



North Hills Regional Catholic Elementary Schools



April 7, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The founding of our three new merged schools continues to move forward, as we work with all of you towards a new direction and new life for Catholic elementary education in the North Hills. The third board meeting was held on April 2, and its members offer another update.

Pre-K Options and Tuition Rates

In addition to the already published Full Day Pre-K tuition rates for the 2017/18 academic year established for the three new schools (St. Mary/St. Ursula/St. Bonaventure; St. Alexis/St. Alphonsus; and St. Teresa/St. Sebastian), please note the following:

- After listening to feedback and reviewing the needs of our local communities regarding care for three- and four-year-old children, the proposal for the three new schools, passed by a unanimous vote, is:
 - Half Day Pre-K will be offered by all of these three schools with the following tuition rates.
 - 3 year-olds/5 days per week/3 hours per day - \$2,200 per child
 - 3 year-olds/2 days per week/3 hours per day - \$1,600 per child
 - 4 year-olds/5 days per week/3 hours per day - \$2,200 per child
 - 4 year-olds/3 days per week/3 hours per day - \$1,800 per child
- Additionally, despite K-8 and Pre-K being two distinct programs that require, by law, different adult supervision criteria, we are offering the following:
 - A 20% multi-child discount off of Pre-K tuition (full day or half day) if a family has a child or children enrolled in grades K-8.

Faculty/Staff Decisions

As stated in our previous letter, interviews with all of the teachers at the seven merged schools have been completed. Notification to teachers regarding their placements, and announcements of these decisions will occur within the next few weeks. We encourage you, our families, to enroll in school before announcements are made, as one basis for selecting the number of teachers is student enrollment.

School Principal

Mike Killmeyer, Regional Administrator, informed the Board at the meeting that Jim Correll, current principal at St. Alexis School, will not be accepting the principal position at the new St. Teresa/St. Sebastian School. A search committee is being formed to interview and select a new principal as soon as possible.

Regional Business Manager

The newly formed corporation has posted and is currently seeking to fill the position of Business Manager for the region. Mike Killmeyer is receiving resumes from potential candidates to begin the interview process, anticipating this position to be filled and started by the end of the current school year.

Development Consultant

Responding to input from many of our families, and recognizing the need to be pro-active in development efforts for our schools, the board determined an immediate need to place a consultant on at least a short-term basis to serve as a “point person” for the three new schools – meeting with those who spearhead fundraising efforts at each school, and guiding them through this transition. The work done by the consultant would lay the groundwork for initial coordination of advancement and fundraising efforts among all the schools in the North Hills Region. Details of this engagement are in process.

School Advisory Councils (SAC)

The SAC bylaws have been approved. Pastors and principals are gathering and submitting names to Mike Killmeyer and the Board for approval. There will be three new SACs – one for each of the three new schools. These councils will be responsible for advising the principals and the regional administrator in the areas of public relations, student retention and recruitment, fundraising and development, as well as helping to strengthen parental and community support for the schools.

In addition, each SAC will have one representative who will sit on the Regional School Advisory Council, which is to advise the NHRCES Board and the regional administrator in long-range planning, marketing and public relations, sources of fundraising, and strategies for enrollment building.

School Naming

Each community for the three newly formed schools is beginning the naming process, anticipating community participation in new name suggestions by April 21. You should be hearing detailed information from your local pastors and principals. Parishioners and school families will have the opportunity to suggest names, ultimately chosen by Bishop Zubik.

School mascots and colors will be determined after the school names, most likely with more community input.

We again thank you for your patience, your trust, and especially your prayers. This endeavor is unprecedented in our diocese, and we are dedicating many hours and much energy as faithful servants of Christ, doing our best to serve you and your children. We all care tremendously about Catholic education, recognizing its value for individuals and for society at large.

We wish you all a blessed Holy Week and a joy-filled Easter!

The Board will meet again on May 2.

Yours in Christ,

NHRCES Board of Directors:

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