

December 7, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Earlier this year, I shared my decision to merge Holy Family Jr./ Sr. High School and St. Francis Jr./Sr. High School grades 7-12 into one secondary school to address persistent challenges magnified during the Journey of Faith process. I write today to provide a final update on this effort. The two secondary schools will unite into a new central Catholic junior and senior high school at the current St. Francis High School site beginning next fall for the 2024-25 school year.

My decision to bring these two schools together is necessary to address a host of ongoing challenges:

- The ongoing teacher shortage is a national and state-wide problem that will not be solved in the near future.
- The quality of Catholic education in the region is diminished when two Jr./Sr. high schools in close proximity are vying for the same scarce resources.
- Teacher vacancies that both schools have experienced in recent years have only been addressed by remote teaching and co-ops at other schools.
- Holy Family Lindsay is not compliant with state accreditation requirements and is in danger of losing its accreditation from the State of Nebraska.

A local planning committee worked with an outside consultant to determine the best way to merge these schools, but that group could not reach a decision. The new central Catholic high school in Humphrey will be named in the coming weeks with local guidance. Holy Family families are invited to continue their children's Catholic education at the new school, which I am confident is best equipped to be the educational home for this expanded community.

This new school community and its combined resources will secure the strongest future for junior and senior high school Catholic education in the area and will be best positioned to attract more students from the region through its excellent faith formation, academics and extracurriculars.

Both schools have proud heritages and have served the area well for many years. However, this is a moment to create a better future and work together to build up God's Kingdom in a way that will strengthen both Humphrey and Lindsay.

With prayers for your family this Advent and wishes for a blessed Christmas, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Most Rev. George J. Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha



ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY

Holy Family – St. Francis Jr. and Sr. High School Merger FAQ – Parishioners

How does this affect our parish's financial contribution to the school?

St. Francis and Holy Family parishes will continue to be responsible for supporting Catholic education.

What about our Elementary School?

The merger does not affect either elementary school.

What about Holy Family's junior and senior high school building?

Current operations of Holy Family grades 7-12 will cease there at the end of the current academic year. The building's future use will be guided by the pastor in collaboration with the new central Catholic junior and senior high school.



Holy Family – St. Francis Jr. and Sr. High School Merger FAQ – Families

When does the merger take effect?

The merger only includes grades 7-12 and will take effect for the 2024-2025 school year.

How will enrollment work for current Holy Family junior and senior high school students?

You are invited to continue your children's education at the newly merged central Catholic junior and senior high school in Humphrey next year. Details and deadlines for 2024-2025 enrollment will be communicated at a later date.

Does this change affect Holy Family and St. Francis elementary schools?

The merger does not affect either elementary school.

Will my child be welcome at the new school?

The newly united junior and senior high school belongs to both communities and is the academic and faith formation home for all students choosing to attend. Under the guidance of the pastor, the new school will welcome and foster inclusion of all students – regardless of where they previously attended school.

How will this affect my child's extracurricular activities?

This merger will bring together the talents and abilities of students from both school and should enrich the extracurricular offerings.