

Frequently Asked Questions

Posted April 5, 2017:

When will tuition rates be finalized and announced?

We are planning to have tuition finalized before the end of April.

What is the class size limit?

Currently, the class size limit for grades K through three is 25 students. For grades four through eight, the class size limit is 28 students.

If I have a child enrolled for the 2017-18 school year, and more children that I will want to enroll in the years to come, will we get any preference?

Yes. Registration for 2018-19 and beyond will open for current families before it is opened to the general public.

Is there a half-day Kindergarten option?

While there is currently not a half-day Kindergarten program, parents are welcome to pick up their child around the lunch hour if that is an option they prefer.

When is the first day of school?

The first day of school will be August 28, 2017. See the 2017-2018 calendar posted on the home page.

When will I know if my child is accepted?

Acceptance letters were mailed on March 31, 2017.

Posted March 8, 2017:

We really love the before-and after-school care and summer camp programs. Will the new system offer these student services?

Yes. All schools offer before- and after-school care programs. Four of the six schools currently offer summer camp (Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace, St. George, and St. Luke), and we are adding a new summer camp program at the St. Jude campus, beginning this summer.

There was a lot of talk about embedded middle schools. What's happening there?

We have a team working on ideas to implement the middle school concepts outlined in BTL (p. 15). Our embedded middle schools will be comprised of grades 6-8 with an emphasis on preparing students for even greater success at the secondary level. Conversations with the Catholic high schools have already begun. Additionally, an architect is working on designs for each location to develop space that will support the middle school concept.

What about other extra-curricular (non-athletic) programs?

We plan to keep our excellent extra-curricular programs in place at their existing schools. We are conducting a system-wide inventory of all programs and will look for ways to enhance those that already exist while increasing opportunities for additional programs across all the campuses.

What about athletics?

Athletics will continue at each of the campus schools in a manner similar to what currently exists. Schools will keep their team names and mascots, and will continue to compete against each other. A task force will be established to create consistent athletic policies throughout all six campus schools.

When is the official launch date for the new system?

The Erie Catholic School System will go into effect on July 1, 2017. Concepts outlined in *Building in Truth and Love* will be phased in over a number of years in close collaboration with the Catholic Schools Office.

Posted Jan. 16, 2017:

When will teachers be hired for the new school system?

Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Erie sign a new contract at the beginning of each school year. As we move forward, teachers will be working for the Erie Catholic School System. A number of criteria will be used as part of the hiring process, including certification level and years of experience in the diocese. We expect that many of our teachers will remain in their current schools. The teacher rehiring process will begin in the spring of 2017.

Will all schools be on the same calendar?

Yes. The schools will share a common school-year calendar.

Will our uniforms change?

No. Each school will maintain its current uniform.

What will happen to events that a particular school recognizes, such as weekly Mass, Advent projects, homeroom parties, pet blessings, or grandparent day, for example?

We encourage our campus schools to maintain their traditions and special events.

Posted Jan. 9, 2017:

Will preschools still be available?

Yes. *Building in Truth and Love* calls for every elementary school to maintain a high-quality preschool (BTL p.45). All six of our system schools have a preschool program, and five of those programs offer the ability for preschool extension, allowing for a full day option. As with all our programs, we will continue to improve our early childhood offerings.

Will a two-year-old preschool be available?

St. George is currently the only campus to have a two-year-old preschool program.

What will the tuition be?

We envision consistency in tuition rates across our campus schools; however, this will take a couple of years to implement. We will continue to have parishioner and non-parishioner rates. As per *Building in Truth and Love*, multi-child discounts will remain in place, but these will be adjusted each year to gradually increase the percentage of full tuition that each additionally enrolled child will be paying. (BTL p. 54)

Posted Jan. 2, 2017:

Where can I get information about the new Erie Catholic School System?

Key information and updates about the new school system will be posted regularly on each school's website. Look for the Erie Catholic banner. You can email us with questions at ecssoffice@ErieRCD.org or call the Erie Catholic School System Office at 814-824-1268. You can find the entire plan for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Erie, *Building in Truth and Love (BTL)*, at: www.ErieRCD.org/choosecatholicchools.htm. We encourage you to refer to this plan and it will be referenced, with page numbers, throughout our FAQs.

Which schools will be included in the new system and will they be renamed?

The six school sites will be Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Peace, St. George, St. James, St. Jude (Our Lady's Christian) and St. Luke. The schools will all be named after the parish on whose campus they are located. The only school name that will change is Our Lady's Christian School. It will become St. Jude school. All school mascots and team names will remain the same.

Why do the teachers and principals have to re-apply for their jobs?

The Erie Catholic School System, Inc, is a separately incorporated non-profit entity. Administration, faculty and staff will no longer be employed by the parish; rather, they will be working for the new school system. This process has been used successfully throughout the diocese wherever Catholic school systems have been established.

When will principals be hired?

The new principals were named, as planned, in February 2017.

How will we register our students in this new system?

Registration for all currently enrolled students is open now. Forms are available at each school and online under the Erie Catholic banner on your school's website. Please have registration forms completed and submitted to your school by Friday, Feb. 24, 2017.

Students will not be assigned to schools. Parents and guardians will still have the same freedom they have always had to choose the campus school they prefer.