

January 5, 2024

Dear Parishioners & School Families,

On Tuesday, January 2, I met with the archbishop to discuss the concerns brought up at the meeting held on December 28. While the overall timeline for the new school will not change, the archbishop has given an extension for name submissions to January 18.

During my meeting I presented the archbishop with questions I had received, and it quickly became clear that many of the questions were viewed by the archbishop as looking into the past and the focus was shifted to questions that would help us move forward in the transition process. As I mentioned at the listening session, the questions asked, and answers received are now posted on the parishes' websites.

After prayerful consideration I have selected a transition team to assist me and the school administrators as we navigate the archdiocesan transition plan. With the timeline taken into consideration, the transition team has come up with a plan to submit names and mascots to the archbishop that embody the mission of our new school. You will find a letter from the transition committee attached.

After seeing the number of name and mascot submissions, the transition team was inspired to hear more. They want you to share what you value in a Catholic school to guide the process of narrowing down names and mascots for submission to the archbishop. Please keep the members of the transition team and our school and parish families in your prayers as we navigate this journey.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to submit name and mascot suggestions that met the archbishop's guidelines. I especially appreciate the thoughtfulness put into the submissions.

Christ's peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Stan Schmit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Stan Schmit

Dear Families,

As the deadline set by the Archdiocese for a new school name and mascot draws near, we wanted to reach out and assure you that efforts are being made to ensure the process is being carried out well given this limited timeframe. Understanding that this directive as a whole carries many complexities and needs to be well thought-out for success, we petitioned the archbishop for more time. We received an extension of eight days. The new deadline for a name and mascot is now January 18, 2024, and the completion of all other tasks related to the opening of a new school remain set for the 2024-2025 school year.

These are not easy circumstances for anyone, and we understand and respect that many are at different stages of discernment about where they stand and what it looks like to model Christ's teachings while navigating all of this. We are right there with you. We have been praying about this and carefully considering our calling to help carry out what seems like an impossible task. And while it's hard to move forward with so many unanswered questions and so much uncertainty, our team is in full agreement that if this is the direction, we are being asked to move we are committed to making sure it is done well, models Christ's teachings, and is something our communities can be proud of. We are not looking to dismiss our past, but to thrive in the future of a new Catholic high school where our children can continue to grow in their faith.

It's not our goal to tell you how to feel or where to stand on any of this – that is something for you and your families to pray about and discern. And while we wish we had all the answers at this time, unfortunately we don't. The one thing we do know for certain is that we are committed to keeping Christ as our central focus and working for transparency and clear communication throughout this entire process.

With all that being said, the number of thoughtful responses we received for new school name and mascot ideas was really positive and encouraging. We are blessed with so many intelligent, creative, and driven individuals in our communities and to see these attributes come out is so inspiring. We would love to hear more from you about your vision and hopes for a new Catholic high school. If you would like to share, please visit the link below and leave your comments to help aid us in the formation of our combined mission.

Although it seems we have been tasked with the impossible, we are confident that with the Lord's guidance, good will be drawn out from this transition. *For nothing will be impossible with God.* Luke 1:37

Thank you for your continued prayers!

The Transition Team

Jordan Bender  
Andy Bishop  
Jennifer Dunn

Kristin Catterson  
Deb Herchenbach  
Anne Klassen

Jenna Olmer  
John Wiese  
Fr. Stan Schmit

Please visit this link by **Tuesday, January 9** to share your ideas, values, and goals for our new school:  
<https://forms.gle/dDXNS2ChQ3zgzLwz9>