

Introducing The Academy of Carlo Acutis



Dear Parents,

Today was an exciting day as we continue our journey toward the unification of our Catholic school community. This is a truly special time, and we are grateful for your ongoing support.

At an all-schools Mass, Bishop Louis Tylka unveiled the name of our new patron: Blessed Carlo Acutis! Carlo Acutis, born in 1991, lived a life dedicated to the Lord, his family, and evangelization. He had a particular devotion to the Holy Eucharist, and used his computer skills to develop a website to promote Eucharistic Miracles. After being diagnosed with leukemia, he accepted his suffering for the Pope and the Church. He died on October 12, 2006, at the age of 15. Buried in Assisi, plans are made for his canonization on April 27th of this year. During Catholic Schools Week, our students proposed many excellent suggestions. The children had good reason to suggest Blessed Carlo, and our Mission Committee and Bishop agreed!

To stay informed on all developments, we encourage you to visit the Catholic Schools Consortium website regularly. Here you will find information about our current committees, our process, and much of our working data. Additionally, please keep an eye out for enrollment materials, which will be available by late March. Our enrollment committee is working on making a smooth and efficient process to sign up for the Academy of Carlo Acutis.

We are blessed to embark on this journey together and look forward to establishing the Academy of Carlo Acutis, built on the strong and faithful foundations of our Catholic school tradition in the Illinois Valley.

With Gratitude,

The Priests and Principals of Holy Family, Peru Catholic, and Trinity Academy

Questions and Answers

How will we enroll in the new school?

Families will receive an enrollment packet in late March, along with details about the new school's operations, programs, and tuition/fees schedule. Students will be considered enrolled once the packet is returned to one of our school offices. Later this spring, FACTS Management will begin merging family and student records into our new school system. Eventually, families will need to create or update their FACTS account online—we'll let you know when and how to do this once the system is ready for us.

When will I know which teachers will be at each grade and location?

Our teachers recently completed a survey sharing their ideas and preferences for next year. All current teachers are invited and encouraged to return. We've also started working with a professional HR representative from the Diocese to make the process as smooth as possible. There are many factors to consider, so this process can't be rushed. Just the same, we are committed to finalizing agreements with our teachers as soon as possible.

Which school buildings will be used?

The Peru building will become our junior high for grades five through eight. Its location and athletic facilities make it ideal for older students. The LaSalle and Oglesby buildings will remain elementary schools, each serving preschool through fourth grade. Families can indicate their choice of campus on the enrollment form. We'll do our best to honor these preferences while balancing class sizes. Should space be limited, priority will be to early registrations and those with siblings at the same location. Look for announcements for our upcoming open houses in March, or contact a principal for a tour during the school day to see our schools in action!

Wouldn't using only two buildings save more money?

Maybe in the future, but our priority right now is promoting unity. We want to keep all our school and parish communities engaged through this process as we build on each school's history and tradition. Moving to just two buildings immediately would also be a tight fit, especially as we plan to expand our curriculum and extracurricular programs. Over the next year, our building committee will evaluate the school's long-term needs. As suggested by our steering committee, we'll explore the feasibility of a new building and assess how to best use our current facilities. It's also worth noting that unused buildings still cost money. Even if a building is empty, we must cover insurance, maintenance, and utility costs—about 5% of our budget per building. Also, we can't pull buildings in and out of use. If a facility sits unused for too long, it will require costly ADA updates if we need to use it again. This is obviously a very important part of our planning - we need to make sure we get it right! An architectural report from Farnsworth is available on the CSC website if you want more details.

If we're using all three buildings, why don't we just remain as separate schools?

Most communities our size have just one Catholic school. National and regional trends show that maintaining three separate schools in LaSalle, Peru, and Oglesby isn't sustainable. By uniting as one school system, we can immediately share resources and staff while offering flexible class sizes. This new model will provide greater stability and allow us to improve and expand our curriculum, student services, athletics, and other programs. Together, we'll explore the possibility of a new building or make collaborative decisions about how to use our current facilities.

See more at catholicschoolsconsortium.org