



ISPD SUCCESS STORY

VERMILION CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
ABBEVILLE, LOUISIANA

LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING / CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As a *Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*, Vermilion Catholic High School in Abbeville, LA (Diocese of Lafayette, LA) had witnessed great success. However, when Fr. William Blanda, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Parish arrived in 2002 as the new administrator, he recognized that the school needed three key elements in order to maintain academic excellence:

To maintain academic excellence VC needed:

- Leadership change with a new school principal
- Long-Range Strategic Plan
- Restructuring of the Development Office

- 1) Leadership Changes -- School Principal
- 2) Long-Range Strategic Plan
- 3) Restructuring of the Development Office

The sheer force of “people fuel” and their enthusiasm propelled this school to one of the most exciting and productive academic years in its history.

Thus, in partnership with ISPD, the Long-Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) was created, which involved hundreds of people in Input Sessions, planning sessions and the Convocation. The sheer force of people fuel and their enthusiasm propelled Vermilion Catholic to one of the most exciting and productive academic years in the school's history. Faculty and staff were truly energized with new possibilities, parents were meaningfully engaged in the life of the school and student activities were thriving.

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The results of the LRSP process remain truly remarkable -- most notable the emergence of an attitude of quality and continuous improvement. A new Director of Development is in place and is currently managing the implementation of the Long-Range Strategic Plan with many new people involved. Also, the completion of the school's first Capital Campaign is on the horizon, which promises to exceed its goal and a newly expanded, people-driven Annual Fund Drive will be executed next Fall.

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Quality leadership, a dynamic vision and a commitment to the “meaningful involvement and engagement of people” -- the keys to success in Catholic development. At Vermilion Catholic High School, the future is bright, with a flourishing Development effort being the cornerstone.