



Frequently Asked Questions

School Realignment

St. Robert, St. Charles, and St. Patrick Academy

General Information

What is happening?

St. Charles Borromeo School, St. Patrick Academy, and St. Robert School are realigning into one regional Catholic school. The new school will be located at the St. Robert School campus.

When will this take effect?

August 12, 2026 will be the first day of school for the new regional school.

Why are the schools consolidating?

Like many Catholic schools nationwide, we face declining enrollment, rising operational costs, and aging facilities. St. Charles Borromeo has declined 38% from its 2012-13 peak of 207 students, St. Patrick Academy has declined 45% from its 2015-16 peak of 322 students, and St. Robert has declined 28% from its 2021-22 peak of 238 students.

Consolidation allows us to strengthen our collective resources, expand academic offerings, and ensure long-term sustainability for Catholic education in our community. The recent Chapter 11 proceedings were not a factor in this decision as each of our parish schools are independently organized and funded.

Will this be St. Robert School taking over the other two schools?

No. This is not one school replacing others—we are intentionally creating a new regional school that reflects the best of all three communities. While the campus will be St. Robert's, the identity and programs will honor all three schools. The naming of the school will be a recommendation of the Representative Transition Committee.

How does this consolidation align with the Bishop's message about "three communities coming together" rather than "one school remaining while others end"?

The alternative to consolidation was closing all three schools over the next 1-3 years due to unsustainable enrollment and financial challenges. Rather than allowing all three schools to close, the decision was made to combine them into one school to pool resources and provide the best possible materials, programs, and educational experience for all students in this region. This is truly about three communities coming together to create something stronger and more sustainable than any single school could achieve on its own. Each school brings its unique traditions, strengths, and spirit to form a united Catholic school community that can thrive for future generations.



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Decision-Making Process

What was the basis for choosing St. Robert's campus to remain open instead of St. Charles or St. Patrick's?

A variety of professionals visited and examined all three locations to conduct a comprehensive assessment. Based on their independent evaluation of the repairs needed and overall operating costs at each campus, they determined that St. Robert's campus would be the best decision for the consolidated school moving forward.

Why wasn't closing only one school (instead of two) considered, or selecting a campus with greater capacity for growth?

Due to declining enrollment at all three schools, it was impossible to close only one school and leave the other two open. Projections show that with continued declining enrollment and increased overhead costs to operate the schools, all three schools faced the potential of closing within the next three years. Closing one and leaving the other open does not equally reduce the cost to educate a student as does realigning all three schools and therefore allows for greater offerings at the larger regional school.

Why weren't parents asked for input or alternative solutions before the final decision was made?

This decision was made by the fiduciary board that oversees all Catholic schools in the Sacramento region. The board is responsible for ensuring the long-term financial sustainability and viability of Catholic education throughout the region. While we understand parents' desire to be involved in the decision-making process, the board had to make difficult choices based on comprehensive financial analysis, enrollment trends, and operational assessments across all schools in their jurisdiction. Moving forward, we are committed to engaging families in the transition process and welcome input on how to make the consolidated school successful for all three communities.

What will happen to the St. Charles and St. Patrick's campuses?

The campuses will be used to support parish needs. No K-8 charter schools will be allowed to move onto these campuses per the Bishop's policy.

Enrollment & Registration

What is the projected enrollment for 2026-2027, and how does this compare to current total enrollment across all three schools?

The school, in the current setup, has a capacity of 350 students with room for expansion. We



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anticipate enrollment to be around 300 students, as parents from the three schools may choose to attend a variety of Catholic schools in the area. At present, there are just over 400 current paying students in the three schools.

What happens to currently enrolled students?

Families will be able to register any and all students for the new regional school on March 1.

Families from St. Robert and St. Charles Borromeo may complete and inquiry form here:

<https://strs-ca.client.factsmtg.com/oa/inquiry.cfm?memberId=15784&districtCode=strs-ca>.

Information for how to register and, if needed, apply for financial aid will be shared the first week of February. Parents may also choose to register their children at any Catholic school, but schools typically do not take transfers in the middle of the year.

Will my child be guaranteed a spot?

Yes, all currently enrolled students in good standing (current on tuition, no behavioral contract) have priority placement. Families from St. Charles and St. Patrick Academy must submit inquiry forms by March 15, 2026 for guaranteed placement to ensure accurate planning.

What is the registration fee and when is it due?

The registration fee is \$450 (\$375 if inquiry form is completed by March 15, 2026). Online enrollment packets will be available March 1, 2026.

Why are registration fees (\$375–\$450) due by mid-March before full tuition rates have been announced?

Registration fees are not due by mid-March. Registration opens on March 1st for families who are ready to register. Registration will be charged after enrollment packets are completed, after a payment plan is chosen, and after approval of financial aid where applicable. None of these things will be required prior to announcement of tuition rates.

When will full tuition rates be announced?

Full tuition rates will be announced by March 15, 2026.

Class Size & Structure

How many students will be in each class?

Class sizes will range from 30–40 students, with a maximum of 40.

Will classes be held in morning and afternoon sessions?

No. Kindergarten will be a full-day program.



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Will teacher's aides be hired if classes are large?

Yes. With increased enrollment, instructional aides will be hired to serve the needs of classes in multiple grade levels. Five full-time aides are already included in the budget.

Will class sizes change?

We anticipate that realignment will grow our class sizes while potentially offering expanded programming and specialized student learning support.

Academic Programs

What academic programs will the new school offer?

The realigned school's curriculum enrichments will be determined by the president and principal based on available resources and student needs. Potential offerings may include STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), arts programming, specialized learning support, modern technology, and other enhanced academic opportunities.

Will the school offer specialty classes in the first year?

Yes. The president and principal will decide which subjects to offer. All additional subjects will be based on the enrollment numbers.

What support will be available for students with learning needs?

An Educational Achievement Specialist will provide support through Student Study Teams (SSTs) and instructional interventions. The president-principal model allows for extensive academic and behavioral support.

How will curriculum continuity be maintained?

Standards-based curriculum alignment ensures strong continuity across grade levels.

Faith Formation & Community

Will the faith formation programs remain strong?

Absolutely. Catholic identity and faith formation remain central to our mission. The transition committee will work to preserve and strengthen the spiritual traditions from all three schools.

How will each school's traditions and identity be preserved?

A Representative Transition Committee made up of parents, faculty, staff, and parish members from all three schools will identify and carry forward traditions, values, programs, and practices that should shape the new school's identity.



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What happens to our school traditions?

Traditions, patron saints, and community practices will be honored and integrated where possible. We are not erasing history—we are carrying it forward together. The realignment committee of community members will be working to make this happen.

Will my child lose their friendships and community connections?

Students from all three schools will come together to form a new, vibrant community. We are committed to supporting students through this transition with activities and programs that help build relationships. School counselors will be on the three campuses over the course of the next few months to help answer questions and support students through this process.

Staffing

What will happen to teachers and staff?

We are committed to supporting and retaining our outstanding teachers and staff. Specific staffing plans will be developed and communicated as the transition progresses. All teachers will be supported with the hiring process at the new regional school and at all of our Catholic schools for the 2026-2027 school year.

Are you hiring credentialed teachers?

All teachers within the Diocese of Sacramento are expected to maintain a credential or be enrolled in a credential program within the first three years of employment.

When will final staffing decisions be announced?

Our hope is to have a final staffing announcement made by April 1, 2026.

Facilities & Infrastructure

What specific facility improvements are planned, and what is the timeline for completion?

A project manager has surveyed the campus and is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for all facility improvements. The campus will be ready for students on August 12, 2026.

Will the campus be ready in time?

Yes. All necessary campus updates, classroom upgrades, and technology improvements will be completed before the transition.



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What future updates are planned?

We anticipate many new and exciting upgrades. Photos from other school renovations, including the gym at St. Robert, have been displayed at community meetings.

Extended Services

Will there be before and after school care?

Yes. Based on enrollment needs, the regional school is prepared to offer before and after school extension services.

Important Dates & Next Steps

Date	Action Item
February 1, 2026	Financial Aid Applications Open
February 6, 2026	Transition Committee Interest Form Due
February 24, 2026	Realignment Committee Meetings Begin
March 1, 2026	Enrollment Opens
March 15, 2026	Inquiry Forms Due for Guaranteed Placement
March 15, 2026	Full Tuition Rates Announced
April 1, 2026	Final Staffing Announcement (anticipated)
August 12, 2026	First Day of School

Contact Information

Questions or Concerns?

We encourage ongoing dialogue. Please contact us at:



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Our Commitment to Your Family

We recognize this realignment raises questions about stability, identity, and your children's future. Your concerns are essential to this process. Our guiding principle is simple: **How does this serve our students academically, spiritually, and emotionally?**

This consolidation is not happening *to* you—it is happening *with* you. We are building on the best of each school: the dedication of teachers, the faith of families, and the love of Christ that has sustained our communities.

We ask for three things:

- Patience as we work through complex details
- Prayer for our students, staff, families, and leadership
- Partnership through ongoing dialogue and feedback