

# Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance

## Frequently Asked Question

February 2020

### Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance General Information

#### What is the Kenosha Catholic School Alliance (KCSA)?

The KCSA is a strategic collaboration representing: All Saints Catholic School (ASCS) and St. Joseph Catholic Academy (SJCA); their students, families, and employees; the supporting Kenosha area parishes; and the greater Catholic community of Kenosha.

#### Why was the KCSA formed?

The KCSA was formed in response to Archbishop Jerome Listecky's desire and vision that all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee explore intentional, formal collaborative arrangements. Many schools across the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are already implementing successful partnerships. The priests of Kenosha support the KCSA.

When All Saints Catholic School was in formation, the Archbishop encouraged the priests to be bold in their thinking, to do something that had not previously been done in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The result of this bold, forward-thinking process was the establishment of All Saints Catholic School, the first regional school in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee directly supported by 10 separate parishes. During a meeting with his priests in February, 2020, Archbishop Listecky again encouraged them to be bold in their thinking about what could strengthen Catholic education in Kenosha. Archbishop Listecky has not dictated the final version of this collaborative alliance, but he does expect that the group charged with leading the project will have done thorough due diligence prior to submitting its report to him.

#### What is the goal of the KCSA?

The goal is to ensure that excellent Catholic education will continue to be accessible, sustainable, and viable for all members of the Kenosha community who desire it well into a future beyond our own.

#### Why now?

ASCS and SJCA are two separate, strong Catholic schools. With the stated goal of ensuring their accessibility, stability and sustainability far into the future, planning for that future needs to begin while both schools are in positions of strength. The KCSA has a commitment to be thorough and comprehensive in its work. To do this process correctly will take time. We believe now is the time to begin to proactively plan for the future of Catholic schools in Kenosha.

We acknowledge and understand we are in the midst of a pandemic that is creating significant challenges for our schools to remain open for in-person instruction and to meet the needs of our students, families, faculty, and staff. The KCSA is not a reactive response to the pandemic. The KCSA is a proactive initiative to position ASCS and SJCA to meet all future challenges.

#### What are the primary reasons for the KCSA?

The KCSA is charged with discovering and exploring opportunities to further the excellence of the Catholic school network in Kenosha:

- Strengthen individual identities of All Saints Catholic School and St. Joseph Catholic Academy
- Create stronger pathways throughout the Pre-K - 12 network

- Enhance the operational and financial excellence of each school
- Identify opportunities to tap population growth and other possibilities (e.g., new locations, school models)
- Bring a stronger Catholic identity and Catholic witness to Kenosha

### What is the timeline for the KCSA?

KCSA Committee members are driving towards the following timeline:

- November 15 – December 31, 2020: Identify and recruit community members to serve on the core committees of Mission and Governance, Finance, and Communications.
- January 5 – April 30, 2021: Research and development of project goals and action steps.
- May 1 – May 15, 2021: Prepare progress report for Archbishop ListECKI.
- May 20, 2021: Present progress report to Archbishop ListECKI.
- June 1 – June 30, 2021: Steering Committee analyzes feedback from Archbishop ListECKI.
- July 1, 2021: Steering Committee releases report and outlines next steps.
- August 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022: Development of and preparation for implementation of recommended project action steps.
- July 1, 2022: Implementation of recommended project action steps.

This is a tentative timeline. The KCSA will be thorough and comprehensive in its work and will not make recommendations and decisions just to meet a timeline.

## Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance Committees

### What are the guiding principles of the Steering and Core Committee members?

Guiding principles are a series of statements used to articulate critical organization values and belief. Decisions made should consistently reflect these principles.

- Together we will honor and build upon the unique history, identity, and culture of each parish and each of the two schools.
- Together we will participate in creating support for a Pre-K – 12 Catholic education network in Kenosha that provides an option for families who desire formal education that engenders Catholic teachings and the Catholic worldview.
- Together we will plan and implement this network according to the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools striving for academic excellence and committed to the holistic development of every student.
- Together we will create an overall governance structure that openly and justly engages with all constituencies, modeling stewardship of all resources.
- Together we will strive to grow the network and increase the capacity of our schools to meet student, family, and community needs.

### How were Steering and Core Committee members selected?

Steering Committee members were appointed by Archbishop ListECKI, via Vicar General Very Reverend James Lobacz, after nomination and consultation by the pastors of the supporting parishes and the Office for Schools.

Core Committee members were invited to serve after nomination by pastors, school administrators, and steering committee members. A few community members volunteered their services after Communication #1 was published. These individuals were given equal thoroughness of consideration. The Steering Committee considered the individual candidate's skill sets, prior service to the Catholic 2 community of Kenosha, and commitment to Catholic education in deciding whom to invite to serve. The 20 individuals who said "yes" to joining the Steering Committee members in doing

the initial work of the KCSA represent a cross-section of school board members, school administrators, parents, parishioners, and strong supporters of Catholic education in Kenosha.

### Who are the members of the Steering Committee?

- Fr. James Lobacz
- Fr. Dwight Campbell
- Trisha Falk
- Pauline Hammerbeck
- John Higgins
- Jen Lebiecki
- Mark Naidicz
- Richard Santiago
- Bruce Varick
- Kyle Vitkus

### What are the goals of the Core Committees?

- **The Mission and Governance Core Committee** will research and propose a guiding vision and mission for all Catholic schools in Kenosha and an appropriate governance structure to implement the vision and mission in the years to come.
- **The Finance Core Committee** will develop a 3-to-5-year business plan to support the vision, mission, and governance structure proposed by the Mission and Governance Core Committee.
- **The Communications Core Committee** will develop and implement a guiding strategy to ensure two-way communication between the KCSA and all constituencies.

### Who are the members of the Core Committees?

*\*Steering Committee member as well*

#### Mission and Governance

- Mark Naidicz\*, chair
- Margie Mandli
- Kelly Neu
- Jenna Pitts
- Julie Raith
- Woody Richie
- Richard Santiago\*
- Jolene Schneider
- Stephanie Warren

#### Finance

- John Higgins\*, co-chair
- Kim Daigle
- Jens Emerson
- Katie Esterle
- Trisha Falk\*
- Linda Hantke
- Kevin McTernan
- Brock Portilia
- Kerstin Santarelli
- Angie Tramburg
- John Vitkus, co-chair
- Kyle Vitkus\*

#### Communications

- Laurie McKeon, chair
- Pauline Hammerbeck\*
- Jamie Johnson
- Marc Lois
- Joanne Prochnow
- Sean Ryan

## Impacts to ASCS, SJCA, Current Families and Parishes

### Will the schools be consolidating into a single school?

No. ASCS and SJCA will remain separate, distinct schools utilizing their current configurations and locations. There will be increased collaboration and planning between the schools to positively impact student achievement and school culture and to ensure a sustainable future for both schools.

### Will one school or campus be closing?

No. The KCSA is growth-oriented with the goals of strengthening our current schools and possibility expanded further in the future. ASCS and SJCA will remain separate schools utilizing their current configurations and locations.

### Will the KCSA change the independence of the schools?

ASCS and SJCA operate under the umbrella policies of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Each school is a separately incorporated legal entity in which the Archbishop of Milwaukee is the sole corporate member. Each school has a board of directors granted the authority to govern the school. The school administrators are responsible for running the schools in accordance with this structure.

ASCS and SJCA will operate as they currently exist for the 2021-2022 school year. The KCSA will make a recommendation to Archbishop ListECKI regarding the future governance structure of the schools. A change will only be made if it will help accomplish the goals of the KCSA.

### What will the KCSA mean for my student and my family?

We know that each parent has chosen either ASCS or SJCA because he/she believes that school to be the best Catholic school option for his/her child(ren). The preservation of the unique history, identity, and culture of each of the two schools is a fundamental guiding principle of the KCSA. As such, there will be little visible change to either school. The goal of the KCSA to strengthen each student's loving relationship with Jesus Christ, ensure maximum academic achievement, and attend to needs of each child will drive any future changes to the schools.

### How will the KCSA impact our supporting parishes?

ASCS and SJCA enjoy a strong relationship with the supporting parishes. The number of students in the schools who come from the parishes is high. There is, however, the capacity and potential for an even-stronger school/parish relationship, one that strengthens the whole Catholic community of Kenosha.

## Communications and Contacts

### How will I receive continuing information about the KCSA?

Periodic updates will be released by the KCSA through the schools and parishes. The process to develop an informational website is underway. Our goal is to provide accurate, transparent communication at regular intervals to all constituencies in the Catholic community of Kenosha.

### Whom do I contact if I have additional questions, ideas, or suggestions?

Questions, ideas and suggestions can be submitted to [Kenoshacatholicsschoolsalliance@gmail.com](mailto:Kenoshacatholicsschoolsalliance@gmail.com). A member of the Steering Committee will respond to you.