:45 AM (Oct, Dec, Mar, May). Meet with companion every other week.
- Attend day retreat, Mystical Union (Apr 19).
- Attend one Ignatian (Nov. 18)
- The online or CCP class during the year is required. Sections 3 & 4 of Well Built Faith

Year Four: Teachers **We Are Sacramental**

- Attend IFP luncheon on Aug 24 (11:30 AM - 12:30 PM).
- One day retreat on: Ignatian Spirituality for Non-Jesuits (Dec 9).
- Read and discuss Joe Paprocki's *Under the Influence of Jesus* (meet 4X per year tbd)
- One Ignatian Evening: Apr 13 - Sacramentality
- Online or CCP class during the year is required.

Year Five: Teachers **We Are Ecumenical/Evangelical**

- One day retreat: our commitment to ecumenism and evangelism.
- Read and discuss *Gaudium et Spes / Evangelii Gaudium* (meets 4x per year).
- One Ignatian Evening: on our partnership with other Christian traditions.
- Online or CCP class during theyear is required.

Year Six: Teachers **We Are People Of Action**

- One overnight retreat: Contemplatives In Action.
- One Ignatian Evening: on being contemplative in action.
- Read and discuss *Living Justice* by Thomas Massaro, SJ (meets 4x per year).
- An activity with the local poor.
- Online or CCP class during year.