

Insider Letter



Proposed *NEW* Catholic High School in Jackson County

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

“Buy land, they're not making it anymore” (Mark Twain)

...and that's just what we did! With the advice and consent of the Diocesan Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council, 80 acres of land has been acquired. When we walked this ground -- just west of the Lee's Summit Airport, bordering Lee's Summit Road on the west and with direct access to the new Strother Road improvements to the north -- we knew that this was the site. Our goal of a 15 to 25 minute drive time for most of Jackson County, northern Cass County and western Lafayette County also was met.

At each step of the way, we benefitted from the very best collective professional advice available. The site was determined suitable for a new high school based on the O'Meara Ferguson Whelan and Conway study of diocesan secondary education needs in Eastern Jackson County. The site analysis, availability and selection process included the able assistance of the brokerage firm of CEAH Realtors. Currently, Church Development, a capital stewardship campaign consulting firm based in Kansas City, is conducting a feasibility study for a capital campaign to raise half of the estimated thirty million dollars needed. This study will be completed in early February 2012.

In this season of hope, we have made an investment in our young people for their future and demonstrated our community's commitment to the visible presence of our Faith.

Obviously the acquisition of land is no small commitment but it is a visible step in a journey which requires all of us to succeed. Thanks to the generosity of a local businessman, we secured a large land donation in addition to the land we purchased for the new high school. The next steps in planning for a new diocesan high school, however, will take some time and will need many volunteers. To learn what has been accomplished to date, read earlier issues of the 'Insider Letter' at myCatholicSchools.org.

YOU will be the essential element. Building upon the firm foundation that was gained by those who came before us, with hard work and sacrifice, we will succeed.



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

John O'Connor

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



Borrowing from Mr. Twain once again sums up this challenge and opportunity for us...

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

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I hope you and your family have a New Year full of hope and success!

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

One other thing...

As many of you will recall, property was purchased in 2004 from the Bolger family. At that time, our hope was that St. Mary's High School could relocate and build a new school on this property. After a comprehensive demographic study, we learned that a school located south of I-70 along the I-470 corridor could serve the entire county. While a tremendous investment in the future of Catholic school education, the Bolger property will be sold when market conditions improve and the proceeds will benefit the new high school.

