

The Advisory Council

For Catholic Elementary Education in Chester County



To: Catholic School Parents and Parishioners

From: Southern Chester County Steering Committee

Subject: Update on the Southern Chester County Steering Committee

Over the past six months, the Southern Chester County Steering Committee (SCCSC) has conducted a formal study, with the assistance of an outside consulting firm, Bloom Planning, to analyze and research the schools, parishes and demographics in Southern Chester County, including Assumption BVM, Sacred Heart, St. Gabriel, St. Patrick and St. Rocco Parishes. The SCCSC has placed ample consideration, research and discussion into the vision and strategic direction for Catholic Education in Southern Chester County. With the full support of the Pastors of Assumption BVM and Sacred Heart and the entire SCCSC, it is recommended that both school communities work together to provide excellence in faith-based elementary education in Southern Chester County guided by this common Vision:

To establish a Southern Chester County Catholic Academy that offers a valued, sustainable, and academically inspiring faith-based experience for children from birth to 8th grade.

Sacred Heart and Assumption BVM Schools will both be open and operate as they currently function, as we continue to plan for the future. Please see the attached proposed timeline. We encourage you to contact your school administration for information on re-registration for your family. As the Bloom research affirmed, Assumption BVM and Sacred Heart Schools continue to provide strong, faith-based, academically excellent learning environments for the children of Southern Chester County.

It is important to note the decisions made to date regarding the future of Catholic Education in Southern Chester County have not been made lightly, rather the deepest consideration, deliberation and thought has gone into this process. The SCCSC values the input you have provided and your participation in surveys and interviews has been critical in guiding our strategy. Bloom's research also made us aware of your concerns and challenges. We continue to keep these insights in the forefront of our planning as we progress towards our shared Vision.

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As these schools continue to operate, the SCCSC will work to form a Board of Limited Jurisdiction, which will govern and oversee the future of Catholic Education in Southern Chester County, in close collaboration with the pastors of the parishes sponsoring these schools. The Board of Limited Jurisdiction will support the near term growth in advancement, enrollment and marketing, while providing financial oversight and promoting the awareness and sustainability of Catholic Education in Southern Chester County. The Board of Limited Jurisdiction will also work to establish new initiatives for Southern Chester County, such as investigating the feasibility of a daycare program to implement the SCCSC Vision of a faith-based experience beginning at birth.

It is the strong belief of the SCCSC that the formation of a Board of Limited Jurisdiction will provide the guidance Southern Chester County needs for Catholic Education to thrive and flourish. Boards of Limited Jurisdiction have been established throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia over the past few years and are successfully in place at five other Chester County Elementary Schools. Throughout the 2017-18 school year, the SCCSC will continue to assist with financial modeling, provide joint marketing and development support for both schools, and analyze student retention strategies to support increased enrollment for the current state of the schools.

While we move forward in this process we will continue to keep you informed. As you finalize your registration with your respective school, we look forward to continuing to provide you, and all of the families in Southern Chester County, with high quality academics provided by strong teachers, in safe and nurturing learning environments.

Thank you, sincerely,

Southern Chester County Steering Committee



Southern Chester County Steering Committee Members

Pastors

- Father Scott Brockson, Assumption BVM Pastor
- Monsignor Frank Depman, St. Rocco Pastor
- Father Michael Hennelly, Sacred Heart Pastor

Principals

- Danielle White, Assumption BVM Principal
- Steve Brunner, Sacred Heart Principal

Advisory Board Presidents

- Bob Moran, Assumption BVM Advisory Board President
- Paul Vitelli, Sacred Heart Advisory Board President

Home and School Presidents

- Joan Chilcote, Assumption BVM Home and School President
- Danielle Mascali, Sacred Heart Home & School President

Parish Representatives

- Paul Crowley, Assumption BVM Finance Council
- Tony D'Amico, Assumption BVM Parent
- Kathy Dunkle, Assumption BVM and Sacred Heart CCIU Math Specialist
- Tara Hillegass, Sacred Heart Parishioner & Parent
- John Kozakowski, Sacred Heart Representative

Chester County Representatives

- Father Fitzpatrick, St. Peter, Dean
- Kristin Braca, Foundation for Catholic Education
- Bernadette Dougherty, Asst. Superintendent of Elementary Schools in Chester County
- Judi Neeld, Foundation for Catholic Education
- Leo Parsons, Chester County Advisory Council
- Nancy Sanchez, Coordinator of Hispanic Outreach



Proposed Timeline

- **2018**
 - January: Registration for ABVM and Sacred Heart (2018-2019 School Year)
 - January – August:
 - Members for the Board of Limited Jurisdiction will be interviewed and selected
 - SCCSC will be engaged with each school Advisory Board to establish joint marketing, fundraising and enrollment campaigns
 - September: Board of Limited Jurisdiction will begin facilities assessment, transportation analysis and strategic planning for the next five years
- **2019**
 - January: Registration for ABVM and Sacred Heart (2019-2020 School Year)
 - January – December: Board of Limited Jurisdiction will complete facilities assessment, transportation analysis and strategic plan
- **2020**
 - January: Registration for a Southern Chester County Catholic Academy (2020-2021 School Year)
 - September: Projected opening of a Southern Chester County Catholic Academy (Name TBD)

Throughout the process updates will be communicated on regular intervals.