



Sustainable Catholic Education for All Who Desire It™

January 11, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians of Conwell-Egan Catholic High School,

The announcement and planned closure of Conwell-Egan Catholic High School is a very disappointing announcement and we recognize that this is a most difficult time for your sons and daughters and your whole family. The school has educated young men and women over many years, establishing a rich and successful tradition of Catholic education. The legacy of Conwell-Egan Catholic High School will provide comfort and pride in the days, months and years ahead.

The mission of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in providing quality Catholic education for the children has been impacted by a number of causes over the last ten years. The escalating cost of providing a quality education is no less impactful to our schools than it is for schools across the country. In some situations, the only way to keep a school both excellent and open would be to double the costs and then we realize the reaction to that would be a further loss of enrollment. Each year the tuition is raised, modest though it is, families have to make the difficult decision to look for other educational settings that are more affordable to the family. As we work through this process, there will be many well-intentioned people who have ideas or thoughts as to how Conwell-Egan Catholic High School can be saved. Please know that if that were possible those actions would have been taken and no announcement would have come forth today. The past several years have shown a steady decline in enrollment in the city as well as in inner suburban ring. These areas have been affected by people moving out as well as families economically challenged with the loss of jobs and other family issues. The birth rate in the state of Pennsylvania has declined over the last decade and this is seen by the reduced number of eighth grade graduates seeking entrance into Conwell-Egan Catholic High School.

We know that many of you are still dealing with the news of the announcement of school closures. We also understand that there are many questions that you may have concerning the completion of this academic year as well as what will happen next year. We direct your attention to several sources of information the best of which will be your child's school website as well as the following website: www.faithinthefuture.com.

This letter outlines opportunities for you to learn about schools for your child for the 2012-13 school year. Our goal is to provide you with as much information as possible to help you make a decision on where to register your child(ren) for the upcoming school year. With students needing to select courses in the near future, it is important that you begin to consider this decision during the next month.

High School Fair

On January 17th and/or 18th, your high school will host a High School Fair. Students will be able to attend during their lunch periods to receive information about their school options. There will be an evening session from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for parents and students. This will give you an opportunity to meet representatives from each of these schools and to learn about options all in one location.



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Open Houses

Each high school that is expected to receive students from schools which close has been asked to have a special open house just for students from the closing schools. The dates and times of these open houses are enclosed. We encourage you to go and visit these schools to learn what they have to offer.

Shadowing Visits

With parental permission, students may also sign up to visit another high school for a day to shadow a student to get a tour of the school and to attend classes to learn about the school in a more personal way. If you are interested, obtain and complete a Shadow Request Form and return it to the Academic Affairs office. You will be contacted to confirm the shadowing appointment.

Registration

Every student will receive a full education this school year at their current schools and be eligible to transfer to another Archdiocesan high school upon successful completion of the 2011-2012 school year. No student may transfer to another Archdiocesan high school during this academic year.

You may register for the 2012-13 year at any time by completing the registration form at the school of your choice and paying the registration fee at that school. Once you register, the other diocesan high schools will be notified of your child's registration and they are being asked not to contact you regarding enrollment once you have made this decision. **We are asking all parents to register their child (ren) in another school no later than March 1, 2012.** If you register by this date, we will be in a better position to assist your child with planning for the upcoming academic year..

Tuition Assistance and Scholarships

Every effort will be made to assist you in receiving a comparable level of tuition assistance that you currently have. Tuition assistance received from the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and BLOCS is not school specific, but you will need to complete and submit these applications by the specified deadline.

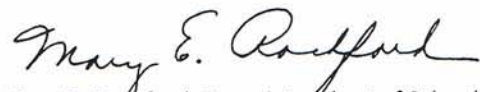
We know that you are committed to providing a quality Catholic education for your son or daughter and our efforts over the next months will be to facilitate that search for you. We stand ready to assist you and your children during the year ahead. We understand the pain associated with the closing and are making every effort to make this as smooth a transition as possible.

May God continue to watch over and bless all of our students, school families, dedicated faculty, staff and administrators.

Sincerely in the Lord,



Dr. Richard McCarron, Secretary for Catholic Education



Mary E. Rochford, Superintendent of Schools