

# The New Catholic School in South City

## A RENAISSANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

- Change
- Challenge
- Choice
- Quality Schools
- Rooted in Faith
- Partnership
- Affordable
- Sustainable

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## Meet the Parent Advisory Committee

We are excited to announce the establishment of the new school Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), which will assist with school planning January – June, 2017. Committee members are:

**Laurie Bettlach** - St. Joan of Arc  
**Dan Cline** - Our Lady of Sorrows  
**Ann Chulick** - St. James the Greater  
**Brigid Kappel** - Our Lady of Sorrows  
**Leslie Keaveny** - Our Lady of Sorrows  
**Susie Morgan** - St. James the Greater  
**Susanne Rosenberg** - St. Joan of Arc  
**Dave Taylor** - St. Joan of Arc

The purpose of PAC is to serve as a “think tank” for the Pastors and Catholic Education Office and as a liaison for school families and parishioners. PAC members are charged with establishing a welcoming and engaging new school community and with providing assistance forming and establishing the new school in designated areas (i.e.: community building events, school logo, school uniforms and spirit wear, areas TBD).

PAC members have been busy the past few weeks getting to know each other, understanding their role and responsibilities, and engaging in lively conversations on tasks and possible events. Two of PAC’s priority focus areas for the month of January are naming the school and Catholic Schools Week.

### What’s in a Name?” Campaign

Thank you to all who have submitted suggestions for the PAC’s “What’s in a Name?” Campaign! The committee members, along with the pastors, have narrowed down the suggestions and have sent their top choices to Archbishop Carlson for final selection. When will the name be revealed? Keep reading...

### Catholic Schools Week “Sneak Peek” Gathering

PAC is busy planning our Catholic Schools Week “Sneak Peek” Gathering set for Sunday, January 29, from Noon – 2:00 p.m. The name for the new school will be revealed at 1:00 p.m.! More details to come!

# Applying to the New School for the 2017-18 School Year

Application packets for the new school will be available on Sunday, January 29, at our Catholic Schools Week “Sneak Peek” Gathering. Be sure to pick up a packet for each of your children. The application packet is specifically designed for students currently attending Our Lady of Sorrows, St. James the Greater, and St. Joan of Arc Schools. New Student Application Packets for incoming Kindergarten students will also be available.

As a reminder, tuition and fees for the new school are as follows:

**Application Fee:** \$50.00 per child at time of application (check or money order)

**Tuition:**

One Child	\$4,500
Two Children	\$6,500
Three Children	\$7,500
Four or more Children	No additional charge other than the application fee

Completed application packets and application fees should be returned to your current school site office no later than **Friday, February 24**, in order to secure a spot for your child/children. Open enrollment for new students will begin on **Monday, February 27**.

# School Planning Updates

## **Preschool**

The pastors have made the decision to continue to maintain their preschools as parish-run preschools.

## **Before and Aftercare Programs**

The new school will provide both before and aftercare programs for students in grades K – 8. Program specifics and fee structures are being finalized and will be shared soon.

## **Athletic Association**

The pastors are planning to meet with the presidents of the three Athletic Associations to discuss what direction the program might move in.

## Sacraments

The pastors have proposed the following for the reception of the sacraments for Catholic students attending the new school:

**First Reconciliation** and **First Communion** will occur in the parishes and will be coordinated to occur on the same date.

**Confirmation** will take place at the Cathedral Basilica in the spring of the school year. Students in grades 7 and 8 will be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation every other school year.

## Come Out and Play! – Open Gym Night on Friday, January 27, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

All families from Our Lady of Sorrows, St. James the Greater, and St. Joan of Arc are invited to come build community, make new friends, and enjoy some fun activities at an Open Gym sponsored by St. Joan of Arc parents on Friday, January 27, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please consider bringing a snack and 2 liter bottle of soda to share.

# Principal Search and Teacher Hiring

Nine potential candidates have submitted their letters of interest and resumes for the principal position. As this position is critical to the success of the new school, we have asked Stephanie Welling, Associate Superintendent for School Personnel, to assist with vetting candidates and determining which individuals will be invited to interview for the position. We are looking for a principal who possesses the following characteristics:

- Practicing Catholic
- Genuine love and understanding of, and compassion for, children and their families
- Master's degree in administration/ educational leadership with proper educational credentials
- Understanding of, and commitment to, the philosophy of Catholic education
- Demonstrated leadership ability or potential

- Knowledge of and demonstrated administrative skills and abilities appropriate to the overall operation of an elementary school
- Knowledge of and demonstrated successful experience in instructional leadership, including curriculum development, instructional methodology, assessment practices, and professional development planning and facilitation
- Strong interpersonal and relational skills, especially in the area of communication

The interview process will begin the week of January 23 and updates will be provided as the process moves forward.

Current teachers from Our Lady of Sorrows, St. James the Greater, and St. Joan of Arc Schools attended a meeting at the Catholic Education Office on Thursday, January 5. Items discussed included: how to apply for a teaching position to the new school,

as well as other Catholic elementary schools in the archdiocese; interview and resume tips; and a question and answer session. Current teachers have the opportunity in the next couple of weeks to participate in practice interviews with members of the Elementary Education Team from the Catholic Education Office. Current teachers will be interviewed for teaching positions prior to outside candidates being considered.

Maureen DePriest, Associate Superintendent for Elementary School Administration/Director of City Catholic Elementary School, and the new principal, as well as other members of the Catholic Education Office staff, will form the teacher interview team.

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