

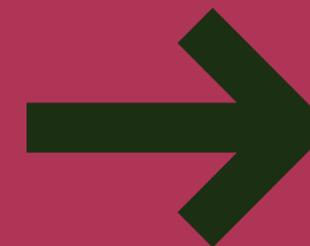
# Common Threads

## The Story Behind the Name Tag

*Connecting Our Call to Lead and the  
Mission We Share*



Leaders weave the threads of faith, faculty, and formation into one mission.



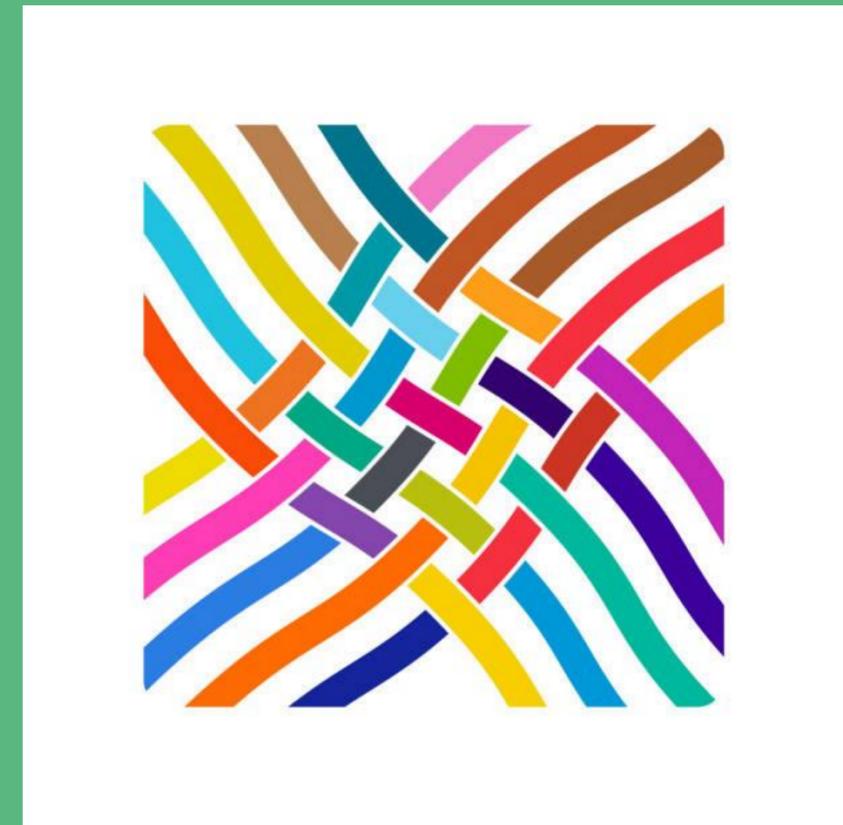
*"You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." – 1 Corinthians 12:27*



# Our Common Threads

The Spirit of Catholic  
Education – Through the Lens of  
Leadership

*“Love one another as I  
have loved you.”  
– John 15:12*



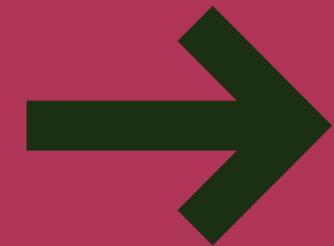
# Welcome & Prayer

## Pathways to Early Learning Excellence in Faith Formation

Strong Start, Smart Practice: Launching the Year  
with Purpose, Formation, and Faculty Culture



Presented by Oona Myhre, Founder & Executive Consultant,  
*The Earliest Edge*  
*For Catholic School Principals and Early Childhood Leaders*  
Nov 7, 2025 MNSAA



# The Power of a Christ-Centered Strong Start

The first weeks set the tone for the year — in learning and in faith

Predictability & Routines

Relationships & Belonging

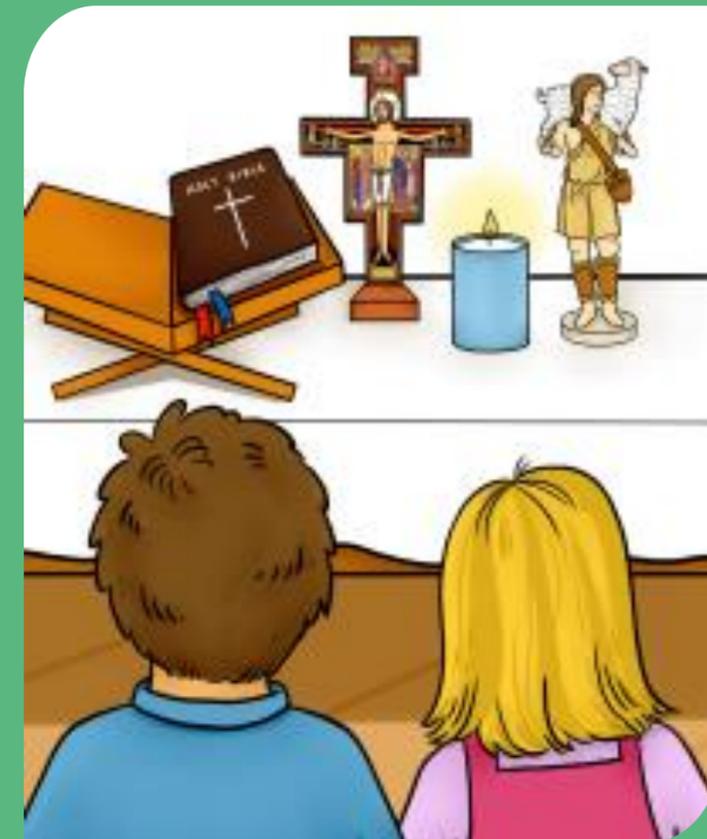
Playing & Praying

Catholic Environment



*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
— Matthew 19:14*

Everything done in these first weeks should bring children closer to that love



# The Power of a Christ-Centered Culture

The first weeks set the tone for the year — in leadership and in mission.

Everything leaders do in these first week's shapes not only classrooms, but the culture teachers live and work within

When principals lead with prayer, presence, and purpose, faith becomes the framework for everything else that that follows



*"I will give you shepherds after my own heart.: - Jeremiah 3:13*



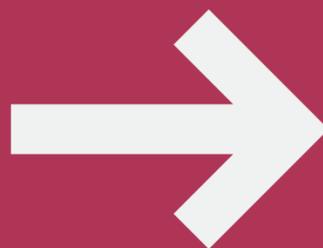
# Establishing Predictable, Faith-Filled Rhythms: From Classroom to Culture

*“Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road.” – Deuteronomy 11:19*

## Consistency Builds Calm

*Children find peace through rhythm and prayer*

Sing 	Play 	Worship 	06:30
Bible Time 	Sunday School 	Cleanup 	10:00
Pray 	Church 	Snack 	12:00



**Consistency Builds Trust**  
*Teachers thrive when leadership models' rhythm and faith*



# Leading Through Relationships: Building Belonging Across School & Home

*"We love because He first loved us." – 1 John 4:19*

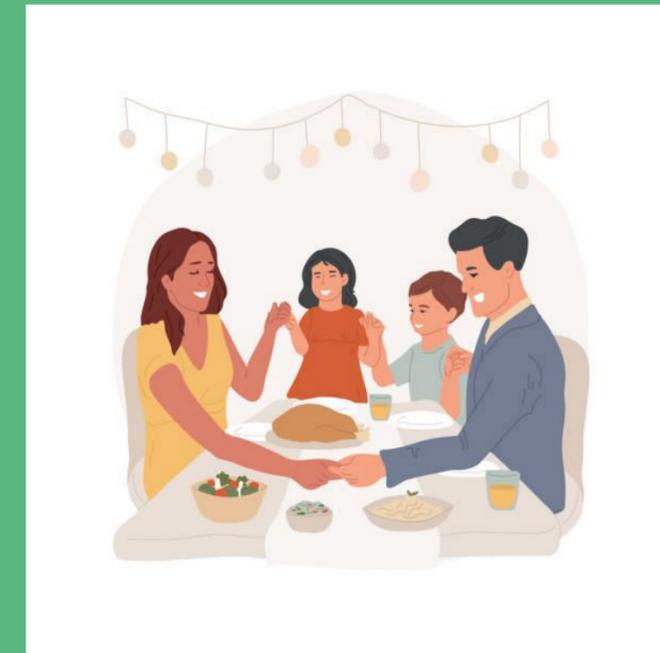
## Connection Builds Trust

*When teachers feel seen and valued, they create belonging for every child*



## Connection Builds Communion

*When school and family walk together, faith grows beyond the classroom*



# Strengthening Executive Functioning Through Playing & Praying

Where Brain Science Meets Faith Formation

Self Regulation

Working Memory

Cognitive Flexibility



*“Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”  
– Romans 12:2*



# Rebuilding Executive Function in Adults Who Lead

The Neuroscience of Calm Leadership

*"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind." – Romans 12:2*

Renewal restores clarity

Calm restores mission



*rest  
reflection  
relationship*



# The Catholic Classroom: Forming Faith Through Space

How the physical environment catechizes children

*'Be still and know that I am God.'*  
– Psalm 46:10



The classroom whispers what words cannot: God is here



# The Catholic School Culture: Forming Leaders Through Atmosphere

How principals for the “environment” for adults who form children

*‘Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.’ – Romans 12:2*



Culture is the classroom for adults – and peace is the curriculum



# Leadership Lens – Supporting a Strong Start

The Formation of Adults Who Form Children

*“I will give you shepherds after my  
own heart.” – Jeremiah 3:15*



Your calm becomes their clarity

Your faith becomes their focus



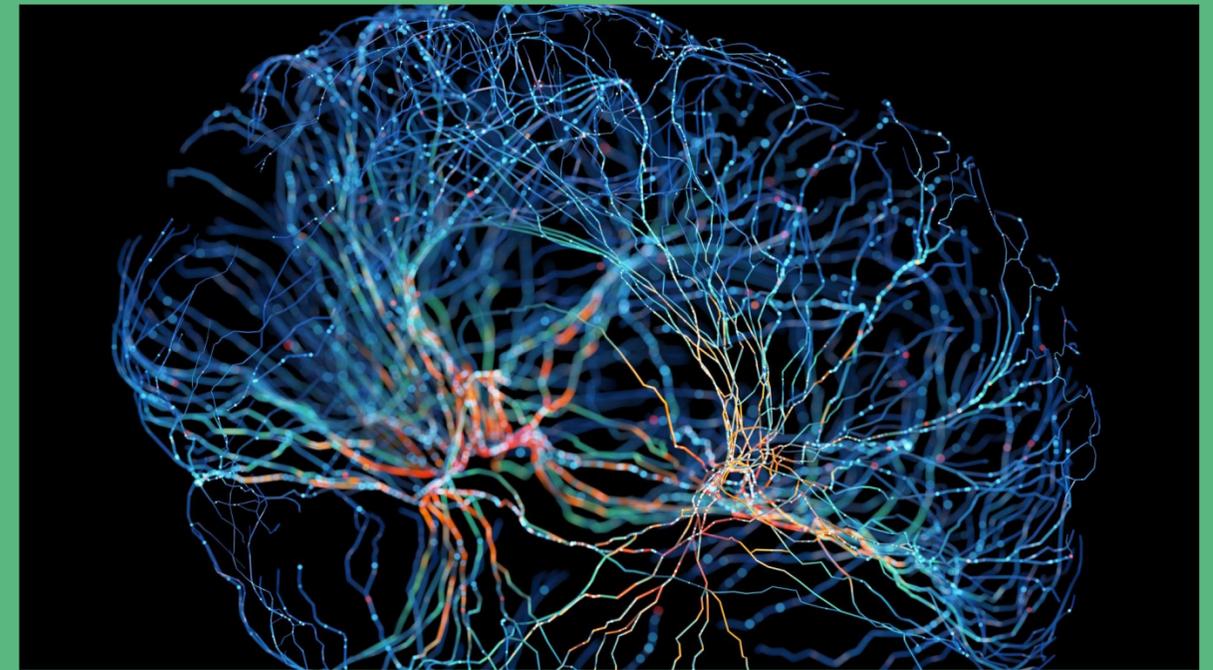
# Leadership Lens – Rebuilding Executive Function in a Faith-Filled Faculty

Forming the Adults Who Form the Children

Rest restores rhythm

Rhythm restores mission

*'Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.'* –  
Matthew 11:28



# Family Connection: Extending the Strong Start

Partnering with Parents as Co-Formers in Faith

Faith begins at home –  
and continues  
wherever love is lived

*“You shall teach them diligently to your  
children...”*

*— Deuteronomy 6:7*



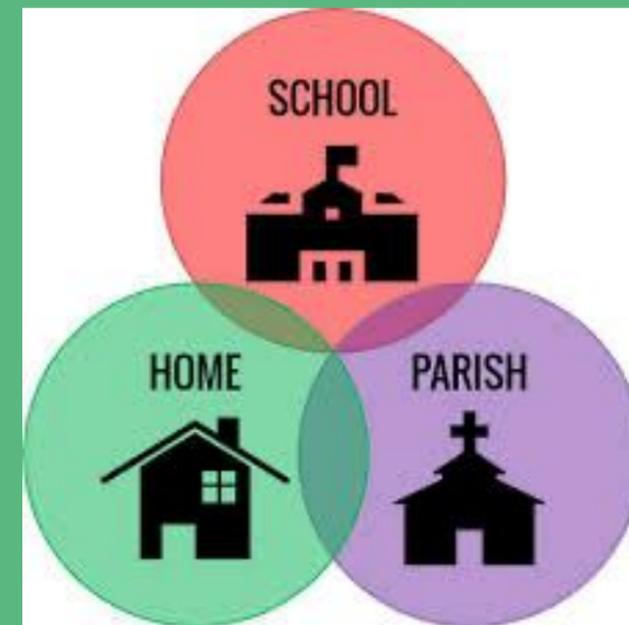
# Leadership Lens – Forming a Culture of Family Partnership

Creating Systems that Connect Home, School, and Parish

*‘Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.’  
– 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



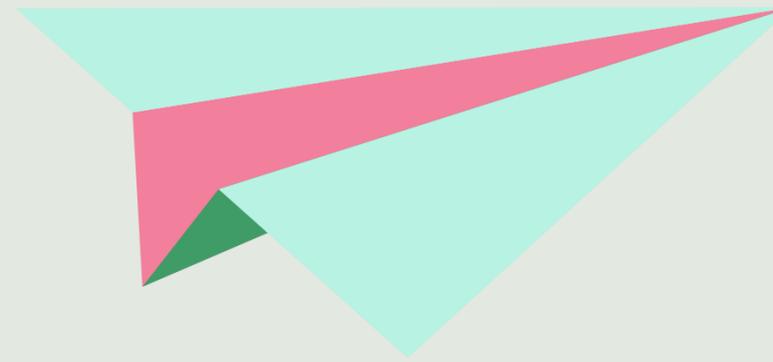
Partnership isn't a  
program – it's a  
posture of presence



# Bringing It All Together: A Strong Start Rooted in Faith

*“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 1:6*

## Strong Starts Build Sacred Stories



# Closing Thought & Prayer

*Faith, Flexibility, and Joy Build Strong Foundations*

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."*

*– Numbers 6:24 – 26*



*Lord, bless the work of  
our hand and the hearts  
we guide*

