



## **St. Jude School and St. Paul the Apostle School Closings Frequently Asked Questions**

We recognize families have to make decisions and time is critical. More information will follow after we meet with pastors and school personnel. In the interim, please see below for further information.

We remain committed to working as efficiently and effectively as possible to ensure a successful transition to a new school for all students.

### **When will the schools close?**

Both schools will close on June 30, 2024. The newly formed school will open its doors under a new name in August, for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Will you take our input into consideration?**

Absolutely! We need your input and will be creating several working groups. For instance, we need to have a working group to recommend the name of the school. We will want working groups to assist with a plan for Facilities, Athletics, Fine Arts and Extra-curricular offerings, to name a few. In the coming weeks, you will have an opportunity to express interest in participating in one or more of these working groups.

### **What was the impact of the loss of the Tax Credit Scholarship on this decision?**

Last year, more than 7.3 million dollars were raised for 1,176 scholarships across the Diocese. Many of our school families throughout the Diocese benefited from the scholarship. The Diocese is – and will continue to be – negatively impacted by the loss of these tax-credit scholarships.

### **We received the Tax Credit Scholarship and are worried about the cost of tuition next year.**

#### **What should we do?**

We hope that all students will be able to attend the newly formed school. There will be one common and consistent effort to work with all families needing financial aid, including but not limited to the families currently receiving a tax credit scholarship. It is not feasible to have 100% tuition scholarships in the foreseeable future. If you have not already done so, please talk with your school principal as soon as possible to discuss your options.

### **Will the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia remain in ministry?**

The Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia are excellent teachers and have had a wonderful impact on the faith community at St. Jude's School. Discussions will begin immediately to encourage them to remain in ministry at the new school.

### **Who will be the Pastor and Principal?**

The Bishop will work with the Vicar for Clergy and the Diocesan Personnel Board in determining the Pastor of the new parish. Decisions regarding school leadership will be made after the pastor is in place.

### **How will teachers and staff be impacted?**

It is not yet known which teachers and staff will be employed at the new school but we are confident students and families will see familiar faces! Projected enrollment for 2024-2025 will be factored into the staff hiring headcount. The principal will make this their first priority. Every effort will be made to place all teachers and staff in a position within the Diocese.



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### **What should I do about registering for the 2024-2025 school year?**

We welcome all students from both schools. Registration will be online in the coming weeks through FACTS. Information will be shared with families once registration is open.

### **My student currently attends St. Jude. Can I have a tour of the St. Paul's school building?**

Open Houses and Tours will be scheduled in the coming weeks so all students feel welcomed in their new school.

### **What will be the class sizes at the new school?**

The class sizes will depend on enrollment. The Catholic Schools Office has guidelines for the recommended student-teacher ratio. Our priority will be student learning, engagement, and best practices for creating an outstanding learning environment.

### **What will happen with sports and extracurricular programs?**

Anticipating strong enrollment, we look forward to enhancing and expanding all programs. A working group will be established in February to map out and recommend opportunities that contribute to a great student experience.

### **I serve on one of the Boards at my current school. What will happen with my position?**

In the transitional year, it will be critical to establish new boards that respect and understand past practices and chart a path for the future. A working group, with representative membership, will be established soon.

### **Who will oversee this transition?**

The transition will be overseen by the Catholic Schools Office team, led by Superintendent Dr. James Quaid. Providing strategic and tactical support is Jane McGrath Schmig, who is also a current member of the Executive School Board. Jane will serve as the "Transition and Integration Lead".

Jane is an experienced leader with broad and deep experience in Catholic education. Her community involvement includes serving on the Board of Directors at Joliet Catholic Academy; School Board President and Parish Council member at the Cathedral of St. Raymond; and served as a Board member and facilitator of the long-range plan for the Franciscan Learning Center.

A Joliet native, Jane attended St. Jude School. She and her husband, Tim were married at St. Jude in 1992, and one of their daughters was baptized in 1996. Her grandparents, Irene and Leroy McGrath were active parishioners at St. Paul the Apostle. Jane and Tim are current members of the Cathedral of St. Raymond.