

Trust Your Experience

In addition to the specific elements addressed in the Mission Integration Plan, you should be alert to other indicators of Marianist Education. In general, we can infer that Marianist Education is occurring if we see the Characteristics of Marianist Education in evidence throughout the school community. You have been invited to serve on a Visiting team because you have a strong sense of what Marianist Education is. Ask yourself: "Does this look and sound and feel like a Marianist school?" The Marianist way of educating should be evident in the décor and arrangement of the school, in the way people talk about education, in the priorities they have for the school, in the reasons they have for being there, and in the way they treat one another. Remember that you are looking for evidence. What is it that conveys to you that the school provides a Marianist Education?

After the Visit

Following the visit, the Visiting Team Chair will prepare a written draft of the Visit Report. This report serves as the official record of your observations and recommendations. Your Chair will share the draft with you for your review and comments. Usually, this review is conducted via e-mail, though there may be a need for telephone contact if there are elements of the report that require further conversation.

Once the members of the Visiting Team have agreed on the content, the Chair sends a copy of the completed report to the Office of Sponsorship and to the school Administration and MIT Chair. Once the report has been finalized, your service on the Visiting Team comes to an end.

The Team Visit, though only one part of the Mission Integration Process, plays an essential role in the ongoing improvement of Marianist Education. Far from being disinterested observers, members of a Visiting Team embrace a mission to enhance Marianist Education as a means to continue Mary's mission of bringing Jesus to life in the world.

A Team Visit is a synergistic growth process. The visited school receives the benefit of a fresh perspective on its efforts to carry out its mission as a Marianist-sponsored school. Members of the Visiting Team not only share their insights, but gain new ones.

Other brochures in this series include:

Overview of the Process

Skills for the Visit

Visit Ethics and Attitudes

Team Leadership

The Visit Report

If you have questions regarding the content of this brochure, please feel free to contact:



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Mission Integration
School Visiting Teams



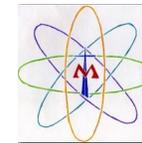
Second in a series

The Team Visit

Office of Sponsorship - Marianist Province of the United States

The Team Visit serves as an opportunity for the visited school to demonstrate how it exemplifies Marianist Education, a condition of continued sponsorship by the Marianist Province of the U.S. As such, the Team Visit and the reports and conversations emanating from it have an important role in the Province and the school together deciding to continue the sponsorship relationship.

This brochure outlines what a member of a Visiting Team may expect before, during, and after the visit.



Revised October, 2013

Structure of the Visiting Team

Visiting Teams comprise three Marianist educators. All Visiting Teams include at least one experienced member, so, if this is your first, you can be assured that one or both of the other members has done this before. The best way to learn what a Visiting Team is all about is to be part of one along with experienced colleagues.

The scope of a Team Visit makes the presence of all of the visitors important. When you agree to be part of a Visiting Team, you agree to participate in preparation prior to the visit, to be present for the entire visit, and to assist with the preparation of the Visit Report. Of course, unavoidable circumstances, such as illness or weather problems do arise. Should something occur to affect your ability to participate, please contact your Visiting Team Chair immediately so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

Before the Visit

The Chair of the Visiting Team will be in contact with people from the school to be visited regarding arrangements for the visit, including dates, a schedule, overnight accommodations, transportation, and other practical matters relating to the visit. The Chair will be in contact with you to ensure the arrangements meet your needs.

All members of the Visiting Team should familiarize themselves with the

school prior to the visit. The school's web site provides a wealth of general information. You will be provided with additional information, including the current Mission Integration Plan,



reports of prior visits, and survey data approximately one month before the scheduled visit. Review these carefully prior to the visit. Any questions you may have about these materials

should be raised with your Visiting Team Chair prior to the visit.

The Structure of the Visit

The Team Visit requires four days, including travel. The team typically arrives at the school during the first day. There may be a dinner with school personnel or with the team. There may also be meetings after dinner. The second and third days of the visit are full ones, with most of the day itself at the school, touring facilities and meeting with members of the school community. Evenings and time between meetings are typically spent conferring with your team. The final day involves delivery of an oral report by the Chair of the team to school administrators and then travel home.

Much of the visit will be spent in interviews with members of the school community. You will be meeting with the Mission Integration Team (MIT), the school administration, and others. The Chair of the Visiting Team will have set a schedule to assure adequate meeting time with relevant groups and individuals. In addition to meetings, you will be reviewing other documents, such as strategic plans and

reports of activities, and school publications. You will also be observing the general atmosphere and setting of the school and the informal interactions among people you will encounter during your visit.

What to Look For

During the visit, you will be looking for evidence that the school embodies Marianist Education.

It is the responsibility of the school to provide your team with this evidence. To a large extent,



that evidence will be presented in terms of the school's Mission Integration Plan. The MIT should be prepared to explain that plan and the rationale that led to its development, and provide evidence of its successful completion.

The Plan may well have undergone significant revision over the four years of its existence. Originally planned activities may have been replaced by others. Timelines may have been modified. Rather than looking for strict adherence to the original plan, you should be convinced that the MIT has been intentional about creating and fulfilling their plan, taking care to meet the needs of the school community, and that progress has been made toward the overall goal of improving Marianist Education in the school over the time of the plan.