Often times, St. Ignatius of Loyola ended his letters to Jesuits going to the missions with the following words: *Ite, inflammate omnia.* “Go and set the world on fire.” There is little question that the founder of one of the most important missionary orders of the Church took his cue from the gospel of St. Luke where Jesus Christ yearns, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing” (12:49). For over 450 years, the Society of Jesus has been doing exactly that, spanning the globe and setting the world ablaze with the fire of God’s love.

Back in 1854, when a small band of Jesuit priests and brothers made their way through the streets of Havana in search of a place to lay the foundations for a new school, it was those very words that echoed in their hearts eventually giving birth to the *Colegio de Belén.* Ignatius’ fiery mandate was so engrained in the mission of Belen Jesuit, that for over 160 years, regardless of the trials and tribulations, it continues to focus on the same thing: the formation of young men in the extraordinary pedagogical tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola. As it did in Cuba and now in Miami, the fire of God’s love blazes ardently in the heart of our school community.

But every fire needs to be stoked. The winds of change are constant and blow stronger and faster than ever before. Belen Jesuit understands these changes are opportunities for growth, opportunities to add fuel to the fire. It is a fuel that will help strengthen its educational program while remaining faithful to its mission. Belen Jesuit has developed a strategic plan that not only sets the vision for the immediate future, but also identifies the necessary fuel that will help us set our students’ world ablaze.

The strategic plan presented here is a roadmap that will help guide Belen Jesuit through the next few years. Focused on the mission and motivated by an incessant desire to do more, the *magis,* to further the educational experience for our students and engage all vested stakeholders, the plan identifies four pillars upon which the future will be built. By initiating new curricular and extracurricular programs, creating opportunities for the continuous formation of faculty, strengthening the Alumni Association, and enhancing the development of the school’s facilities and campus, Belen Jesuit will continue its tradition of providing a premier Catholic, Jesuit education.

*Auspice Maria.*
Belen Jesuit recognizes that at the very core of its mission is its role as a Catholic school with over 160 years of education in the Jesuit tradition. Both its Catholic and Jesuit identity contribute to making Belen Jesuit unique among other centers of education in the region. For this reason, Belen Jesuit is committed to strengthening its Catholic, Jesuit identity in order to remain faithful to its role in forming men of Christian values and conviction with particular attention to serving those in greatest need.
IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN OUR CATHOLIC, JESUIT IDENTITY, BELEN JESUIT MUST FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Invest in faculty and staff spiritual formation with emphasis on the Spiritual Exercises

Enhance Catholic formation and Jesuit spirituality through a reinvigorated Theology curriculum and Campus Ministry program from middle school through high school

Provide adequate spiritual and sacramental space

Ensure that the student and faculty population reflect the racial and socioeconomic diversity of our Church

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, BELEN JESUIT WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Create the opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and board to participate in the Spiritual Exercises.

Aggressively recruit, employ and retain men and women who live and share our Catholic values and represent the racial and socioeconomic diversity of our community.

Strengthen our middle school Campus Ministry program, leading to a more engaging high school experience.

Update our Theology curriculum and develop new courses that will emphasize Catholic formation and Jesuit spirituality, while remaining faithful to the program outlined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for Catholic Schools.

Construct a larger chapel to better address the spiritual and sacramental needs of the whole school community.

Increase our Financial Assistance Program to create greater opportunities for a racially and socioeconomically diverse student population.
Belen Jesuit is committed to the Ignatian tradition of excellence, the *magis*, and is considered one of the premier academic middle and high schools in the region. In keeping with this tradition, Belen Jesuit will continue to prepare its students as engaged citizens of an ever-changing and diverse world. It will invest in developing an environment that provides its students with challenging, forward-looking academic programs, facilities and faculty which will position Belen Jesuit as one of the leading academic institutions in the nation.
IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN OUR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, BELEN JESUIT MUST FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Curriculum enhancements and expansion

Cutting edge technological resources and learning spaces to enhance teaching and learning

High quality and sustained professional development for faculty and staff

Student/teacher ratio conducive to a rich learning environment

College counseling and placement

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, BELEN JESUIT WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Develop a comprehensive program of study emphasizing the integration of an entrepreneurial program and an innovative STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) curriculum.

Improve and upgrade academic learning spaces to provide cutting edge technology necessary for high-quality teaching and learning with emphasis on STEAM.

Create programs and processes with adequate personnel to ensure quality faculty and staff development, program and curriculum innovation, and comprehensive evaluation procedures.
Forming Well-Rounded Men

Belen Jesuit excels at forming “Men for Others” who are focused on the betterment of themselves and their community. Developing well-rounded men who lead through example and action is at the heart of its rich educational tradition. Belen Jesuit will focus on enriching the diversity of its faculty and student body to better prepare its students to excel as global citizens in a richly diverse and ever-changing world.
IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, BELEN JESUIT WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Continue to invest in and evaluate extracurricular activities and Campus Ministry with an emphasis on Community Service and student participation.

Recruit and retain faculty and staff to enhance the perspective and experience of the students.

Develop and promote programs that expose students, faculty and staff to a global perspective beyond their individual experience.

Provide exceptional spaces to encourage student engagement in high quality athletic and extracurricular programs, including the construction of a new athletic field house.

IN CONTINUING ITS MISSION OF FORMING WELL-ROUNDED MEN, BELEN JESUIT MUST FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Campus Ministry and Community Service programs

Faculty and staff diversity

International opportunities for students, faculty and staff

Enhancement and promotion of athletic and extracurricular programs and spaces
Enhancing our Brotherhood

With over 7,000 alumni throughout the world, Belen Jesuit recognizes that one of its greatest resources is its alumni community. It is in great part due to this brotherhood that the school has maintained such a long and storied tradition. This brotherhood of alumni is the ultimate extension of student formation and the school’s mission after graduation. Belen Jesuit will continue to strengthen this brotherhood so that it becomes an even greater resource to the school.
IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, BELEN JESUIT WILL NEED TO TAKE ACTION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Develop programs that integrate alumni within student life and institutional advancement.
- Create opportunities for ongoing spiritual formation including enhancing the relationship with the Agrupación Católica Universitaria (ACU) that creates a continuum of formation from Belen Jesuit student to Belen Jesuit alumnus.
- Establish structured local, regional, national and international alumni engagement programs designed to promote the wide reach and success of alumni.
- Promote and expand annual and major giving efforts to better provide alumni and others the opportunity to contribute to the continued growth and success of the school and its students while building a culture of philanthropy.

IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE BROTHERHOOD, BELEN JESUIT MUST FOCUS ITS EFFORTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Increase alumni participation in school activities
- Alumni spiritual and faith formation
- Wider and sustained alumni engagement
- Develop a culture of alumni philanthropy
“Belen Jesuit is committed to the Ignatian tradition of excellence, the *magis*. ”
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