

**Closing of St. Francis De Sales School**  
**Questions and Answers**

***Can anything be done to keep SFDS School open?***

Sadly, the answer is “no”. The demographics of school age children in the area indicate a declining number of children. Efforts have been made over the past several years to increase enrollment, but to no avail. Financially, the cost to educate a child at SFDS is becoming more prohibitive and any tuition increase causes more parents to look to other schools for their children.

***What will happen for the rest of this school year?***

The school year will continue as normal. Education will take place, field trips will be taken as scheduled and sports programs for winter and spring will be available. Graduation will be in June. There will be opportunities to celebrate our school’s history and its impact on people’s lives for the past 78 years.

***Do I need to pay tuition for the remainder of the year?***

Yes. Tuition needs to be paid in full, as well as any other fees. These monies are the main source of income for the school and are used toward school payroll and other expenses. The parish must honor teachers’ contracts and pay them until the end of August.

***If I wish to send my child to another Catholic school, which one should I choose?***

Both St. Anthony of Padua and St. Charles Borromeo Schools have agreed to accept any children from SFDS into their schools. At a Parish Council meeting the representative from our PTU indicated that parents have talked about having their children go to St. Anthony of Padua as a group in order to remain together. The pastor and principal of St. Anthony of Padua are very open to this.

If one chooses to send one’s child to public school or a charter school the child will need to be registered in the PSR program at SFDS in order to continue to receive religious instruction and be prepared to celebrate sacraments.

***Will my family have to join the parish where my child will go to school?***

No. The pastors of both St. Anthony of Padua and St. Charles Borromeo said they will not require people of SFDS to join their parishes. Should a family choose to join the parish with the school SFDS will not provide any financial assistance.

***What will be the tuition I will have to pay at the new school?***

The pastors of St. Anthony and St. Charles have said that they will charge the same tuition as their own parishioners pay. The pastor of St. Charles Borromeo said that after the first year he will then determine if an SFDS family will be required to pay anything more.

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***What financial assistance will SFDS Parish provide?***

For the first year only (2014-15 school year) SFDS will pay \$100.00 toward the tuition of any student who is currently in our school who goes to another Catholic grade school. Those

students who left our school for the 2013-14 school year will receive no financial assistance from the parish now or in the future. It is certainly hoped that current students of SFDS School and new children in the future from SFDS Parish who go to a Catholic grade school will be able to receive scholarships as the scholarships are developed. More information on such scholarships will be made available as time goes on.

***Will SFDS continue to have CYO athletics programs and Scouting programs?***

The parish will not sponsor CYO sports after the end of the 2013-14 school year. Students who go to another Catholic grade school will be able to play on that school's sports teams. Children who go to public school or a charter school can participate in civic sports programs.

The parish will continue to be a chartering organization for all scouting programs. Scouting programs will continue to be welcome to meet here at the parish.

***If my child is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade what do I do about First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation?***

If your family remains as parishioners of SFDS Parish, your child can celebrate these sacraments here at SFDS since the parish will continue to celebrate these sacramental moments for children in the PSR program. As to preparing your child for any of these sacraments, the Director of Religious Education for SFDS will contact you, based on lists of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in neighboring Catholic schools. If you should so choose, though, your child may receive these sacraments with the class at the Catholic school he/she attends.

If you actually join the parish where your child goes to school then your child will receive the sacraments at that parish.

***What will happen with teachers and school staff?***

The parish will help these dedicated people to find employment in other Catholic schools where possible.