

A Letter to St. Vincent DePaul School Parents



Dear SVS Parents,

As a St. Vincent DePaul School parent, you have placed your trust in our parish grade school to ensure a quality educational experience in the formative life of your children. We applaud your commitment to their early years of learning and, along with our exceptional teachers, staff, and leadership, we are partnering with you to ensure their educational success.

A crucial component in this endeavor is our *Extending the Mission . . . Building on the Cornerstone of Christ* capital campaign now underway. In case you are not aware, I would like to share with you the ways in which our parish grade school will benefit enormously as a result of this effort.

First, the security of your children at St. Vincent DePaul School is our utmost priority. We owe it to our students and you, as their parents, to do all we can to protect them while they are in our care. To further ensure their safety, our plan is to reconfigure several spaces as part of a larger “domino effect” that ultimately creates a more secure school environment.

Let me explain. One of our goals is to repurpose the DePaul Center (the former Notre Dame High School building) to create several new spaces, including a multi-purpose Parish Hall and kitchen for social gatherings, wedding receptions, Vincent's Vittles, Lenten fish fries sponsored by the Men's Association, and Knights of Columbus meals, among other events. When it is completed, we will relocate parish events currently held in the school building gymnasium to the new Parish Family Center across the street. This will allow us to return our school building to a space dedicated solely to our school children, creating a much safer environment for them by limiting individuals not associated with the business of the school day.

Freeing up this space inside our parish grade school building will also lead to several additional desirable outcomes:

- † The kitchen located off the current Parish Center gymnasium/cafeteria will be converted to space for a larger and more strategically located school office. The school office currently is located in the center of the building and removed from the main point of entry. Moving the office near the front entrance and in closer proximity to the school resource officer are desirable for both safety and logistical reasons.
- † Second, after this move occurs, the current school office will be converted to several much-needed conference rooms offering privacy throughout the day for small group and individual meetings.
- † Third, the old kitchen along the main school hallway across from the library, now used for Lenten fish fry carry-outs, will be repurposed into a dedicated computer lab where our students can boost their skills in the latest in technology innovations. Currently, our technology teacher floats from classroom to classroom because space for a dedicated computer lab is unavailable. While this arrangement has worked, it is not desirable.
- † And fourth, we plan to replace the roof, which is in great need of repair, on the older section of the school building.



Our school is vibrant, high-performing, and growing. That being said, our current school space is adequate—we have two homerooms for each grade level from preschool to eighth grade, and we have no plans to add more classrooms. The freeing up of and reconfiguring of space inside the building, though, will greatly help meet other needs.

Additionally, in recent years, we installed new bleachers in the DePaul Center gymnasium, significantly enhancing that facility. That was a first step. As we look to the future, the plan is to remodel that space, including the gymnasium and stage, to modernize those areas to better accommodate our school children competing and performing there.

Like all schools, we must evolve our facilities to attract and retain youth and young families to best prepare them for their next steps in life. Your support of our *Extending the Mission . . . Building on the Cornerstone of Christ* capital campaign will go a long way toward ensuring St. Vincent DePaul School remains a secure, high-performing, and holy place where academics, security, and spirituality are woven into our fabric.

Please continue to pray for the success of our *Extending the Mission . . . Building on the Cornerstone of Christ* capital campaign as we envision the future of our parish and school. I humbly ask for your consideration and your support.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father Rick L. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Reverend Rick L. Jones
Pastor

