

# THE VISION OF A NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

### Communication #3: August 25, 2018

The proposed new high school is open to students who are best served by the unique educational approach and mission of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, in the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter. The new co-educational school welcomes students of diverse abilities, interests, ethnicities, cultures, and races.

#### LOCATION

The proposed new high school will be on the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham campus in a new building constructed to support and complement its spiritual, academic, and co-curricular programs.

#### CATHOLIC IDENTITY WITHIN THE ORDINARIATE

Within the context of the patrimony of English Christianity entrusted to the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter for future generations, the Cathedral high school will provide a superior and rigorous education faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church in all aspects of the educational process. Students will be encouraged and supported in their development into integral Catholic leaders in our world today. Administration, staff, and faculty will work with students, and their parents – the first educators of their children – to develop the spiritual and intellectual potential of each student. This holistic approach seeks to form students in a sacramental worldview and engage the development of the whole person in mind, body, and spirit. Therefore, with a unique focus on Catholic theology and sacred worship, students will receive their core academic subjects in addition to instruction and training in sacred music and sacred art.

The Catholic identity of the Cathedral high school will be strong and visible throughout all aspects of the school's life. Daily Mass, individual and communal prayer, emphasis on vocational discernment, works of mercy, and required courses each year in Catholic theology *and* liturgical studies are the building blocks of the new school's identity. The physical buildings will embody the rich heritage of artistic, symbolic, and architectural Catholic beauty, and all on campus will perceive the school's intentional and strong emphasis on giving glory to God by worshipping in spirit and in truth.

#### CURRICULUM & ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

The new high school's excellent and accredited curriculum will deliver solid preparation for a life dedicated to God and service in the Church, further university studies, and future career work. This school will be known for its strong Catholic identity, high academic achievement, and comprehensive "Four Pillars" approach:

- **Sacred Worship:** Primacy is given to the daily celebration of the liturgical life of the Church since the first education of the soul is conducted not by programs but by the Word of God and sacramental grace. This is accomplished through the daily celebration of Holy Mass, the source and summit of the life of the Church, and in the daily offering of the Divine Office.
- **Sacred Wisdom:** Academic rigor in the liberal arts is essential to the formation of rational, free, and virtuous persons. Ordinariate education ensures a firm grounding in classical literature, grammar, mathematics, science, and other core subjects.
- **Sacred Music:** Music is an integral part of the patrimony of English Christianity, and singing has been an essential expression of faith and worship for centuries. Music education is therefore central to the curriculum in the Ordinariate and provides a point of integration for the other core subjects.
- **Sacred Art:** Also a strength of the patrimony, sacred art is taught in the Ordinariate not just from the standpoint of appreciation, but in the creation of it. Students will explore the fine, applied, and performing arts as an integral part of learning and not just as an "extra-curricular" activity.

#### DISTINGUISHING PROGRAMS

An appropriate array of activities will be made available to students of the new high school. It is understood that not all offerings will be active at the inception of the new school, but the goal will be to offer diverse programming that meet the

needs and interests of the students. Such programming includes, but is not limited to:

1. Strong sacred art and sacred music programs, as an integral part of the curriculum;
2. Programs dedicated to works of mercy in the Houston area and partnering with other Catholic charitable service organizations;
3. Student organizations (volunteer opportunities, academic teams, and student government)
4. Intramural athletics to support physical formation of students

## **UNIQUE ELEMENTS**

The new high school proposes a new model for Catholic education and formation. A few basic areas that will set graduates from this high school apart include:

1. Rich liturgical formation;
2. Holistic education in the Catholic faith;
3. Sacred music and sacred art as an integral part of the educational experience;
4. Presence and active involvement of Chancery/Cathedral clergy and religious on campus;
5. Participation in Daily Mass

## **ENROLLMENT**

An ideal enrollment would be 150 to 200 students; however, the feasibility study will help determine what enrollments are possible and adequate to support a viable high school.

## **TUITION**

A family's ability to pay should not deter them from seeking admission. Tuition should be in the range of other Catholic high schools in the surrounding Houston area. Scholarship funding and financial assistance will be available for families.

There would be an established endowment and financial assistance program so that all families, despite financial need, can attend if desired. It will take time to establish such a financial assistance program.