

CORPUS CHRISTI ACADEMY

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Saint Clare Parish

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS UPDATE January 22, 2016

Here is another round of general interest questions. Please continue to send questions to questions@corpuschristiacad.org

1. What is the long term sustainability for Corpus Christi Academy?

- a. When the exploratory committee began the planning process for a new merged school, we resolved not to move forward unless the school was sustainable for a minimum of five years. This five year target was chosen because from Diocesan experience, if a merged school is successful for five years, it will continue to be sustainable for the long term.

We incorporated historical attrition rates and other factors from previously merged schools into our planning model. All key assumptions and conclusions were reviewed by the Diocesan Finance, Education and Facilities offices. While no school can offer one hundred percent certainty, both Pastors and the Diocese believe the merger of our two schools to be sustainable for the long term. If we did not believe this to be so, we certainly would not be putting you and ourselves through this process!

2. We have heard the Diocese has guaranteed the Academy will remain open for a minimum of five years and has made a substantial financial commitment for new facilities.

- a. The Diocese has reviewed the five-year financial plan, providing advice and input. The five year plan was revised multiple times to integrate their feedback and improve their confidence in the long term viability of Corpus Christi Academy. As with any other Diocesan school, they cannot provide such guarantees.

Corpus Christi Academy will be responsible for our own facility maintenance and capital improvements. One of the revisions to the financial plan was to increase the budget for such expenses. Additionally, as with any other parish or school in the Diocese, the Corpus Christi Board of Trustees may decide to apply for Diocesan assistance in the future, such as from Rooted in Faith grants .

3. Can you tell me what to expect for class size, especially in Primary grades?

- a. The typical maximum class size is 25 to 28 students. As we approach those levels, especially in Kindergarten and the Primary grades, further supplementing with classroom aides will be necessary.

In the end, the enrollment mix will ultimately determine the class sizes for the upcoming year. Our challenge will be to strike the right balance. Class size is just one variable that impacts the quality of education. Equally important, a primary goal of Corpus Christi Academy is to have the best teachers and programs available for our children.

4. Can you tell us more about the Principal and teacher selection process?

- a. As soon as the 2016-17 opening of Corpus Christi Academy is confirmed, a Principal search committee will be formed. The Pastors will be actively involved in the search. The Diocese Education, Human Resources and Legal offices will provide their extensive knowledge and expertise to ensure that the selection is equitable, legal and beneficial to the long term success of the merged school.

The current Principals, along with Diocesan-wide candidates, will have the opportunity to apply and interview. Experience shows that candidates do not begin looking for Principal job postings until February or March.

Immediately after the Principal selection is made, a committee will be formed to begin the teacher and staff selection. All current teachers and staff, along with other Diocesan individuals, will have the opportunity to apply for positions. All current teachers and staff who apply will be interviewed.

5. We are concerned about the remaining school year. What is the motivation for the teachers and principals to provide the same level of education to which we are accustomed?

- a. Our school staffs are dedicated, competent and professional educators. Educating our youth is not just a job, but their Catholic vocation. They fully appreciate their role to provide the best possible semester to our children through all of the distractions. We have every reason to be assured they will continue providing an excellent education and foundation for our school children.

6. Will the Academy have weekly Mass?

- a. We look forward to offering weekly Mass, the Sacrament of Penance and other seasonal devotions to celebrate our Catholic faith and to instill the faith in our youth.

7. What is the latest information about busing?

- a. The South Euclid/Lyndhurst school bus management said there will not be changes to their current parameters. Busing will be provided for K-3 students more than one mile from the Academy; Grade 4-6, more than 1 ¼ miles; Grade 7-8, more than two miles. The youngest sibling is the determinant. Therefore, this will likely provide more bussing availability for current Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy students.

We have contacted the Cleveland Hts/University Hts school bus management. They currently do not provide bus service to either school. That is not likely to change for 2016-17, due to financial considerations. We will contact them again this summer, but do not anticipate any change.

8. What is the latest information regarding Pre-school?

- a. On January 14, the Pastors, Principals and Pre-school teachers & aides met to discuss the best program for Corpus Christi Academy. More information will be available at the January 24 “Meet and Greet” event. Preliminary decisions include:
- Three-year old preschool will be Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:15 a.m. Four-year old/Pre-Kindergarten program will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.
 - Tuition will be competitive with area preschools, and will be available January 24.
 - As both Pre-Schools do today, programming will continue to follow the Diocesan protocol. Furthermore, the best of the “extras” from both preschools will be integrated into Corpus Christi Academy.
 - When the classes fill, consideration will be given to expanding the program.

9. Can you give more specifics about Before and After Care for K-8?

- a. Corpus Christi Academy will have **Before-school care** beginning at about 7 a.m.

After-school care will be 2:30 p.m. until 6:00 or 6:30 p.m., depending on demand. Pickup times will be flexible and no advance commitment is required. Corpus Christi Academy will continue the current program of study time, activities, sports and snacks. Further details, including a competitive fee structure, will be determined following the enrollment process.

10. What will happen to all of the electronics, equipment and library resources currently at both schools?

- a. The resources currently available to our students at both parish schools will be shared and merged to provide the best educational experience for our children. Once a Principal and teachers are selected, specific decisions will be made. Library resources, computers, smart boards, science equipment and other technology will all be carefully assessed.

11. How will the Board of Trustees be selected for Corpus Christi Academy?

- a. Recommendations for members of the Board of Trustees will be made by the pastors and approved by the Diocesan Education office. The Board will be comprised of both pastors, representation from both parishes (equal in number), and independent community stakeholders.