

January 2009

Dear Friends,

I want to give you an update on our planning for Catholic education for next year. The school year continues to go well. The ability for young people to cope with change always impresses me.

I want you to know what we've heard via the survey, on the street, and through letters and e-mails. Thank you for being so engaged in the process. We received 207 responses on the survey, which I was very happy with. I was most impressed with the amount of writing so many of you did in offering ideas and encouragement. Here are some major themes we have heard:

- You think the quality of education will be enhanced: 68%
- Students learn better in a small school environment: 84%
- You want to keep transition to one change in site rather than 2 or 3 (from parent meetings).
- You are deeply committed to a faith-based education.

I want to share with you what we are proposing to Bishop Blair. We are proposing to Bishop Blair the plan as we presented it to the public on Dec. 2 with the following adjustments:

- To help minimize transition for many students and to raise the academic quality immediately, we are proposing the middle school operates in its own wing on the Oregon campus beginning 2009-10. This can be done in a way that keeps the 6-8 grade students separate from the high school students while at the same time providing access to advanced academic, athletic and extra-curricular programs.
- A funding model with specifics about how all the parishes will share in ownership of the school. It includes a staffing model of how many staff and faculty we will need next year and the following.

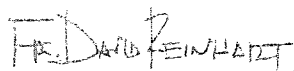
I also want you to know of major issues that we are working on to be resolved soon.

- A committee of people from St. Thomas and Sacred Heart are assisting with the determination of which campus will be open next year. They are looking at the buildings, locations, and considering other important statistics.
- A group is working on the name of the school and developing marketing materials to get into your hands.
- Tuition is being worked on. It is our goal to keep it at a reasonable level while also providing for good programs and academics. We will have that issue answered in February.
- Who will comprise the staff and faculty of 2009-10 and beyond? The administrators will soon be named. You will be the first to know that after they are informed. In March, we will be interviewing for positions. Considerations will be given to, but not be limited to: qualifications and certification, experience, discipleship, evaluations and interview.
- We are continuing to evaluate the move for Pre-K through 5 to a single campus concept.
- Within three weeks we will be holding an all day planning day with representatives from the schools and parishes to answer many of these questions in preparation for open house and registration.

Finally, and most importantly, we rely on the help of God. It is truly not our school, but God's school. I invite you to pray with me, and others, on the first Sunday of the month in the Assisi Chapel at Cardinal Stritch High School beginning at 7:00 p.m. Stop in for as little or as long as you like.

Let us pray for each other.

Disciples First!



Fr. David Reinhart