

# **CORPUS CHRISTI ACADEMY**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**

**Saint Clare Parish**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS UPDATE**      **January 13, 2016**

Thank you for all the good questions. We will answer the broad-interest questions here, to the best of our ability at this time. Please continue to send questions to [questions@corpuschristiacad.org](mailto:questions@corpuschristiacad.org)

**Please remember....this is a MERGER, not simply a “move to St. Clare School.”** The underlying premise in some questions is that the St. Clare way of doing things will prevail. Corpus Christi Academy is an equal partnership, a new entity, and a joint venture between our two parishes. The best of both schools, and new ideas and innovations, will be the foundation Corpus Christi Academy. And this is NOT the “closing” of either school....it is a MERGER.

## **OVERVIEW, LOCATION, STAFFING, CLASS SIZE, PRE-SCHOOL AND RELATED**

- 1. With so many unknowns, including Principal and teachers, how can I be certain that my student will get a great education, rooted in Catholic principles?**
  - a. It will take trust and faith, especially in the Pastors. The Pastors, working closely with the Diocese Education office, will select a Principal as soon after February 12 as possible. Both Principals and all our teachers are invited to apply. The Principal, along with a teacher selection committee, will hire teachers and begin the detailed curriculum development process.
  
- 2. What will the curriculum be like? How will it differ from the current one at either school? Why can't you tell me more about the curriculum?**
  - a. Corpus Christi Academy, like all Diocesan schools, will use the Education office standard curriculum and build from there. Rest assured that the comments for improvements at both schools will be fully considered. There WILL be enhancements. One specific area will be advanced math. There will be others. A key point to remember is that having more students will result in more financial and staff resources to improve our educational and foundational offerings. Again, at this time it comes down to trust and faith.
  
- 3. Will there be additional resources available to Corpus Christi Academy that are not currently available?**
  - a. Corpus Christi Academy will have more financial resources, enabling additional programs. Having at least 250 students will mean 80 more students than either school has now. That means over \$300,000 more in tuition revenues. A LOT can be done with that!

**4. Tell me more about why the St. Clare facility was selected as the home of Corpus Christi Academy?**

- a. St. Clare is a more central location for many of our student families who will attend Corpus Christi Academy. . While there are two schools relatively close, the current combined 350 students provide a substantial base from which to draw. Hopefully ALL current students will enroll.

While the St. Clare facilities are not as large as Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy, the facilities are better sized for the medium sized school we anticipate Corpus Christi Academy to be. Our current and anticipated enrollment will be comfortably accommodated there. And some of the Sacred Heart of Jesus facilities will also be used by Corpus Christi, including athletic facilities. Also, some social events, graduations and other student events will occur at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

**5. What will be K-8 class sizes?**

Class sizes will depend on enrollment. The current Diocesan standard is 30 students in each class. If enrollment warrants, a second class for that grade will be happily added. When enrollment is set, we anticipate average class size will be comparable to other area schools.

**6. It appears average class size will increase and I am not comfortable with that.**

- a. Class size increases are certainly possible. Again, it depends upon our enrollment mix. While small class sizes are sometimes desirable, they cost a lot, and high costs per student are a primary reason why the merger is necessary. Neither parish can continue to subsidize this high cost. Additionally, sometimes a larger class size is a benefit as it enables a better overall dynamic than small class sizes.

**7. What are Pre-school plans?**

- a. Pre-school will be offered at Corpus Christi Academy. The pre-school programs at both parishes are highly valued and we will accommodate our young children. A meeting will occur the week of January 11 with the Pastors, Education Office Assistant Superintendent, the Principals and current pre-school staff to define an excellent program. We will then give you more information.

**8. Are we merging PSR programs as well?**

- a. No. The Parish School of Religion (PSR) programs will continue in their present structure and schedule at the individual parishes.

**9. What are the plans for the cafeteria ?**

- a. Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy currently has a full hot-lunch program. St. Clare implemented the Diocesan hot lunch program with success this school year. While more study is necessary, the current plan is to continue the Diocesan food program. Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy's cafeteria program was likely to change in 2016-17 due to the higher costs associated with this program.

**10. Transportation and travel times are a concern to our family. What provisions have been made for busing to the Corpus Christi site, especially from the South Euclid/Cleveland Heights area?**

- a. The Pastors will meet very soon with the public school Superintendent to develop concrete plans, which will be communicated.

**FACILITIES, ATHLETICS, CLUBS AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE**

**11. Sacred Heart of Jesus has a very nice gym. Will we be able to use this gym for Corpus Christi Academy activities?**

- a. The St. Clare gym will be used for physical education and any other athletic activities as appropriate. The gym at Sacred Heart of Jesus is a great asset that we plan to use as needed for Corpus Christi Academy. Arrangements that Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish makes for use of the current school property will incorporate that plan.

**12. Will there be before and after-school care for K-8 students? Will cost be increased?**

- a. Both schools currently have before and after school care. This will continue at Corpus Christi Academy. After the Principal is hired, there will be a review to include the best of both current programs. Hours and fees will be competitive with other after-school programs.

**13. Tell me more about the sports activities. Will there be Football? Track? Volleyball? Baseball? Basketball? What if the merged school still does not have enough athletes to form a team?**

- a. There is currently a degree of collaboration between St. Clare and Sacred Heart of Jesus in various sports. An Athletic and Clubs committee, with representatives from both parishes, will be formed after February 12 to develop the best overall program. With eighty or more students than currently enrolled at either school, the Academy will have more opportunities for more programs. And, as in the past, if a sport does not have enough participants, then partnering with other neighboring schools will occur.

**14. What about non-sports extracurricular activities. Will there be Drama Club, Spanish Club, Band, and others?**

- a. The Athletic and Clubs committee will examine current and potential Clubs and activities, for interest and feasibility. Adding additional club and activity options is a clear objective for Corpus Christi Academy.

## TUITION AND FINANCES

### 15. What will tuition be?

- a. K-8 tuition will increase to a level comparable to other Catholic schools in our area. Parishioner tuition for next year will increase by 9-10% for St. Clare families and by 2-7% for Sacred Heart of Jesus families. The tuition schedule follows:

<b>CORPUS CHRISTI ACADEMY</b>				
	<b>K-8 Tuition and Fees</b>			
	<u>Number of K-8 student in Family</u>			
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Tuition	5,500	11,000	16,500	22,000
Registration fee (per family)	100			
Technology & other fees (per student)	150	300	450	600
<b>Non-Parishioner &amp; Non-Active Parishioner rate</b>	<b>\$ 5,750</b>	<b>\$ 11,300</b>	<b>\$ 16,950</b>	<b>\$ 22,600</b>
Active Parishioner Scholarship	-1,600	-3,200	-4,800	-6,400
Multi-student discount	-	-270	-1,035	-4,935
<b>Active Parishioner rate</b>	<b>\$ 4,150</b>	<b>\$ 7,830</b>	<b>\$ 11,115</b>	<b>\$ 11,265</b>

The \$250 registration payment due by February 12 is included in the above tuition and fees. It is not an additional fee.

### 16. When will the Registration Agreement be available? When and where is registration deadline?

- a. Registration Agreement will be available on-line by January 15. Check your school website. Physical copies will be sent home with students next week and will be available at the school offices.

Deadline for submission is Friday, February 12 at 3pm in your school office. A payment of \$250 per family must accompany the application. This will be applied to the Registration and Technology/other fee (which totals \$250 for the first child). Provisions regarding Active Parishioner or Non-Parishioner status will be detailed in the Agreement.

### 17. Why is the registration so soon? Can the February 12 deadline be extended?

- a. We wish we could extend the deadline. However, a prompt decision is in the interest of everyone...parents, Principals, teachers and staff. If the merger proceeds, hiring of the Principal, and then the teachers and staff, must follow promptly, using the Diocesan timetable. This will enable us to be adequately prepared for the upcoming school year.

**18. Our family may be moving out of the area. If we make the \$250 payment by February 12, and later move, will the \$250 be refunded?**

- a. The payment will be refunded if you move out of the of St. Clare and Sacred Heart of Jesus area.

**19. Will the Ed Choice program be available at Corpus Christi Academy?**

- a. Yes. Our business offices are working with the Diocese, so that appropriate application with the State of Ohio, once the merger is finalized after February 12.

**20. What was the “careful analysis” that led to the decision that 250 students have to enroll by February 12 in order for the merger to proceed?**

- a. Multiple financial scenarios were studied over the last six months. The scenario that the Pastors, Merger Steering Committee, and Diocese Finance office found to be the most sustainable struck a balance between covering operational costs, budgeting for capital facility needs and planning a sustainable subsidy level from the two parishes. Past subsidies by each parish to support its school have been in the \$100,000 to \$250,000 range annually. This has resulted in Parish deficits and draining of any available reserves.

**21. But doesn't lower Parish contribution mean less of a commitment to Corpus Christi Academy?**

- a. No. Both Parishes are strongly committed to support Corpus Christi Academy. Healthier parish finances will ensure Corpus Christi Academy's finances to be sustainable, as compared with each parish school now. Lower contribution does NOT mean lower commitment.