

KENOSHA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

In response to Archbishop Jerome Listeckí's vision for increased formal collaboration among Catholic schools, we are taking exciting new steps to strengthen Catholic education in Kenosha by encouraging stronger collaboration between All Saints Catholic School and St Joseph Catholic Academy.

The Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance (KCSA), a strategic collaboration between Kenosha's archdiocesan Catholic schools, has been formed to shepherd this effort. Members of the community will be invited to serve on visioning core committees for the project.

Goals of the Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance. This KCSA taskforce, representing Kenosha clergy, school board members, administrators, faculty, parents, parish representatives, and key Catholic community leaders, will be charged with uncovering opportunities to further the excellence of a city-wide 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

Independence of our Kenosha Catholic Schools. All Saints Catholic School and St Joseph Catholic Academy each remain separate schools within the new Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance. KCSA simply seeks to formalize the cooperation the two schools have always informally maintained and provides new opportunities to build on the schools' Catholic mission and to better serve the Catholic community in Kenosha.

For instance, the new alliance might result in cost-saving measures by encouraging economies of scale in purchasing supplies and equipment. Schools may also be able to create new academic and extra-curricular programming, as well as new teacher professional development opportunities. Schools may unite parishes and the Catholic community of Kenosha to support the schools, as well as enhancing the opportunities for support from grants.

The initial KCSA Steering Committee. This committee, led by Very Reverend James Lobacz, Vicar General, and Mr. Bruce Varick, Associate Superintendent of Schools, includes members of the All Saints Catholic School and St Joseph Catholic Academy School Boards, Kenosha Clergy, and School Community members, has met to establish guiding principles for the project. Additionally, we have begun to surface a preliminary list of community representatives for consideration to serve on needed future committees. If you are interested in submitting your name for consideration, please contact Bruce Varick at kenoshacatholicschoolsalliance@gmail.com.

Guiding Principles. 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.

Next steps. The KCSA plan calls for the Core Committees of Finance, Governance and Mission, and Communications, to be established and conduct working meetings beginning in January 2021. Early in the New Year community feedback on Catholic education will be obtained through surveys, focus groups, town hall meetings and similar pathways. The goal is to complete all necessary research and decision making to produce a proposal by May 15, 2021. This is the first of regular updates that will be produced by the Steering Committee.

Questions or comments may be submitted to: kenoshacatholicschoolsalliance@gmail.com.

We ask your prayers in support of this important project as Catholic leaders in Kenosha strive to create a vibrant future for Catholic education.

In Christ,

Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance Steering Committee

Very Rev. James Lobacz, Vicar General
Rev. Dwight Campbell, Pastor
Trisha Falk, Parishioner & School Parent
Pauline Hammerbeck, School Parent
John Higgins, Parish Trustee
Jen Lebiecki, Parishioner & School Parent
Mark Naidicz, ASCS School Board
Kyle Vitus, SJCA School Board
Richard Robert Santiago, Parishioner & School Parent
Bruce Varick, Associate Superintendent

**Kenosha Catholic Schools Alliance
Frequently Asked Question
November 2020**

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, 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.