

221 E. Washington Avenue Tomahawk, WI 54487 Phone (715) 453-3542 Fax (715) 453-9195 http://www.stmarysschool.biz

### Dear Parishioners and School Families,

Thank you for your thoughtful and passionate feedback regarding the proposed school expansion. Your concerns and suggestions have been heard and are shaping how we proceed. Below is a summary addressing the most common questions raised through the recent survey:

## 1. Space & Feasibility

Question: Where would the expansion go?

**Response:** A study has been completed. The new addition would connect to the current building and extend into the existing parking lot. This would also allow for a smaller, safer drop-off and pick-up area for students. Stop in to see the plans.

#### 2. Enrollment Trends & Future Need

**Questions:** Is enrollment stable? Is there enough interest to justify middle school? **Response:** A report on enrollment trends (past 5 years and projected 5 years) has been looked at. Early surveys show promising interest. A phased approach will be used to evaluate interest and enrollment before construction begins.

## 3. Cost & Financial Sustainability

Questions: How will it be paid for? Can our parish afford it?

**Response:** No construction will proceed without a clear, sustainable financial plan and permission from the Diocese. This includes cost estimates, long-term budgeting, grants, and capital campaign support— not solely the parish.

# 4. Purpose: Catholic Identity vs. Public Alternative

Question: Is this a Catholic school or just a public alternative?

**Response:** This is a Catholic school rooted in faith. Our mission remains focused on providing a faith-based, values-driven education. The expansion supports, not replaces, this mission.



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## 5. Program Use: Classrooms, Library, Computer Room

Question: What happens to current spaces?

**Response:** We will maintain and enhance essential areas like the library to make them into our Middle School Classrooms. Yes, we will continue to have a school library. The expansion will allow for better use of current facilities and thoughtful placement of new classrooms.

## 6. Gym & Community Access

Questions: Will it replace outdoor activity? Will the public use it?

**Response:** The gym supplements outdoor activities, especially in winter months. Community use is being considered with a fair rental structure to support ongoing maintenance.

## 7. Mission & Ministry Focus

Question: Are we losing sight of faith priorities?

**Response:** This project supports our mission of forming disciples through Catholic education. Alongside this proposal are efforts to increase engagement, service, vocations, and prayer, including ideas like an adoration and youth faith events.

## 8. Community Suggestions

Thank you for the creative ideas! Many are being reviewed, including:

- Youth nights and faith-based events
- Gym access prioritizing youth sporting events
- Maximizing use of current spaces
- Hosting Grandparents Day, our Christmas program, our Parish Festival activities and other community events.

We are committed to transparency, prayerful discernment, and faithful stewardship as we move forward. This is not just about buildings, it's about investing in our children, our faith, and our future. We welcome your continued support.