

Dear Sacred Heart Parish Family,

As we continue our Heart of Bethlehem initiative, I want to take a moment to explain our goals and invite each of you to participate in the survey attached. When this initiative began, our primary goal was simply to move our students out of the basement—what started as a matter of convenience has now become a necessity.

Our preschool and kindergarten classes have grown so significantly that our youngest students are currently learning in very limited space, divided only by a curtain. While this growth presents a challenge, it is truly a *blessing*—it is a sign that our school is thriving, and our enrollment has remained strong and consistent for more than 20 years. A strong school is the foundation of a strong parish. As surrounding Catholic schools have closed their doors, it has become more important than ever that Sacred Heart remain relevant, vibrant, and forward-looking.

Sacred Heart has always been committed to excellence in education. Our students consistently score in the top 97% on their standardized tests. But even more importantly, we are dedicated to the formation of the whole child—mind, body, and soul. Catholic education is not just about academic achievement; it is about forming saints. Through faith, service, and moral formation, we are preparing our students to be lights in the world—individuals who will bring goodness to our community and to society as a whole. A strong Catholic school not only benefits our parish families, it strengthens the entire community through the values, leadership, and witness our students bring forth into the world.

We are in the second stage of planning, and your participation in the survey is vital. Your feedback will help demonstrate to the Diocese of Toledo that our parish is deeply committed not only to preserving our school, but to expanding it, modernizing it, and ensuring its future.

Please refer to the attachment to view the two expansion options currently under consideration. The committee has already made significant improvements to our parish facilities, including:

Hall Improvements:

Updated kitchen • Updated restrooms • New basketball hoops • New flooring

New paint throughout • LED lighting • Added dishwasher •

Updated technology with a stationary projector

School Improvements:

New windows • Some new flooring and painting • Updated electrical • New security measures

Exterior Improvements:

School tuck-pointed • New water treatment building & underground water line

These completed projects demonstrate our parish's commitment to responsible care of our facilities. Now, we look to the next step—investing in our children and securing the future of our parish and school community.

Please take the time today to complete the survey. Your voice matters. With your prayerful support, we can show the Diocese that Sacred Heart is not only alive, but growing, thriving, and ready to meet the needs of the next generation.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless Sacred Heart Parish and School.

In Christ,