



DIOCESE OF COVINGTON
Department of Catholic Schools

July 29, 2023

Dear Parents,

I am reaching out to provide an important update on Holy Family School. Over the past few months, Principal Beth Vieth and the Department of Catholic Schools office have been working to fill the open teaching positions at Holy Family School for the 2023-2024 school year. As we approached the end of July, we had zero applicants and our efforts to reach out to prospective teachers had not been successful.

In our discussions on how to move forward, we were left with limited options. One solution was to continue searching for qualified candidates. Another was to delay the start of school by a few weeks to provide additional search time. And the last option was to suspend school operations for the 2023-24 school year. Unfortunately, we are experiencing a teacher shortage across our region in both public and private education and our ability to staff these teaching positions will only become more challenging as the start of school nears. With this in mind, and the possibility that we will still be without teachers to begin the school year, we had growing concerns about how this would impact our students and staff.

After discussing this matter with Father Larry Schaeper, pastor of St. Benedict Parish; Divine Providence Sister Janet Bucher, parish life collaborator of Our Savior Parish; Father Ryan Maher, rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption; and the Diocesan Board of Education, it has been recommended that the best way to ensure your children receive a strong Catholic education is by suspending school operations at Holy Family School for the 2023-24 school year and transitioning students to another Catholic school.

This recommendation has been presented to Bishop John Iffert and he has accepted these plans.

It is with heavy hearts that we begin moving forward with this decision. As many of you know, Holy Family School, originally opening as St. Benedict School, has been providing a Catholic education to children in Covington for over 100 years. We are grateful to all those who have worked hard throughout these years preparing young learners academically and bringing the teachings of Jesus Christ to so many children. It is our hope as we go through the next year that we can work to improve the staffing situation and reopen the doors of Holy Family in the future.

I want to thank the current faculty and staff of Holy Family School for their dedication and let you know your beloved teachers will be moving to Holy Cross Elementary. Ms. Vieth will be moving to Holy Cross Elementary to serve as principal and Mrs. Myers-Hinzman and Ms. Steffey will also be moving to Holy Cross to teach third grade and middle school, respectively.

For those families interested, we have the classroom space to welcome all Holy Family School children at Holy Cross Elementary or you are welcome to enroll in one of our other Catholic schools. Every family will be able to keep the same tuition plans that you had at Holy Family School when you choose to attend one of the following schools: Holy Cross Elementary, St. Augustine School, St. Anthony School, Prince of Peace School, or Holy Trinity School.

We will be assisting each family with the transition to another school for the 2023-24 school year. Our other Catholic schools are ready to welcome you. It is our hope that you will continue to choose a Catholic education for your child(ren). Our Catholic schools provide a wonderful education in loving, faith-filled learning environments. We want to continue helping your children grow and thrive.

While we are saddened to suspend school operations at Holy Family, we are trusting in God's plans for the future. I want to thank you for your understanding, patience, and flexibility with this change. We are praying that God will guide each of you during this time of transition and we ask Him to bless your family as you prepare to begin a new school year.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Kendra McGuire
Superintendent of Schools