

Email Question 1-18-12 to 1-25-12

Q- Aside from a Kindergarten classroom, will the Kindergarten students be visiting the library? Will there be one on the Annunciation campus? I have the same question with regards to Art, Music, and Gym? Will the Kindergarten students be participating in those activities? Will they be on the Annunciation campus? Will they be eating lunch in the lunch room, or be in their classroom for lunch? Will the Kindergarten students be attending Mass at all? At Annunciation? I am a little concerned that the Pre K and Kindergarten are going to be really isolated, and to me (for my daughter and her experience so far) it could be a step backwards. With kindergarten being at Annunciation, what happens with things like the buddy program, mass for kindergarteners, and aftercare costs for parents who have children at both schools? Will they have to pay for 2 separate after cares? Will there be a nurse in the Brookline building? Will there be an office? Will there be an extended day option at the Brookline building if it's needed? CARES- St. Denis is cheaper and is charged at an hourly rate. This is a better process. I felt ABVM was underutilized because the cost was too much. \$15 a day, instead of \$5 an hour. St. Denis also offers a discount for multiple kids, where I believe ABVM did not. Will there also be a principal at the Campus School? Is it known who the principal will be for Foley?

A- The intention of every person on the Cardinal Foley School Board is to offer a better Catholic educational experience for EVERY child that is a part of Cardinal Foley School regardless of which campus they are at. Our goal is not to take a step backwards in terms of Catholic Education but a leap forward. We expect Library, Art, Music, and Gym will take place at both campuses and the Kindergarten children should be a part of that. There is some important planning and logistics that will be discussed. They will eat in the lunch room along with the Pre-K. The K students will continue to attend Mass at Annunciation Church as in the case now in the second half of the year. The buddy program will still be available and we realize there will need to be some creative changes to make sure this works for Pre-K and K students. We will review the price and time structure for CARES so parents are given viable options that are in the best interest of their children. At ABVM there is a nurse on site 2 days and that service is provided by the township. We will need to investigate on available options. There will be one principal to serve Cardinal Foley School. There is the possibility of an assistant principal being hired and filling a position as Director of the Early Childhood Program. We are in discussions about what the options are and parents will be updated on this. There will be an office. With all of these questions we are in discussions about many things. This is a work in progress. We are working to get parents definitive answers and we will continue to provide updates as they come. Definitive decisions points about Cardinal Foley will be released each week with the Board meeting notes.

Q- I would like to know the results of those letters of intent to gauge how many of each grade are right now intending to go to the new school, especially my son's grade and below. I'm very interested in the anticipated class sizes, I've heard that the goal is to reduce the teachers and push the class size up closer to 30 or more. What will the maximum class size be before a second class is opened? With respect to the Letter of Intent, does this mean there will be a full time honors math teacher on staff?..... it will feature programs in art, music, gym, and honors math in dedicated space.

A- Once all the letters of intent are collected the Board will review them to help establish class size and tuition. When that is established parents will be notified as we realize how critical this is in your decision making process. Class size will depend on the number of children that enroll at Cardinal Foley, but there will be class size requirements and parents will be made aware of them. The educators will have an important say in class size as they are aware of what is viable and in the best interest of the children. There is plans to have a full-time honors math teacher as well as provide Art, music, gym, and foreign language. The following targets for maximum class size were approved at the 1/25/12 Cardinal Foley Board Meeting:

- * Pre K 3 15-17 students with aide
- * Pre K 4 17-21 students with aide

- * K 24 students with aide
- * Gr 1 to 3 24 students
- * Gr 4-8 28 students

These target goals for maximum class size are below the maximum class sizes in the Haverford School District. We are working to get parents definitive answers and we will continue to provide updates as they come. Definitive decisions points about Cardinal Foley will be released each week with the Board meeting notes.

Q- But more importantly I've heard rumors that the goal is for the parishes to ultimately stop subsidizing the schools which would increase tuition and I've also heard rumors that eventually the multi child discount wouldn't exist which would increase tuition even more. Of course knowing the tuition would be good; I know right now St. Denis is higher than Annunciation for the one child (I think by about \$900??). So, what will the tuition be for next year and I would hope we would try to keep it close to what we had at Annunciation. I'm confused about the letter of intent. It's not a commitment, but is being used to determine tuition. So if tuition is set, say 500 kids "intend" to attend, then only 400 register, does the tuition then go up? Also, what happens if a lot of people send in their letters of intent and then change their minds based on one thing or another. Will the announced tuition then change?

A- Unfortunately rumors will never cease to exist, but our commitment is to offering an affordable Catholic education to every family. The Faith in the Future tag line is "Sustainable Catholic Education for ALL Who Desire It". In order to provide a Catholic education to all who desire, one would think that it has to be affordable. The Board realizes that setting tuition to high will drive many away who are simply unable to afford it. With the letter of intent we need to have some idea of what parents are thinking and how they feel about Catholic education. We would hope and expect people to be honest. Once the letters are received we can set tuition. Once tuition is set it will not change. Each year there will need to be a review of the tuition structure as is currently the case. If there is a need for an increase our goal would be to keep the increase reasonable for families.

Q- Mr. Rice mentioned at the mtg that he felt eventually Sacred Heart may suffer the same fate as us and could merge with us at the new school. But if St. Denis can't accommodate both of us now (with PreK and K having to be at Brookline), how could we possibly merge with another school? Is there any talk or assumptions that a new school would have to be built in the future or are we definitely only going to be using existing facilities? So, that if Sacred Heart were to close down the line, they'd merge with someone else?

A- Our main goal and focus right now is to make Cardinal Foley school the best Catholic school for the families of St. Denis and ABVM. We hope that Sacred Heart School will continue to thrive as we all support Catholic education. We don't know what will happen with them in the future. There is no talk of building a new school. We have planned for growth at the Eagle Road Campus with the expectation that current families will work to help recruit new families to Cardinal Foley and marketing efforts will be put in place that allows this school to grow.

Q- When will be known who will be the new Principal and which teachers are selected?

A- We plan to begin the process of hiring a principal and the hiring of teachers. Parents will be communicated on the progress of that.

Q- I know this is a tough one to answer. My biggest issue that is challenging my decision is whether this school will exist in another 8-10 years and beyond. Along with all the other things I hear, I heard that by 2017 the goal of the Archdiocese was to close 70% of the schools, so even more closings would happen in the next 5 years or so. What are the chances that we're going to be "regionalized" again with even more schools in the next 5-10 years or before?? That's why I'm very curious about the intentions of the younger grades. I guess I assume that if people have already invested several years with their kids in the higher grades, they would be more likely to just go to the other school and finish up. My feeling is that it's the younger grades and people like me that have kids just starting their education

and to be honest, this whole thing has challenged my faith in whether catholic schools are going to survive in the long term. Because the first few years we may be in good shape, but if we start to see a decline in the younger grades enrollment that will create a ripple effect that could affect enrollment in the later years.

A- There are many rumors and that can be very hard for us as parents to deal with. The focus and goal of the Board is to make Cardinal Foley a great Catholic school for years and years to come. We are not being a part of this because we think we will fail. We know that Catholic Schools are worth fighting for and we sense is in some ways that the recent announcements of the Blue Ribbon commission served as a wakeup call to parents that truly care about giving their children a Catholic Education. This cannot succeed by only the Board and few other people working hard. This cause needs to involve the effort of every single parent. Once things are established and this school gets off the ground, the talk needs to stop and we know that people will start putting their words into action. We believe that in today's culture things of TRUE value often times need to be fought and sacrificed for. Catholic Schools are one of those things. There have been many things over the last number of years that have challenged everyone's faith and challenged whether or not Catholic Schools can survive. We as parents that want a full-time Catholic education for our children are in the minority. We need to come together as one and truly commit ourselves to the faith and to Catholic education. Although many of us have had our faith challenged, we each have the opportunity to lift each other up when we are down. We can't always look to someone else to start the renewal of the faith. There is no reason why a renewal cannot start in our own hearts first. We know that all of us have a wonderful and blessed life, but there are times when things can be very difficult and we are tested to the core. This is one of those times and we need to rise to this challenge as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

Q- I'm confused about how maintaining 2 buildings will save money? Isn't part of the reason for merging to maintain one building instead of two, thereby having less overhead?

A- The ABVM school building is still being used for PREP and still needs to be maintained. There is not enough room at the Eagle Road Campus as our goal is to succeed and grow. We are looking to the future and not letting ANY of the failed thinking of the past dictate how we move forward. As you know the Pre-School programs are not subsidized. ABVM/St. Denis Pre-K programs are profitable, while still offering parents an affordable tuition and giving them the options they need. Profit from the Early Childhood Programs are used to keep tuition for Grades 1-8 affordable and that money is kept in the school. We believe that we can also expand on our Pre-K and K programs and improve the educational experience for these children. There is great playground equipment at the Brookline site. Pickup and drop off for parents will be safer for the younger children with them at the Brookline Campus. As you know many of the non-Catholic Church's in our area have Preschool and daycare programs. Why? Because they are able to make a profit off of them and still provide parents something of value. We see no reason why we would not be able to expand into offering daycare, while continuing to grow our Preschool and Kindergarten programs and more fully utilize the Brookline Campus. For the many parishioners that have built Catholic education and still continue to support it, they will see that a full-time Catholic education is alive and well at the Brookline campus. The K students take part in Mass at Annunciation Church so our older parishioners are still able to see the children and see that their investment in Catholic education is still worth it. We need to think outside the box and explore all options to help fund Catholic education in order to make it sustainable.

Q- Currently, several 2nd graders at ABVM are advanced readers and receive additional instruction from Mrs. Kinka. Support Services: I guess it is up to the DELCO Intermediate Unit to assign these? XXX goes to Mrs. Krug and I know most of the kids are used to her and the school counselor. St. Denis has other personnel in these positions. Does ABVM have a voice in these assignments? Will this program continue at the new school? What foreign language will be offered?

A- The school principals and Board Member Rita Block have begun planning the school curriculum and this is an ongoing process that parents will be kept in the loop on as developments are made. The intention of the Board is to

provide the best Catholic education for every child involved in Cardinal Foley School. Support services will still be provided and those options are being discussed so that the best interest of the children is at heart. The foreign language for Grades 1-8 will be Spanish. Grade 8 will also have instruction in Latin. With all of these questions we are in discussions about many things. This is a work in progress. We are working to get parents definitive answers and we will continue to provide updates as they come. Definitive decisions points about Cardinal Foley will be released each week with the Board meeting notes.

Q- Just curious, why are we the only merged school that has a name so far?

A- We don't know why other merged schools have not picked a name. Establishing the school name is an important first step in establishing an identity, planning for uniforms, mascot, etc. Having the name established is critical in getting tax information setup and established sooner rather than later.

Q- Where can we find out who would be taking a bus vs. walking?

A- The bus will be available to families that fall within the township guidelines for distance they live from the school they attend. We will make certain that parents are informed about this. There may be a link to information on Haverford Townships website, but we will look into getting that information.

Q- When can the parents and children visit St. Denis to view the school?

A- We hope to plan something in the near future so that parents from each school can visit the respective campuses. But, parents and children are welcome to visit the prospective campuses' for Catholic schools week to get familiar with the school. There is a lot for the Board to cover, but it has been mentioned at both meetings that bringing these communities together as one is key. Please stay tuned.

Q- Can you tell me what are the issues being discussed at the meeting next Wednesday? Can you provide a general timeline that lays out when key decisions will be announced?

A- We set an agenda of what we would like to cover, but some topics may not be covered and moved to the following week. Each week the notes from the Board meeting will be sent to all of the parents so they are aware of what was covered. This Board will do everything it can to keep families informed of key decisions.

Q- School Colors - One color from ABVM and one from SDS. Uniforms - while it is cost-effective to grandfather current uniforms, I feel that having two different uniforms only emphasizes the differences between the children. I personally believe that having one uniform would help unify the children. Kudos, BTW, for keeping the navy blue pants!

A- We want to have parents and children involved in the picking of the uniform, colors, and mascot.

Q- Get together for the children - Two ideas - 1. Have SDS come to our campus in the later spring so we could have mass at 11, followed by an outside picnic lunch in the school yard. 2. A SDS family told me that they open the fair to the school children for two hours during the school day and they can ride without paying. Can ABVM children attend this year as well? consideration should be given to all of the parents, along with the children from St. Denis, walking to Annunciation on the last day of school at Annunciation to join together, and conversely on the first day of school having all of the children from the new school walking to the St. Denis campus with the parents either lining the way or welcoming them.

A- The board realizes how important this is and much of this was mentioned in the first meeting as a MUST. We know that we can do a number of fun things to bring all of the families together. We will be one community. Several spiritual and social events will be held for students this year. A parent's event also will be scheduled.

Q- I was wondering if it would be possible to get some information on the members of the committee? I recognize a few names, but to be honest, I cannot figure out who the fourth ABVM rep is and I surely do know anything about our St Denis Brothers and Sisters. This information might also help to introduce everyone across both sides. Thank you again - put me on the list to move furn at the new school in July/Aug. My understanding was the School Advisory Board would consist of the two pastors and four parishioners from each parish. However, I have noticed there are currently eleven board members. Can you send an update on what has changed with the composition of the board?

A- First of all it is very nice to know that people are already willing to offer their help and support. Words can't express how much that means to the Board. We will gather information on all Board members to share with the families. The Cardinal Foley School Advisory Board is made up of:

Cardinal Foley School Advisory Board

Monsignor James J. Graham

Father Mark Haynes

Sister Gerald Helene, OSF

Mary Ann De Angelo

Tim Rice

Michael Finnegan

Bill McKenna

Sally McGovern

Rita Block

Walt Kokol

Tom Howard

Q- Letters of recommendation for teachers. When should parents be writing these, and where can we send them? Where do we send letters supporting particular teachers?

A- Letters can be sent into each school office and marked with Cardinal Foley Board or an email can be sent to the cardinalfoley email addresses that have been established.

Q- Did the subject of more time ever come up in discussions, more time to do this, and open in 2013?

A- Unfortunately time is not a luxury that we have as the commission has said to implement the merger as soon as possible. Although there is a lot of work to do we are committed to this cause and ready to work for it. We truly believe that we can establish a great and thriving Cardinal Foley School by September of 2012.

Contributing parishioner: St. Denis \$15 Annunciation \$25...the impact on tuition. I assume we were higher because you can write the contribution off on taxes but probably subsidizing the same amount as St. Denis? St. Denis tuition is higher, I know you don't have the tuition rates yet, but you might want to consider that we all should be paying the same amount to the Church as a contributing parishioner. Paying more to the church but keeping the tuition lower would probably be a better option. I think you need to explain to people that they can write off their donations to the Church but not their tuition, ie Church subsidize could help lower tuition. I guess this could get a little messy, since they have a deficit that is not being passed on to the school.

A- The amount contributed to each parish is set by the parish. These are issues that will be reviewed and discussed by the Board to be reasonable and responsible with all financial decisions.

Q- As far as a short question, the main one I have is this: According to the Archdiocese the name is "[t]o be determined by Annunciation BVM / St. Denis Joint Implementation Team." See <http://www.faithinthefuture.com/schools/24155-2/> That process is clearly not being followed for the St. Denis /

Annunciation consolidation, and the parents have not been given any clear explanation for why there is a departure from the Archdiocese's own process. Why is that process not being followed? What are the criteria for departing from the Archdiocese's process specifically with regard to the name? Generally with regard to other matters? Why generally are the parents with children in the schools being closed not being given any say in the name? This issue is an important one in getting this started off on the right foot.

A- According to the Archdiocese the name is "[t]o be determined by Annunciation BVM / St. Denis Joint Implementation Team."

Go to: <http://www.faithinthefuture.com/schools/24155-2/> It says:

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Name

To be determined by Annunciation BVM / St. Denis Joint Implementation Team

The Joint Implementation Team is: <http://www.faithinthefuture.com/schools/24155-2/implementation-team/>

The guidelines were followed for the selection of the new school name as referenced on the Faith in the Future site (See above info). The Joint Implementation Team of Fr. Haynes and Msgr. Graham picked the name Cardinal Foley School. They have the full support of the Board. The Board gave their full support to the school name as continual debate is taking valuable time away from focusing on key issues to make Cardinal Foley the best school it can be. With regards to involving parents both pastors, as noted in the first meeting with the Board, recommended parent and child involvement in school colors, uniforms, mascot, CYO options, etc. This is a continual process and parental/Child involvement will be key. The whole Board is committed to parental/child involvement and we are truly doing the best job we can.

Q- Everyone involved with the schools should consider some process to help the teachers who are ultimately left without jobs find at least temporary employment. I'm not sure of the best way to accomplish that it's something that if everyone put their heads together I'm sure we could find a way to help.

A- *This is a very important point that we believe everyone involved can get behind and support. There will be more discussions on this subject.*

Q- It seems to me that a lucrative revenue stream has been overlooked which can not only enhance the financial well-being of this new school but will also provide a valuable service to the parents and children of this school. Of course, per the subject line, I'm talking about a summer camp (daycare). After extensive research, I have found that the weekly rate for summer camp ranges between \$250/week (Haverford Twp.) to \$750/week (various schools on the Main Line). While I will most likely be sending my daughter to a private school summer camp at \$275/week, I would much rather send her to a Cardinal Foley summer camp. I've attached the flyer for last year's Haverford Twp. summer camp. As you can see, the amount of staff this will likely require is minimum, the facilities are already in place, and the supply list is light.

A- This is the creative thinking and input we need in order to look at additional streams of revenue to help fund Cardinal Foley. As you know ABVM did attempt to start a summer enrichment program last year but there were not enough responses. We do still think that Summer Programs can be implemented successfully at both Campuses. We will look into these options and will most likely need the input and creativity of parents to make it succeed.