

MONROE CATHOLIC

E L E M E N T A R Y S C H O O L S

ST. JOHN CAMPUS TRANSITION

January 21, 2024

Dear Monroe Family of Parishes & MCES Parents,

We are writing to share some important news about the Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools community.

After careful consideration and thorough evaluation by experts of the condition of the 1916 St. John Campus school building, it has become evident that essential upgrades would be necessary to ensure the future safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors. Unfortunately, the financial strain on St. John the Baptist parish has made it challenging to fund these crucial renovations, leading us to make this decision: St. John Campus school building will no longer be used for MCES after the conclusion of the current school year. Please know that there are no concerns about the safety of the building in the immediate future; rather we are looking ahead at future major expenditures that would be cost-prohibitive.

I want to emphasize that the educational mission of our three parishes and MCES in the City of Monroe remains unwavering. Mr. Kubik and the MCES Leadership have been diligently developing a plan to implement this change as part of an internal strategic plan. Beginning this fall, our 2nd grade will be relocated to the St. Michael Campus, at 510 W. Front Street, joining our infant through 1st grade classes. Meanwhile, our 3rd and 4th grades will find a new home at St. Mary Campus, at 151 N. Monroe Street, with our 5th through 8th grade students. The St. John activities building (gym and cafeteria side of the building) will remain in use for Parish and CYO events. The future of the school building itself will be determined by the parish at a later date.

It is important to note that MCES has had and continues to have stable enrollment. This decision is not based on any concern with MCES' enrollment or finances, but rather on our desire to serve as responsible stewards of St. John Parish's resources, which must be protected to ensure the parish's viability. The legacy of St. John the Baptist School and MCES-St. John Campus will forever hold a special place in our hearts, and we are grateful for the memories, achievements, and community that has thrived within its walls.

Please be assured that the faculty and staff of MCES are committed to providing the necessary support and resources to make this transition as seamless as possible. There is room at both St. Michael and St. Mary to comfortably accommodate the incoming classes, and we are excited to bring together these expanded communities. We are also grateful that our buildings are located in such close proximity, which will facilitate an easier adjustment for all. We have outlined many additional questions you may have on a Frequently Asked Questions document (FAQ) found on the school website: www.mcesmonroe.com.

While we will no longer use the St. John Campus for day school programs, we carry forward the spirit, values, and sense of community that have defined us. Our commitment to providing a high-quality education, rooted in faith and values, remains steadfast and will continue at MCES-St. Michael and St. Mary Campuses.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding, cooperation, and continued support during this transitional period. As with any transition, there are many details to work out. Please understand we will do our best to answer all of your questions, update you on progress, and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us throughout this transition.

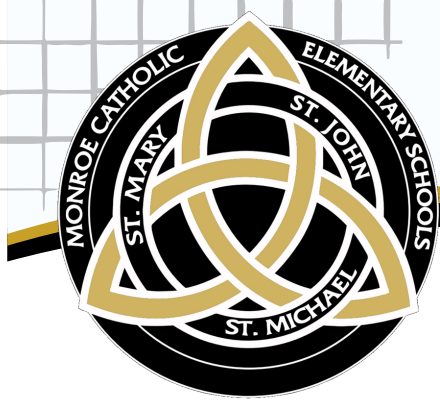
In Christ,

Fr. David Burgard
MCES Pastor Delegate

Fr. Kishore Battu
St. Michael Pastor

Kyle Kubik
MCES Executive Principal

WWW.MCESMONROE.COM



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ST. JOHN CAMPUS
TRANSITION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

WHAT IS THE REASONING BEHIND THE CLOSURE OF ST. JOHN SCHOOL CAMPUS? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING NOW?

In recent years, there has been a decline in active participation at St. John the Baptist Parish, leading to lower offertory. Simultaneously, the 1916 section of St. John the Baptist School Building has been in need of maintenance, including roofing, windows, HVAC and other upgrades that are cost prohibitive to the parish budget and savings accounts. The combined cost of all projects is not feasible when 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade could be housed at the other MCES Campuses. This will allow MCES and St. John Parish to be good stewards of resources.

WHERE WILL 2ND GRADE BE HOUSED?

2nd Grade will move to St. Michael the Archangel Campus, joining our infant through 1st grade students. They will occupy the classrooms currently used for latchkey and music/art.

WHERE WILL 3RD & 4TH GRADE BE HOUSED?

3rd and 4th Grade students will move to St. Mary Campus.

WHAT UPGRADES ARE BEING MADE TO ST. MARY CAMPUS TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CHANGE?

Though preliminary, upgrades will include: fresh paint and carpet, new storage, rearrangement of student lockers, new marker and cork boards and other cosmetic changes will help breathe new life into the spaces.

HOW WILL 3RD & 4TH GRADERS BE ACCOMMODATED AT ST. MARY CAMPUS, AS IT IS TRADITIONALLY A MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS?

In moving to St. Mary Campus, 3rd and 4th grade will be occupying rooms 101, 102, 103 and 104. These classrooms are in the south wing of the building nearest the Church parking lot and have their own bathrooms. Students in 3rd and 4th grade will still remain in self-contained classrooms and not participate in the middle school schedule as 5th-8th do. They will also eat lunch separately from the middle school students in the St. Mary Parish Life Center.

WHAT UPGRADES ARE BEING MADE TO ST. MICHAEL CAMPUS TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CHANGE?

Though preliminary, upgrades will include: fresh paint and carpet, rearrangement of several classrooms and other cosmetic changes will help breathe new life into the spaces.

CAN I SEE THE NEW 2ND, 3RD & 4TH GRADE CLASSROOMS?

We invite you to join us at the MCES Open House on February 25 from 11:00-1:30 at St. Michael and St. Mary Campuses. The rooms will be available for viewing, however they will not be completely setup as they will be used in fall 2024, since the furniture and fixtures are still in use at their current locations.

WILL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEIR NEW CAMPUS?

Students will be provided an opportunity beyond Open House to visit their new campus during our annual Move Up Day in May.

WHEN WILL STUDENTS ATTEND MASS?

Our 2nd grade students will join the St. Michael Campus students at Mass on Mondays in St. Michael Church at 8:15am. The 3rd and 4th Grade students will join 5th and 6th Grade at their weekly Mass on Wednesdays at 12:15 in St. Mary Church. Additionally, this will allow our students to interact with other grades more frequently, including the re-establishment of our Grade Buddies Program!

WILL THERE BE ANY SCHEDULE CHANGES?

As of now, no scheduled changes are expected.

WHAT WILL DROP OFF AND PICKUP LOOK LIKE?

As we have for 12 years, MCES will continue to operate a shuttle bus between St. Michael and St. Mary utilizing the SMCC Transportation System. Pick up and drop off will take place in the same format and guidance diagrams will be provided prior to the start of the year.

WHAT WILL MCES BE CALLED WITHOUT ST. JOHN CAMPUS?

MCES is still a ministry of St. John the Baptist Parish and the parish will still provide support to MCES, therefore the name will be unchanged.

HOW WILL ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH STILL BE INVOLVED IN MCES?

MCES is still a ministry of St. John the Baptist Parish and the parish will still provide support to MCES in the form of the sacraments, pastoral support, and financial investment. We plan to still celebrate an All School Mass at St. John the Baptist Church and the Activities Building (Gym and Cafeteria) will still be used for CYO and other events.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ST. JOHN CAMPUS SCHOOL BUILDING?

The Activities Building will still be used as described above. The 1916 Classroom Building will no longer be utilized for daily activities for the immediate future until the Archdiocese of Detroit and St. John Parish Finance Council determine the next steps.

WILL THERE BE ANY STAFFING CHANGES?

There are no plans to modify the MCES staffing requirements with this change. MCES already utilizes shared positions among our three campuses and will continue to do so on two campuses.



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