

All-School Meeting on Curriculum Changes

On Tuesday, June 8th at 7–9 pm in Kaczmarek Hall, St. Teresa school families and parish families are invited to a Question and Answer Session with Bishop James Conley and Dr. (Deacon!) Matt Hecker.

Why A New Curriculum?

St. Teresa School has a long history of fostering our Catholic faith while providing academic excellence and opportunities for students to develop their talents through fine arts, choir, band, strings, sports, and other school activities. Building on this long tradition, Bishop Conley desired to implement a Catholic Liberal Education curriculum at St. Teresa School to continue our tradition to provide an excellent, faithful Catholic education. The new curriculum will build on our successes and will strengthen our students' abilities to "see God's creation in all its beauty, complexity, and mystery," while giving St. Teresa's the freedom to ensure all educational materials used at our school are ordered toward awakening wonder, active learning, and leading souls to heaven.

Below are a few details about Catholic Liberal Education from the [ICLE Parent Brochure](http://catholicliberaleducation.org) (catholicliberaleducation.org). *We highly encourage you to read this ICLE brochure for additional background, and to help answer some of your initial questions prior to our event on June 8th.*

What is Catholic liberal education?

The term "Catholic liberal education" is simply a description of the full vision of human formation according to the mind of the Church. It is desirable and accessible to everyone who has a soul....It is liberal, in the classical sense of the term drawn from the Latin *liber*, which means free. Authentic Catholic education frees us to see the truth of things, and to order our lives and our loves to that truth. With a 2,500-year proven track record, this gold standard of education produced many of the keenest minds and the holiest saints in history. It works.

Catholic Liberal Education

- Ordered toward eternal happiness
- integration of subjects, knowledge, faith
- restores meaning & purpose
- awakens wonder
- nurtures the moral imagination
- cultivates habits of rigorous thinking
- constant discussion = active learning develops intellectual freedom

Why is St. Teresa moving to a Catholic Liberal Education curriculum?

First and foremost, we want to provide our students with the best possible formation that "truly equips children with the confidence and joy that comes from seeing the meaning and purpose of things through the eyes of faith." We believe a Catholic Liberal Education is the best "education for discipleship."

To ensure textbook content has been appropriate and beneficial to our students, St. Teresa's administrators and teachers have carefully reviewed every textbook that our students have borrowed from the public school district over the years. With the many challenges facing our fallen world, many educational materials and philosophies are not only failing to reflect the Truth, Goodness, and Beauty of the world God created, but are now increasingly promoting ideologies inherently opposed to our Catholic faith and values.

To safeguard our students' souls we are excited that our new Catholic Liberal Education curriculum will provide St. Teresa's with the ability to carefully select textbooks and learning materials that give our students the essential tools to navigate our fallen world with intelligence, courage, and love as they prepare to proclaim the Gospel and become tomorrow's leaders.

As many of you know, Bishop Conley converted to the Catholic faith in college after experiencing the Truth, Goodness and Beauty of a Liberal Education curriculum. Bishop Conley and Deacon Hecker, look forward to this opportunity to discuss how this new Catholic Liberal Education curriculum will benefit St. Teresa students.