

# Insider Letter



## Proposed Eastern Jackson County High School

### Diocese and Regional Stakeholders Plan

### Positioning the Next Generation of Catholic High School Students to be Leaders for Our Faith and Our Community

- Distinctly Catholic
- Academically Excellent
- Fiscally Stable

## Update from the Director of Strategic Planning.

November has always been a time of reflection for me. The month begins with All Saints Day and is rounded out with the start of Advent as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. It is a wonderful time to remember those who have gone before us and who helped us on our life's journey – especially spiritually and to thank those who are with us as we take our next steps.

This year, as I celebrated Thanksgiving with my family, I realized that our new diocesan high school was in the beginning of its Advent season but we have four years rather than four weeks to draw together as a Catholic community to prepare for Christ's unique presence in this new school.

Since the last letter, we have almost completed the due diligence phase of our site acquisition with no significant issues yet identified or to be resolved. We will announce the acquisition in late 2011 or early 2012 if the closing proceeds as anticipated.

When the land is purchased, we will begin bringing an identity to the school through a naming contest. We want broad involvement and so we will have several ways to participate. More details will be available very soon.

Marketing and communication, programming and academics, finance and facility planning for the new diocesan high school are all under way as well as much more. The most important and critical component of this effort is unique – it is "YOU". YOU who may be new to our Diocese; YOU who may be an alumnus of one of our Catholic schools; or YOU who simply recognizes the value of a faith filled educational environment to the lifelong growth of our young adults.

Without your energy, involvement and commitment, it can't be done. We are fortunate to be able to build on the firm foundations of St. Mary and Archbishop O'Hara High Schools



**Eastern Jackson  
County Diocesan  
High School Study  
Committee**

Bishop Robert Finn  
Becky Summers  
Cathy Lynch  
Dave Malanowski  
David Edwards  
Dr. Dan Peters  
Fr. Robert Stewart  
Fr. Tom Holder  
Jack Smith  
Jeff Lynch  
Jim Redd  
Karen DeLuccie  
Mark Rieger  
Marty Meyers  
Monsignor Bradley Offutt  
Paula Moss  
Rick Janet  
Shemane Mann  
Steve Hilliard

**Subcommittee Tasks**

Finance  
Communications and  
Marketing  
Facilities  
Programming and  
Academics  
Legacy and Continuing  
Enrollment



in Jackson County but it will take even more. We have to honor the legacy of Catholic secondary education throughout the Diocese with its storied history including Bishop Hogan, De La Salle, and all the early pioneers of Catholic high school education. To create the plans and raise the money needed to open the doors of this new school, it will take the passion and generosity of people from throughout the community.

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I hope you and your families have a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year!

*Steve Hilliard*

Director of Strategic Planning  
Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph

