



January 17, 2025

**Dear Parents,**

We hope 2025 is off to a blessed start for you and your families! There is an excitement in the fresh possibilities and renewed optimism that a new year brings, including renewed optimism about the future of Catholic school education in the Illinois Valley. This is because of the proactive work that was undertaken in 2024 to achieve the mission of the Catholic Schools Consortium (CSC): **To explore options that will energize and enhance the Catholic school system in the Illinois Valley.** We are excited to share this important update about the outcome of the steering committee's work and the next steps.

After an extensive review of specific data and information and open deliberations to discuss possible school models, the steering committee reached consensus and proposed the following path forward to energize Catholic school education in the Illinois Valley: ***"The formation of a school model that unifies Peru Catholic School, Trinity Catholic Academy, and Holy Family School into one system with a new name, identity, and governance structure in new or improved facilities."*** (Note: the committee's full recommendation is available on the Consortium website at [www.catholicsschoolsconsortium.org](http://www.catholicsschoolsconsortium.org).)

This recommendation has been endorsed by leadership and Bishop Tylka, and the Consortium has outlined the following next steps towards implementation of the new model:

- Working committees (7-8) will help with specific aspects of the transition, with the committees focused on Mission, Finance, and Enrollment beginning work in February. We are in the process of inviting individuals to serve on all working committees.
- The Buildings/Grounds Committee will begin a feasibility study on a new, unified school building. In the interim, all three campuses will be used, with two elementary locations (Pre-K through 4th grade) in LaSalle and Oglesby and a Junior High (5th – 8th Grade) in Peru.
- Principals Deb Myers and Nathan Boudreau will lead our new school. Principal Rich Koehler, while retiring this year, will continue to offer guidance during the transition. All of our current teachers and staff will be a vital part of the transition and of the new school.
- Our new patron, name, mascot, and colors will come with the help of our school children during Catholic Schools Week; Bishop Tylka will confirm our new name in late February.

The Consortium will also engage the temporary services of one or two consultants to support the working committees and keep all stakeholders informed during the transition to a new school model.

Above all, thank you for your support and patience over the past several months. We remain extremely confident and optimistic about the future of Catholic school education in the Illinois Valley, and we hope you do as well. Your faithful support is appreciated! Please continue to check the Consortium website at [www.catholicsschoolsconsortium.org](http://www.catholicsschoolsconsortium.org) for further updates throughout the transition.