



February 2, 2026

Dear Lourdes Academy Families, Staff, and Constituents,

This communication serves to update you regarding the Lourdes Academy President Search process, as well as results from the Lourdes Academy Community Survey that was distributed in December and January. Thank you to all who, by completing the Lourdes Academy Community Survey, are helping to shape and guide the search for the next Lourdes Academy President. Survey results will assist the Search Committee in identifying a qualified pool of candidates in search for the next Lourdes Academy President.

There were 74 responses to the community survey. About 29% of respondents indicated they are members of a local Catholic parish, 18% indicated they are school staff, 20% indicated they are alumni, and over 60% indicated they are current parents. Overall feedback evidenced community members care deeply about Lourdes Academy and faith formation of our youth, and appreciated the opportunity to provide input via the survey.

The following survey highlights will be considered throughout the President search process:

1. Which of the following phrases best describe what you currently value about Lourdes Academy?
 - Catholic Faith-Based Education and Mission 59%
 - Learning of Moral and Ethical Values 44%
 - Academic Excellence and Rigor 36%
 - Committed Teachers and Staff 33%
 - Small Class sizes and Low Student-Teacher Ratio 32%
2. Which areas should be priorities for the next President?
 - Recruiting, Retaining, and Compensating High-Quality Educators 57%
 - Emphasizing Catholic Identity and Faith-Based Learning 42%
 - Strategic Planning for the Future 37%
 - Enhancing Academic Excellence and Rigor 34%
3. What are the most important professional experiences and qualities for the next President?
 - Leadership/Management Experience 61%
 - Educational Administration Experience 38%
 - Effective Communication 38%
 - Strategic Planning and Development 32%
4. What characteristics or qualities are most important for the next President to possess?
 - Strong Leadership Skills 55%
 - Strong Personal Integrity, Ethics, Morals, Values 33%
 - Excellent Communicator 29%
 - Visionary, Strategic Thinker 27%
 - Thoughtful, Insightful, Humble 26%

The Search Committee is being co-chaired by Peter Derleth, Lourdes Academy Board of Trustees Chair, and Dr. Becky Walker, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Green Bay.

President Search Committee Members:

Peter Derleth (Co-Chair) - Board of Trustees Chair
 Dr. Becky Walker (Co-Chair) - Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Green Bay
 Very Rev. Tom Long - Board of Directors, Pastor of Participating Parish
 Dcn. Rick Hocking - Board of Trustees
 Mark Nielsen - Board of Trustees
 Vanessa Wellens - Board of Trustees
 Tony Wihlm - Foundation Board

President Search Process:

- *Search Committee chairpersons receive candidate applications and conduct pre-screening interviews.*
- *Search Committee receives pre-screened candidate dossiers, discerns candidates, and participates in virtual interviews with semifinalist candidates.*
- *Search Committee discerns and recommends finalist candidates who will be invited to visit campus and meet with various stakeholders (administrators, educators, staff, students, parents, donors, alumni) within the Lourdes Academy community. Stakeholders who participate will be asked to provide input via survey about each finalist candidate for use by the Search Committee.*
- *Search Committee discerns finalist candidates, evaluates site visit survey data, and recommends a candidate of choice to the Board of Trustees.*
- *The Board of Trustees discerns and recommends a candidate of choice to the Corporate Board (Board of Directors).*
- *Corporate Board (Board of Directors) selects/affirms next President of Lourdes Academy.*
- *New Lourdes Academy President is announced.*

[Lourdes Academy President Prospectus](#), highlighting our Lourdes Academy community, is included in this update. Please encourage strong leaders to apply for the position and share the prospectus with them. Filling John Dinegan's shoes will not be an easy task, but we are confident God has plans for a great successor. We appreciate your support, engagement, and most importantly your prayers for our next president, as we navigate this process.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Academy Board of Directors and Board of Trustees