



April 8, 2022

**Dear Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Community,**

The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) has been involved in ongoing discussions about the opportunities and challenges of offering Catholic education in the Diocese of Peoria. This dialog considers many factors, including the interruption of parish and school life due to COVID-19 and its effect on current and future operational vitality.

OCS recently submitted a plan to the Bishop of Peoria that involves a restructuring of Catholic education in the Rock Island Vicariate. Our goal is to sustain and reinforce the Church's role in supporting the evangelizing mission of her schools.

The restructuring will involve the three diocesan elementary schools in the Rock Island Vicariate: Jordan Catholic School (JCS), Seton Catholic School (SCS), and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy (OLGCA). Effective with the 2022-2023 school year, JCS and SCS will be the two Catholic elementary PK-8 schools in the Rock Island Vicariate. The OLGCA campus will cease operations at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year. This recommendation was accepted and approved by the Bishop of Peoria.

Principal Jane Barrett at Seton Catholic School and Principal Kelly McLaughlin at Jordan Catholic School will provide information nights after Easter for OLGCA families and students. The evenings will include a tour of the schools and presentations regarding Catholic identity, curriculum, extracurriculars, tuition & fees, scholarship assistance, and transportation to these two schools. Everyone is committed to ensuring that Catholic education will be offered for our families, students, teachers, and staff members who want to **enroll** or **work** in a Catholic school.

As we enter in to the most holy time of the year with Holy Week, the Triduum, and Easter next week, the timing of this communication is not optimum. However, it is the desire of the Office of Catholic Schools to be transparent in sharing this important news now that decisions have been made. The beauty and love that we witness as Christ Himself gives to us in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection may hopefully help us understand that endings offer to us new beginnings.

Please look for another communication sent to you very soon with the dates and times for tours and presentations at Jordan and Seton Catholic schools.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Sharon Weiss**

Superintendent of Schools

Spalding Pastoral Center

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