

**St. Francis of Assisi School
School Improvement Advisory Committee
2008 -2009**

**Middle School Success Focus Area
Results and Recommendations**

Attribute: **Healthy Academics**

Measure	Result/Report
1. ITBS Scores	Separate report.
2. 6 th Grade Diocesan Exemplar Scores	07-08 year: 48% of students were Practitioner or Expert level. 08-09 year: 55% of students were Practitioner or Expert level.
3. 8 th Grade Diocesan Science Test Scores	07-08 year: 76% of students were Practitioner or Expert level. 08-09 year: 85% of students were Practitioner or Expert level.
4. SFA Graduates in Dowling Advanced and AP Classes vs. Total	08-09 year, 9 th grade: 18% of Dowling “class seats” were Advanced and AP. 27% of SFA graduate “class seats” were Advanced and AP. 08-09 year, 10 th grade: 20% of Dowling “class seats” were Advanced and AP. 18% of SFA graduate “class seats” were Advanced and AP.
5. SFA Graduates on Dowling Honor Roll Over Time	08-09 year, 9 th grade: 23% of Dowling honor roll were SFA graduates. 08-09 year, 10 th grade: 16% of Dowling honor roll were SFA graduates.
6. SFA Graduates on Dowling Honor Roll vs. Total	08-09 year, 9 th grade: 70% of Dowling students on honor roll. 93% of SFA graduates on honor roll. 08-09 year, 10 th grade: 62% of Dowling students on honor roll. 70% of SFA graduates on honor roll.

Recommendations:

1. Track Dowling statistics of SFA graduates over time to observe change.
2. **Create and implement communication plan for various audiences, especially parents and prospective parents, that “sets the bar” and expectation for the high level of curriculum rigor intended at SFA.**
3. While an excellent tool for teachers and administrators, Standards and Benchmarks as defined are overwhelming and “too much” information for parents as a useful tool to judge their child’s performance. Maximize high priority points and minimize information distributed displaying all of the Standards and Benchmarks.

Attribute: **Healthy Social Skills**

Measure	Result/Report
1. Parent Satisfaction Survey Data	Middle School questions 14-18 apply. Positive results (75%+ of participants).
2. Detentions Over Time	Both behavior detentions and academic detentions are almost exclusively received by males. The number of detentions appear to lessen by trimester as the school year progresses.
3. Merits Over Time	Not available.

Recommendations:

1. Track detentions over time to observe change.
 2. **Completely revise the discipline program to lessen infractions for academic issues (as opposed to behavioral) and review infraction penalties for level of concern. Consider whether the program needs to be somehow gender-specific in rewards and penalties.**
 3. Review the parent communication plan for the detention system and consider ongoing communication vehicles for improved understanding.
 4. Develop merit reward program and track results over time.
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Attribute: **Healthy Faith Preparation**

Measure	Result/Report
1. Service Hours Over Time	Most students complete recording for the minimum requirements. Few rewards exist for surpassing minimum requirements.
2. Parent Satisfaction Survey Data	Questions 23-27 apply. Very positive results (90%+ of participants).

Recommendations:

1. Consider an 8th Grade selective individual “exit” interview process that could include at least a subjective measure of the student’s self-realization of faith preparation. The process could also include structured requests for candid opportunities for improvement and/or measurement of other more subjective areas for tracking.
2. **Revise the service program to include incentives and recognition for various levels. Move the program from a “negative” minimum to a “positive” reward system for participation.**

Attribute: **Healthy Transition From Middle School to High School**

Measure	Result/Report
1. Academic Success	
a. SFA Graduates on Dowling Honor Roll Over Time	08-09 year, 9 th grade: 23% of Dowling honor roll were SFA graduates. 08-09 year, 10 th grade: 16% of Dowling honor roll were SFA graduates.
b. SFA Graduates on Dowling Honor Roll vs. Total	08-09 year, 9 th grade: 70% of Dowling students on honor roll. 93% of SFA graduates on honor roll. 08-09 year, 10 th grade: 62% of Dowling students on honor roll. 70% of SFA graduates on honor roll.
2. Social Success	
a. SFA Graduate Participation in Dowling Sports/Clubs/Social Initiatives vs. Total	Subjective reports by Dowling staff indicate that SFA graduates are well integrated into sports, clubs and social initiatives including leadership positions. No formal tracking system for numbers is available.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to track over time.
2. **Develop an SFA middle school honor roll as a transition to real life expectations for performance and as a motivational tool.** An SFA honor roll could include more than the classic grade point average as a determining factor for making the honor roll. The honor roll could include the service hour program and/or other factors intended for reward within the school system. The SFA honor roll could be developed as a tool for student aspiration in multiple areas of development as preparation for success in high school and life. Consideration should be given to another name such as “merit recognition roll”.

Attribute: **Healthy Application of Skills and Critical Thinking**

Measure	Result/Report
1. Parent Satisfaction Survey Data	Middle School questions 7-11, 21 and 22 apply. Mixed results (some of the lowest).

Recommendations:

1. **Focus a portion of the 6th through 8th grade curriculum on organizational and study skills. Add organizational and study skills to Standards and Benchmarks system.** The “one size fits all” current system doesn’t fit all students. Move the focus to multiple learning and organizational methods. (Quote of the meeting: “The SFA approach seems to focus on the motivated, organized, intelligent female student.”)

Attribute: **Healthy Expectation for Life Long Learning**

Measure	Result/Report
1. SFA Graduates Attending College	Long term measurement tool.
2. SFA Graduates in Dowling Advanced and AP Classes vs. Total	08-09 year, 9 th grade: 18% of Dowling “class seats” were Advanced and AP. 27% of SFA graduate “class seats” were Advanced and AP. 08-09 year, 10 th grade: 20% of Dowling “class seats” were Advanced and AP. 18% of SFA graduate “class seats” were Advanced and AP.

Recommendations:

1. Develop longitudinal tracking system to track college attendance and success for SFA middle school graduates.
2. **Begin to consider development of an alumni program for adult graduates of SFA middle school.**