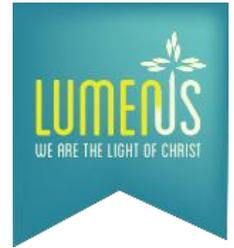


School Sustainability

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Mt 28: 19-20



Over the last few years the archdiocese has been engaged in a process to promote quality and fiscally-responsible Catholic education. The process has resulted in the consolidation and closure of some schools and fundraising for school scholarships. Consideration is also been given to developing regional schools to replace parish schools if it would be more financially responsible to do so. Given our school's history of providing quality and fiscally-responsible Catholic education, it is likely to continue as a parish school. However, a decrease in parish investment requires additional funding to maintain the school's fiscal responsibility. An anticipated decrease in the school-age population should be noted.

Highland Catholic School's (HCS) present population is 494: 411 K-8th grade and 83 Pre-school. The building capacity is 586. Students are drawn primarily from the Highland neighborhood; however, growth trends indicate enrollment from families outside the Highland area. This trend is similar to the Lumen Christi Catholic Church's growth.

Areas of Discovery:

- Our parish and school are currently separate corporations that are both governed by our pastor; our school is directed by the principal.
- The school has a separate budget which includes a parish investment of 25% of "plate" contributions. The reduction in parish investment in 2013 has resulted in a \$50,000 deficit which will require additional fundraising. In the past, the school has been able to fund all building improvements through their budget, existing reserves or fundraising.
- An endowment fund was established to provide scholarship money; it is managed by the Catholic Community Foundation.
- There are 4 elementary archdiocesan schools, 7 public grade schools & a few charter schools in the immediate Highland area.
- The school has many assets that provide an advantage for its success. Among these are: strong parental involvement through volunteerism and fundraising, enrichment programs for math and reading, special needs programming and support for parents of children with special needs; Spanish language program; art and music curriculum; and a variety of extracurricular sports and enrichment activities.
- Our pre-school has been in existence for 3 years and is currently undergoing an accreditation process which, if successful, will become one of only two accredited preschool programs in the Twin Cities.
 - Trend rates are not yet available to reflect retention of these families for HCS.
 - A wait list was established for the 2014-2015 school year.

Conversation Starters:

- What is the future financial viability of our school?
- Will the parish financially support a school deficit?
- How do the parish and school actively work toward cooperation instead of competition for common resources and space?
- How will an aging population and decreasing enrollment affect the school budget?
- Can we provide financial assistance for all students in need?
- What are the language and cultural needs of our children of diversity?
- Should we study expanding curriculum, training and technology equipment to meet the future needs of our children and classrooms?
- Should we promote a school identity that identifies an area of academic specialization?