

Additional Questions for Q and A Document

Is the St. Joan of Arc School facility in need of major repair?

An engineering study was conducted by SSC Engineering, Inc., of the entire St. Joan of Arc School facility in October 2016. This study included a review of the HVAC systems, plumbing, fire protection, and electrical services. All systems were found to be working and only minor repairs and upgrades were recommended. All the recommendations made were reasonable in terms of cost and the ability to repair. The recommended repairs will be addressed prior to the start of the next school year.

Additional questions at the town hall meetings focused on the:

- **age of the HVAC systems in the St. Joan of Arc School building**
The engineering study indicated that the two boilers that heat the school were installed in 2014. All AC units are in good repair and working. The only major issue noted in the study was the age of the AC unit for the gym.
- **condition of the school roof on the St. Joan of Arc School building**
The slate roof on the older part of the building is the original roof (75 years old) and the tiles are holding up. However, some of the ice guards where the slate tiles meet the gutters are in need of repair. The flat tar roofs on the newer sections of the school have all been replaced within the last seven years.
- **windows repairs in the St. Joan of Arc School building**
The windows are all in good repair. However, if a decision is made in the future to upgrade the air conditioning system, more energy efficient windows should be considered.
- **cost to operate the St. Joan of Arc School building**
At the town hall meetings it was suggested that the building costs at St. Joan of Arc School were considerably higher than at St. James the Greater School. For FY 2016, the school building costs (electric, gas, HVAC repair, etc.) were only \$600 more at St. Joan of Arc School compared to St. James the Greater School. Looking back over two years between these two buildings, the building costs at St. Joan of Arc School were only 5.6% more than St. James the Greater School.

The pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish and his facilities committee have also indicated that the following upgrades will be made to the facility at St. Joan of Arc Parish's expense in the coming months:

- tuck pointing the school and repair of some plaster damage in the school facility
- resurfacing the blacktop between the church and school
- installation of a new playground

The only other work that will need to be addressed prior to the start of the next school year will be reconfiguring some space within the St. Joan of Arc School building to accommodate programs and services for the new school. Funding to make these renovations will be provided through the archdiocese.

What has been shared with the pastors and principals of neighboring schools regarding enrolling students from these three schools?

Msgr. Mark Rivituso, Vicar General for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, has communicated to the pastors and the principals of the neighboring schools that they should be respectful of the planning underway with these three schools. He directed these school leaders to strongly encourage parents from the three schools who contact them about registration to carefully consider the new school entity being created. Pastors and principals of these schools have been directed to only consider accepting families from these three schools after they have carefully considered the option of the new school and only at the normal time of registration for the 2017-18 school year.

How will parents be involved in the transition to the new school?

Once the recommendation is approved, the following steps will be taken to involve the parents in the development and creation of the new school:

- A parent advisory committee will be established including representation from all three schools. This group will assist the administration during the transition period of establishing the new school and could likely form the nucleus of the new PTO/Home and School Association. Areas of focus for the parent advisory committee would include, but not be limited to:
 - Serving as the champions of the new school and assisting with encouraging families to enroll
 - Being the "eyes and ears" during the transition period and acting as liaisons for parents in order to ensure that additional questions are brought forth and addressed (contributors to the living Q&A document)
 - Taking the lead on planning community engagement events so that families can get to know one another and establish and engage in our new community
 - Assisting the school administration with blending school traditions and events, serving as the "think tank" for initial student-related policy discussions, and establishing the school uniform and school spirit wear
- An educational program committee of parents will be established to assist the administration with curriculum development and with planning program enhancements.
- A board of directors will be established including parents and parishioners from the three parishes. This group will be a board of limited jurisdiction that will assist the pastors and administration with setting school policies, creating a long-range strategic plan for the school, and managing the financial aspects of the school.

What will happen if only two parishes decide to become a part of the new school?

The recommendation, once approved, will move forward with two or three schools involved with the new school entity. The archdiocese is committed to ensuring the success of the new school.

When will a final decision be made regarding this new school?

Many parents at the town hall meeting raised the question about when a final decision will be made. This concern has been communicated to the Archdiocesan School Oversight Committee and all others involved in the decision-making process. A final decision is expected in early to mid-December.