

St Edward Central Catholic High School



Strategic Plan 2026-2030 Executive Summary



From the Principal

Dear St. Edward Community,

For more than 85 years, St. Edward Central Catholic High School has been rooted in Catholic faith and a commitment to educating the whole person, mind, body, and soul. As we look toward the future, we do so with gratitude for those who came before us and with a strong sense of responsibility to continue providing an excellent Catholic education for those who will come next.

With Christ guiding us, our mission has evolved and we have established a new vision and core values that more clearly express who we are, what we believe, and who we aspire to become. Together, they strengthen our Catholic identity and provide a foundation for the future of St. Edward.

Over the last 15 months, the voices of students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and school leaders have helped shape this Strategic Plan. Through reflection, conversation, and careful planning, our community has identified priorities that build on the strengths of St. Edward while responding to the needs of our students today and in the years ahead.

We will continue to strengthen the student experience, invest in our people and programs, and work to ensure that St. Edward remains strong and accessible for future generations. At the heart of this work is our vision to form joyful servant leaders, scholars, and saints who enrich the world with faith, reason, and justice rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ.

This plan is our commitment to intentional growth and to continually asking how we can better serve our students and prepare St. Edward for the future.

With Christ at the center and confidence in the Green Wave community, we look forward to building the next chapter of St. Edward together.

Sincerely,

AnnMarie Woj-Dufelmeier ('98)

Head of School

St. Edward Central Catholic High School

St. Edward Central Catholic High School

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission

Rooted in Catholic faith and community since 1941, we are a Christ-centered high school serving the Fox Valley area and forming compassionate, service-driven leaders. In partnership with families, we educate the whole person mind, body, and soul while building lifelong connections.

Vision

To form the next generation of joyful servant leaders, scholars, and saints, who enrich the world with faith, reason, and justice rooted in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Core Values

Worship: We embrace every task, assignment, and competition as an opportunity to worship God through our hard work.

Achievement: We set high goals and expectations, embrace challenges, and work with a growth mindset.

Virtue: We exemplify virtues including honesty, compassion, generosity, patience, and fortitude, while recognizing those who serve as role models, in virtue.

Evangelization: We engage in outreach and service opportunities to lead others through action to the way of salvation through Christ Jesus.

St. Edward Central Catholic High School

Strategic Plan 2026-2030

Executive Summary

St. Edward Central Catholic High School enters this next chapter with a clear commitment to its Catholic identity, the formation of the whole person, and the continued growth and vitality of the school community. Rooted in more than 85 years of Catholic education, St. Edward's strategic plan provides a roadmap for strengthening the student experience, developing its people and programs, deepening community relationships, and preparing the school to serve future generations.

The plan was shaped by the voices and experiences of students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and school leaders. It builds upon the strengths of St. Edward while identifying opportunities for intentional growth and improvement. Guided by the school's mission, vision, and core values of **Worship, Achievement, Virtue, and Evangelization**, the plan centers on four strategic domains: **Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality.**

Mission and Catholic Identity

At the heart of the strategic plan is St. Edward's commitment to forming **joyful servant leaders, scholars, and saints** who enrich the world through faith, reason, and justice. The school will strengthen its Catholic identity by creating a cohesive four-year faith formation experience for students, redesigning retreats, expanding student faith leadership and peer mentorship, and using student feedback and spiritual engagement data to continually improve formation opportunities.

St. Edward will also deepen its relationships with local parishes, families, alumni, and the broader Catholic community. The plan calls for expanded parish outreach, student participation in parish life, faith-formation opportunities for younger students, and stronger engagement among parents and alumni. These efforts are intended to make St. Edward's Catholic identity increasingly visible both on campus and throughout the Fox Valley community.

The school will further strengthen its faith formation leadership structure and develop leadership pathways for students, faculty, and alumni. A new focus on responsible technology and artificial intelligence will ensure that students and faculty are equipped to use technology in ways that uphold human dignity, truth, academic integrity, authentic relationships, and the common good.

Governance and Leadership

Strong, transparent, and unified leadership is essential to the future of St. Edward. The strategic plan prioritizes clearer communication, defined leadership responsibilities, and greater transparency with the school community.

A key initiative is the development of an annual **State of the School** communication cycle, supported by a year-round communication calendar. This structure will provide stakeholders with consistent updates and opportunities for engagement around important areas of school life. The plan also calls for clearly communicating the role and purpose of the Executive Commission of Advisors (ECA), increasing its visibility, and demonstrating its contribution to the school's ongoing progress.

The plan also seeks to create stronger and more coordinated leadership opportunities for parents, students, alumni, and boosters. By aligning ambassador and leadership programs, establishing clearer roles and training, and intentionally identifying emerging student leaders, St. Edward will cultivate a stronger culture of shared responsibility, service, and school pride.

Academic Excellence

St. Edward's academic priorities focus on preparing students not simply for graduation, but for the many pathways that follow high school. The school will develop an integrated framework connecting **academic preparation, career and postsecondary readiness, faith formation, and life skills**.

Students will increasingly have a clear progression of expectations throughout their four years, supported by individual portfolios that demonstrate growth and readiness for their chosen postsecondary pathway. The plan also envisions expanded work-study and internship opportunities through alumni and community partnerships, as well as enhanced resources for college, career, military, and other postsecondary planning.

A significant academic priority is the creation of a school-wide culture of data-informed decision-making. St. Edward will establish common assessment practices, align departmental assessments with WCEA Schoolwide Learning Outcomes, and develop ways to evaluate the growth of the **whole student**—including academic achievement, engagement, attendance, interventions, and postsecondary readiness. Regular data review will help the school identify strengths and opportunities and use that information to improve curriculum, instruction, intervention, and professional development.

The plan also recognizes that student success depends upon the strength and stability of the adults who serve them. St. Edward will strengthen faculty and staff evaluation, onboarding, mentoring, professional development, instructional coaching, and professional growth processes. These efforts are designed to build a stable, engaged, and highly effective faculty and staff community.

Operational Vitality

The final strategic domain focuses on ensuring that St. Edward remains a strong, vibrant, and connected school for current and future families.

Enrollment and retention are significant priorities. The school has established progressive freshman enrollment benchmarks of **50 students in 2026–2027, 60 in 2027–2028, and 65 in 2028–2029**, with a long-term goal of an optimal total enrollment of 400 students. Achieving these goals will require coordinated recruitment, marketing, athletics, admissions, parish outreach, family engagement, and ambassador efforts.

The school will focus not only on attracting new families, but also on creating a community in which current families feel a strong sense of belonging and pride. The “Raving Fans” initiative, family-friendly events, expanded Fox Valley community presence, prospective-student engagement, and curriculum-based outreach to elementary and middle schools are designed to increase awareness of St. Edward and strengthen long-term relationships with families and feeder communities.

The plan places particular emphasis on strengthening relationships with Hispanic families through intentional outreach, bilingual communication, partnerships with St. Edward Prep, and deeper relationships with local parishes and community organizations. The goal is to build greater trust, belonging, access, and connection throughout the Hispanic community.

Advancement, fundraising, and alumni relations will become increasingly coordinated through a formal annual advancement plan. St. Edward will strengthen donor stewardship, alumni engagement, fundraising processes, marketing, and communication while developing a phased advancement structure that brings enrollment, development, alumni relations, and marketing into greater alignment.

Finally, the strategic plan recognizes the importance of maintaining and modernizing the physical and technological environment in which students learn and grow. St. Edward will establish long-range technology and facilities plans, prioritize ongoing maintenance and improvements, complete the new fitness center, and engage students in campus beautification and improvement efforts.

Looking Ahead

Together, these priorities represent a comprehensive vision for the future of St. Edward Central Catholic High School. The strategic plan is not simply a collection of initiatives; it is a framework for ensuring that the school remains faithful to its Catholic mission while responding thoughtfully to the evolving needs of students, families, faculty, and the broader community.

Over the coming years, St. Edward will focus on five interconnected outcomes:

- **Deepening Catholic identity** and forming students in faith, virtue, service, and leadership.

- **Strengthening the student experience** through academic excellence, meaningful formation, and preparation for life beyond high school.
- **Building a culture of leadership and transparency** among school leaders, students, parents, alumni, and the broader community.
- **Growing enrollment and community engagement** through stronger relationships with families, parishes, feeder schools, alumni, and the Fox Valley community.
- **Creating a sustainable and vibrant future** through strong people, programs, facilities, technology, advancement, and organizational practices.

The ultimate goal is clear: **to build upon the legacy of St. Edward while intentionally preparing the school for its future.** With Christ at the center, the school community will continue working together to form young people who are prepared not only to succeed, but to lead, serve, and live their faith with purpose.

This strategic plan provides the direction. Its success will depend upon the continued collaboration, commitment, and shared ownership of the entire St. Edward community.