

October 27, 2017

Dear Families of Cathedral of St. Peter, St. Bernadette and St. James,

We hope your school year is off to a great start! While everyone is settling into this year, we continue to plan for the future of our schools. We are committed to providing the **highest quality, sustainable and affordable Catholic education** for our three parishes – the Cathedral of St. Peter, St. Bernadette and St. James.

Our Joint Schools Committee, made up of representatives from all three schools, has been developing a plan to address school challenges while enhancing a robust and vibrant Catholic education program on the west side of Rockford. We would like to share our progress with you:

- Earlier this month, we received the school facility assessment from Larson & Darby, a local architecture firm recognized for their work with schools around the nation. As expected, the report provides no recommendations, as the purpose of the engagement was to gather data and conditions on each facility. We are evaluating this data, and feel that this information will be helpful in determining which location(s) will offer the best resources to our students.
- The Joint Schools Committee has formed sub-committees to lead specific efforts in the areas of governance, mission/vision, facilities/lease, finance/human resources, marketing/branding, curriculum and athletics/student life.
- Discussion of governance, potential ownership structure and financial structure is ongoing.
- Community input and feedback continues to be a large part of our process. We anticipate a community meeting this winter to share information and get your input.
- We will continue to keep you informed with updates and decisions. We will be sharing information regularly through announcements in the parish bulletin, through School Speak for school families, and on our websites.

We are excited to create an even better quality, competitive Catholic education program and develop opportunities to ensure a strong future for our students, families, and schools. We ask for your patience as we work toward achieving this.

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and please pray that God continues to guide our efforts.

Joint Schools Committee