



ACADEMY OF THE  
SACRED HEART



INSPIRING FAITH-FILLED WOMEN OF COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE

STRATEGIC PLAN

## DEAR MEMBERS OF THE SACRED HEART FAMILY,

The Academy of the Sacred Heart is more than just a place, or even a school. For students, families, alumnae, and community partners, Sacred Heart is a rich experience of community and culture, a formidable landmark of faith and learning, a pathway for growth and an adventure to savor for a lifetime. Etched across our arched portico, our name announces our enduring message, “Sacré Coeur”—the universal loving heart of Jesus. Indescribable. Intangible. Felt.

Beauty abounds at Sacred Heart. Students and faculty are surrounded by its graceful oak trees, wrap-around galleries, pristine grounds and tree-top views of New Orleans. But what matters most is the beauty one quickly discovers in the children at Sacred Heart—their happiness, their joy in inquiry, their quest to explore the world and their hearts moved with compassion for others. Open hearts. Open minds. Informed wills.

Entering through these gates as infants and leaving as women, our students grow in confidence and become courageous Christ-centered leaders who change the world. Women of the Sacred Heart are difference-makers. Incisive. Inspired. Faith-filled.

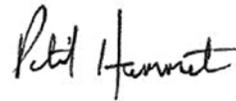
Our school is a community where girls grow through relationships, create lasting connections with others and benefit from a truly global network of over 150 Sacred Heart schools in 41 countries of the world. Critical consciousness. Global citizens. Friends.

We are proud to present our strategic plan, “Inspiring Faith-filled Women of Courage and Confidence.” Many hours of thoughtful assessment and conversation has produced a visionary and exciting path for the next five years. Our plan is bold, forward-thinking, and realistic about its elegant three goals.

In concert with the entire community, we believe the plan will galvanize our school into the future with a common understanding and purpose for the years ahead. We hope that it inspires and engages each one in a wide variety of ways for the sake of each child. Together, we look forward to continuing our great mission of forming and educating each child in God’s glorious image.

With enthusiasm for the bright horizon ahead for Sacred Heart, our Board of Trustees is proud to present our strategic plan for the years ahead.

With God’s blessings,



Patrick Hammet  
*Chair, Strategic  
Planning Committee*



Sr. Melanie A. Guste, RSCJ  
*Headmistress*



Neal J. Kling  
*Chair, Board  
of Trustees*

## MISSION

The Academy of the Sacred Heart is a Catholic, all-girls independent school in the city of New Orleans. Founded in 1867, the school has a long history that is rooted in the spiritual charism of the Society of the Sacred Heart.

Affectionately known as the Rosary, our school defines its mission as part of the Society of the Sacred Heart’s educational mission in the Catholic Church which is to “make known the love of God through the heart of Jesus.” This mission is carried out in 150 schools that are in 41 countries of the world. All of these schools are united in the mission of the Sacred Heart.



## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

During the 2016 school year, the Academy of Sacred Heart launched a comprehensive strategic planning process. The strategic plan was developed to provide a long-range view of future school priorities created through a highly inclusive and participatory process. A steering committee was formed and focused on research, environment scans, SWOT analysis, committee exercises and trends in the independent school and the education sector.

In order to build a base of sound information and to guide the planning process, the school enlisted the assistance of a research and planning firm, Ian Symmonds & Associates. A comprehensive research effort was completed, including stakeholder surveys, competitive and educational landscape analysis, market segmentation and demographic trends.

In the winter and spring of 2016, the strategic planning steering committee worked collaboratively through a series of exercises designed to establish priorities based upon the findings of the research. This process culminated in August 2016, with the steering committee developing a small set of priorities for future focus. As strategic priorities were developed, the steering committee expanded upon them to outline specific initiatives, action plans and immediate priorities.

Each of these strategic goals contains several strategic initiatives and numerous action plans. The strategic initiatives and action plans benefit from having additional implementation details, such as costs and metrics of success, recorded in the planning process and will be utilized as the school moves forward on the execution of the strategic plan.

The planning process was completed as the steering committee recommended the following strategic plan to the Board of Trustees, who approved the plan in November 2016.





## OUR GOALS AND CORE VALUES

Sacred Heart schools are united in a mission that is defined by five timeless goals. These goals are...

- to educate to a personal and active faith in God. Our school promotes a personal relationship with God and fosters the spiritual lives of its members. Students are formed in Jesus' attitudes of respect, compassion, forgiveness, and generosity.
- to educate to a deep respect for intellectual values. We implement a mission-based curriculum that is informed by educational research and ongoing evaluation. Providing a rigorous education, we incorporate all forms of critical thinking, aesthetic values, and creative use of the imagination, all of which inspire a life-long love of learning.
- to educate to a social awareness which impels to action. We educate to a critical consciousness that leads our total community to reflect on the values of society and to act for justice. In our multicultural world, we prepare and inspire students to be informed and responsible citizens. We teach and prepare students to be stewards of the earth's resources.
- to educate to the building of community as a Christian value. We promote a safe and welcoming environment in which each person is valued, cared for and respected. Adult members of the school model skills needed to build community. We participate actively in the national and international networks of Sacred Heart schools.
- to educate to personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom. Our students grow in self-knowledge and develop self-confidence. We provide for recognizing, nurturing, and exercising leadership in its many forms. All members of the school community take personal responsibility for balance in their lives and for their health and well-being.



## GOAL ONE:

### ENHANCE ACADEMIC RIGOR AND INNOVATION

1. *Technology Integration* > Integrate, expand and align educational technology across the curriculum and all programs.
2. *STEAM* > Enhance our integrated approach to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) across the curriculum and in co-curricular programs.
3. *Faculty Development* > Create a world-class faculty through robust recruitment, retention and professional development.
4. *Digital Portfolios* > Create the Sacred Heart Digital Portfolio throughout the program, personalizing and chronicling each student's major learning capstones, outcomes and projects throughout her learning journey.
5. *Transform Learning Spaces* > Transform our physical plant through a thoughtful master planning process to develop innovative and state-of-the-art learning spaces.
6. *Enhance Time Management* > Revolutionize our scheduling to permit students a robust selection of Advanced Placement, Honors and other advanced courses.

## GOAL TWO:

### LEVERAGE, EXPAND AND CREATE GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONNECTIONS

1. *Center for Global Education* > Create the Sacred Heart Center for Global Education, a distinct, multidisciplinary learning commons leveraging the Sacred Heart Network, creating a comprehensive curriculum, multicultural learning and developing women's leadership. This program could lead to a diploma distinction.
2. *Center for Community Engagement* > Create the Sacred Heart Center for Community Engagement that cultivates strategic partnerships with key sectors in our community that inspire leadership, service, discovery and diversity engagement.
3. *Enhance World Languages* > Redesign our world language program in service of our strategic goals.
4. *Ambassador Program* > Create a comprehensive local and global Sacred Heart ambassador program, inspiring school stakeholders to invest in relationships that perpetuate the school.



**GOAL THREE:**  
**EMBED STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY THROUGHOUT OUR SCHOOL**

1. *Strategic Enrollment Management* > Develop a strategic enrollment and management plan, considering our optimal enrollment and school configuration.
2. *Institutional Advancement* > Develop a comprehensive institutional advancement plan, expanding our endowment, planned giving and scholarships and financial aid program.
3. *Communication and Culture* > Communicate Sacred Heart's unique institutional legacy and the critical role the school and its graduates play and have played in our community and around the globe.





**ROSARY CAMPUS**

4521 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans LA 70115  
504.891.1943

**MATER CAMPUS**

4301 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans LA 70115  
504.269.1230

[ASHROSARY.ORG](http://ASHROSARY.ORG)

