

**Archangels Catholic High School**  
203 S 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Humphrey, NE 68642

July 9, 2024

Dear Families,

I hope your family has been enjoying the summer break. July is here and the beginning of our new school year is approaching. I know that there are many questions about the new high school, what the Transition Team, Mrs. Dunn and myself have been doing to prepare for the upcoming school year and what more there is to be done.

While it would be impossible to capture every detail, I would like to provide you a high level view of the work that has brought us to this point. I also encourage you to speak directly to a member of the Transition Team, Mrs. Dunn or myself if you want to learn more about a specific area of focus.

Below is an outline of where we have been, where we are now and what we will continue to work on. Please understand that the future dates are a best estimation of when they will occur.

### **August 2022 – July 2024**

#### *August 2022*

- Community presentations Humphrey and Lindsay about pastoral planning and our “current reality”
- Listening sessions in Humphrey and Lindsay about school future and collaboration

#### *October 2022*

- Presentation of the Schools Final Listening Session Report and Catholic Schools Assessment on parish websites

#### *February 2023*

- Letter from Archbishop Lucas announcing the formation of a new school, merging the two secondary schools into one, new school

#### *April 2023*

- Formation of the United Planning Leadership Team

#### *Summer 2023*

- Formation of the United Planning Committee and schools’ survey

### *October 2023*

- United Planning Committee recommendations about merger details presented to Archbishop Lucas

### *December 2023-January 2024*

- Archbishop Lucas' letter and clarification about how to implement his February 2023 decision to merge the two schools
- School family listening session
- Selection of Transition team members and communications director
- Core Values identified from community input
- Name and mascot selection submitted to Archbishop Lucas

### *February 2024*

- Incorporation of Archangels Catholic High School and bylaws ratified
- Name and mascot announced
- Transition support team applications accepted
- Tuition assistance information prepared for 2024-2025 school year
- Contacted scholarship founding families to verify their consent to offer their scholarships to Archangels Catholic High School students
- Mission statement created
- School information system (SIS) research started
- Branding research started (branding company, compilation of list of items affected, costs)

### *March 2024*

- Budget finalized
- Teacher contracts signed; faculty and staff announced
- Transition support team members selected and announced
- Prayer team organizing prayer opportunities
- Tuition rates established
- Nebraska Department of Education compliance visit
- Financial approval process outlined
- TADs/Educate selected for SIS, implementation process started

### *April 2024*

- School colors set
- Branding companies interviewed
- Branding ideas collected

### *May 2024*

- Enrollment for 2024/25 school year open on new SIS
- Tuition agreements for 2024/25 school year available on new SIS
- Catholic Day of Giving fundraiser

### *June 2024*

- Meeting with family of parish leaders and members of the Archbishop Lucas' staff for announcement of Excellence grant and financial support from Archbishop Lucas to be provided
- Certificate of Accreditation received from the Nebraska Department of Education in compliance with Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10 (Rule 10) Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools
- Catholic Futures Foundation grant for Catholic living at ACHS awarded
- Catholic Futures Foundation tuition assistance grant funds awarded to ACHS
- Began establishing school board bylaws in accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines
- Culture team began work to form student and faculty Catholic living and service teams
- Remnant Marketing hired to aid in branding (logo, fonts, graphics)
- Preparation of academic, activity and faculty handbooks began
- Coaches reviewed samples and discussed recommendations with uniform representative
- Meeting held with AD and assistant AD to discuss auxiliary body support needs and seek input on activities handbook content

### *July 2024*

- Beginning of fiscal year
- First payroll run for ACHS to include administration and support staff
- Initial installments of Archdiocesan funding received
- Second collection for Catholic Education began in all our family of parish churches
- Order Fall sports uniforms (football, volleyball, cross country)
- External school signs; approve, order and schedule for installation
- School board bylaws review and acceptance by pastor
- Admin and teacher training on new school information system, Educate

### **August 2024-Winter 2025**

#### *August-September 2024*

- Transition team converts to school board, transition support teams' continuity determined
- Teacher contracts in effect, first payroll run for teachers
- Rollout of new school information system, Educate, to families
- School year begins
- Implementation of Catholicity and culture initiatives
- Dedication Mass
- First tuition payments due
- Finalize and order winter and spring sports uniforms (basketball, track, golf)
- Establish advancement strategy for increased stewardship and long-term funding and financial stability

#### *October-December 2024*

- Ongoing implementation and assessment of Catholicity and culture
- Implementation of advancement strategy

*Winter 2025*

- Review financial stability
- Prepare budget for 2025-2026 school year
- Assess readiness for potential capital improvement strategic planning

As you can see the list is extensive and countless hours have already been spent working on the details.

In late March, a hierarchical recourse against the closure of St. Francis and Holy Family was placed before the Dicastery for Culture and Education, and a letter was recently shared in our community that the matter is still being examined and an answer will be given within a period of three months from the date of the letter, June 7, 2024.

In response to the letter, a spokesman for Archbishop Lucas indicated that nothing has changed, as the letter is merely a professional courtesy response from the Dicastery for Culture and Education acknowledging receipt of the correspondence.

Since being informed earlier this year that a recourse was being pursued, I have continually consulted with our legal counsel. The direction given has been, and remains, that we must be prepared to operate as Archangels Catholic High School for the 2024-2025 school year. It is because of both the extensive amount of work required and the advice of our counsel that work has and will continue to ensure Archangels Catholic High School is ready to open its doors to students on August 14.

In closing I ask you to reflect on the many blessings we have. There are so many less fortunate than us who could only dream of having the freedom and ability to provide a Catholic education for their children.

As parents, ask God to guide you in drawing your children's attention to the many blessings He has bestowed upon them, to help them let go of that which they cannot control and to live with a grateful heart.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Stanley T. Schmit, President