



## SACS Update

Saint Henry School is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and has in place a school improvement team which continually looks at the various aspects of the education process to ensure that Saint Henry is providing the best quality education possible and meeting the SACS requirements.

Four areas were identified by the parents, faculty, and students as areas to assess in the 2009-2010 school year. The four areas of focus are: playground improvement, nutrition, resource, and ITBS testing.

The **playground improvement plan** is complete for now. Phase I of this plan included updating the playground equipment and play area which was completed last summer. The students have been very pleased with the addition of more swings, a larger area for play, and new play sets. Other recommendations for the playground are included in Phase II, which will be used in the future as needed.

**Nutrition** is being addressed with changes in our lunch menu. The cafeteria staff is doing a great job offering our students fresh fruits and vegetables everyday. During the last two months of school the cafeteria tried some new menu items to increase the variety offered to the students. Good nutrition begins at home and Saint Henry will encourage the parents to offer healthy choices at home so that the students will make healthy choices an everyday habit. Saint Henry is also looking into an automated payment plan for daily lunches. If it is feasible, the plan will be in place next year.

**ITBS** testing is a tool used by Saint Henry to assess the progress of the students on a national level. The committee is currently focusing on math, language arts, and the transition from elementary school to high school. The plan also includes education for parents about the scores of the ITBS testing to teach the parents how these scores can be used as one tool to help identify each student's strengths and/or weaknesses.

**Resource improvement** is addressing the need for advanced students in specific areas. The committee is looking at offering enrichment classes for advanced students. One program they are looking into is Science Olympiad. Students would be given a challenge and asked to use their problem-solving skills to come up with a solution. This program would allow our students to compete with students from other schools in our area.

The Diocesan Quality Assurance Committee will be visiting Saint Henry School on November 15, 2010.