



VILLANOVA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREP: Unity, Truth, Love

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2019



OUR MISSION

In the Augustinian tradition, the mission of Villanova Preparatory School is to graduate mature young adults of diverse backgrounds who reflect the qualities of truth, unity, and love. The school does this by providing a challenging college preparatory curriculum and Catholic environment that promote the development of mind, heart and body. These young adults will think, judge, and act in ways that are sound and in keeping with the teachings of Jesus Christ.



OUR VISION

Building on nearly a century of experience Villanova will be a leader among Catholic secondary schools by providing high quality education for young men and women in the Augustinian tradition. We will offer a breadth of opportunities to foster the intellectual achievement, personal and physical development, artistic and creative talents, and service leadership of our students. Our programs and community will exemplify Gospel and Augustinian values of Truth (Veritas), Unity (Unitas), and Love (Caritas). We will be the first choice of students and families who seek excellence in college preparatory and Catholic education.

Specifically, we will be characterized by:

1. Education that is distinctively Catholic in its philosophy, instruction, culture and practices that prepares young men and women for a happy and fruitful life in this world and the next.
2. Academic excellence with students at the center.
3. An outstanding Faculty and Staff, grounded in Augustinian values and with a love for learning, fully dedicated to the mission of the School.
4. A diverse school community that welcomes students from a wide range of backgrounds. The unique presence of international resident students offers opportunity for global citizenship, mutual understanding, and lifelong friendships.
5. A small, supportive, and safe school community, situated in a beautiful natural environment. Villanova is committed to enhance learning through vibrant campus life.
6. A distinguished program for young women in the study of mathematics and the sciences.

PREFACE TO THE PLAN

While providing many strategies of importance, the Plan highlights four threads to be woven throughout the School's fabric. They are responses to contemporary needs and represent Villanova's constant striving for excellence.

1. Added emphasis to critical thinking skills and writing integrated throughout the curriculum as pathways to the realization of our core value of Truth.
2. Increased emphasis on the creativity of our students both within the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, another gateway to Truth.
3. Highlighted avenues for greater communication with access and participation of all members of our community to enrich our core values of Unity and Love.
4. Continued exploration of the significance of our international school community in developing opportunities to prepare students for life and to make contributions to the world community.

This Strategic Plan 2013-2019 is not a stand-alone document. In addition to the Mission and Vision Statements which head up the document, the reader is encouraged to review foundational documents which are available on the school's website www.villanovaprep.org (The Augustinians' statement, "The Ministry of Secondary Education in the Province of St. Augustine"; Philosophy Statement of Villanova Preparatory School; WASC Action Plans of 2012; Graduation Outcomes; A Short History of Villanova Preparatory School; Membership and By-Laws of the Board of Directors)

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. THE VILLANOVA EXPERIENCE: SHARED MISSION AND VALUES

RATIONALE: *While Villanova's mission, values, and programs are firmly in place within the school community, appreciation of them by new members of the community needs to be strengthened. We acknowledge the need for optimum enrollment and greater diversity of among residents for excellence of programs.* (WASC ACTION PLAN #1)



STRATEGIES

- + Improve communications to ensure that the sharing of the many facets of the Villanova Experience is available to all.
- + Improve awareness of the school's excellence as well as our values and mission through stronger relationships with our partner schools and local communities Emphasize the school's Catholic character, increase communication with our local communities, and reach out to new domestic and international markets for the resident program.
- + Develop personal relationships between the School and families in need of financial aid to enable them to realize Villanova as an accessible choice for their children.
- + Develop ways of continuing the influence of the Augustinian Values Institute (AVI) and the Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI) in the life of the school.
- + Respond to the need for ongoing understanding of the mission and values of the School.

2. STUDENTS AT THE CENTER

RATIONALE: *Villanova is a student centered school. Expanded opportunities for personal student development will highlight student creative talents, student capacity for leadership, and the unique cultural richness of resident students.*



STRATEGIES

- + Recognize and develop opportunities for students to express their voices, share more in leadership roles, embrace responsibility, and offer initiatives in the School.
- + Review the opportunities for involvement in creative problem solving and real life application of knowledge across the curriculum and within extracurricular activities.
- + Continue expansion of opportunities for day and resident students to join in activities that help to share their life together and enhance social development.
- + Review the athletic program to give emphasis to life time sports and provide properly competitive interscholastic team sports.
- + Review the campus ministry program to emphasize the importance of opportunities for student spiritual growth.

3. EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

RATIONALE: *Where teachers and students meet is the sacred space where together they seek Truth. This search is enhanced with growth in critical thinking, clarity of expression in the written and spoken word, and expansion of the horizons of knowledge. Increased intellectual curiosity in the present is the seedbed for lifelong learning.* (WASC ACTION PLANS #2 AND #3)

STRATEGIES

- + Continue development of the option for offering the International Baccalaureate Program, an opportunity to add another unique and distinguishing element to the School's profile.
- + Renew emphasis on critical thinking and writing throughout the curriculum.
- + Enhance opportunities for creative problem solving and intellectual curiosity in both curricular and co-curricular settings.
- + Encourage and support opportunities for professional creativity and intellectual curiosity for Faculty and Staff.
- + Recognize the value of Staff, both in and out of the classroom, in promoting the mission and values of the School.
- + Continue strategic use of technology as a pathway to learning.



4. EXCELLENCE IN FACILITIES TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

RATIONALE: Planning of facilities must anticipate the legitimate needs of the program of studies and student development. Ongoing improvement of facility resources to meet Student and Faculty needs is a critical aspect of the Villanova Experience.

STRATEGIES

- + Analyze facility needs, prioritize projects, and investigate a wide range of responses to needs.
- + Develop an environmental sustainability plan for the School.

5. RESOURCES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

RATIONALE: A strong financial base and responsible stewardship of Villanova's resources are necessary to provide academic and extra-curricular programs, a balanced budget with appropriate reserves, adequate tuition assistance, excellent facilities, and support for an active development program. (WASC ACTION PLAN #4)

STRATEGIES

- + Develop resources in support of student initiatives in leadership and creativity.
- + Develop and put on a regular review path five-year financial plans which will describe the challenges for financial vitality.
- + Continue development of external revenue resources.
- + Use financial aid resources strategically to grow targeted enrollment goals and enlarge access to Villanova for families of limited means.
- + Continue efforts by the Development Office and all stakeholders to encourage a culture of giving in the school community.

6. GUARDIANS OF THE MISSION

RATIONALE: The Augustinians in conjunction with the Board of Directors have a responsibility to establish policy and to articulate and promote the mission and vision of Villanova. They are stewards and guardians of the vision and the future.

STRATEGIES

- + Champion the marketing and promotion of the value and excellence of the Villanova experience.
- + Examine governance models which are effective and efficient for the School's current leadership needs.
- + Review and assess the Strategic Plan in cooperation with the Head of School on an annual basis.
- + Ensure that the School annually reviews selected programs and activities to improve realization of the Augustinian Core Values and the School's Catholic mission.