

FACT SHEET



CEDAR VALLEY
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



OUR FUTURE

In consultation with the Finance Committee and School Board, Cedar Valley Catholic Schools assessed the needs of our school system and developed a master plan to address the most urgent needs. The initiatives focus on fiscal management, endowment, Catholic identity and deferred maintenance which are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES



Core Objective: *Debt/Fiscal Management*

Cedar Valley Catholic Schools currently has \$2.6 million in debt with the Archdiocese of Dubuque. \$2.1 million of the debt is from building Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School. The capital campaign for that project in 2010 secured \$7.6 million in pledges. The building project costs, campaign expenses and CHS improvements brought the total project expenses to \$9.7 million, leaving expenses of \$2.1 million. The additional \$500,000 debt includes costs from 2011-2018 for the purchase of a bus, technology improvements and a new roof at Columbus Catholic High School.

The core objective of this capital campaign is to retire the entire debt. In doing so, CVCS will be better positioned financially to not only consider growth of programs and facility updates, but also to address tuition increases and staff salaries.



Secondary Objective: *Endowment*

In 2016, we established the Cedar Valley Catholic Schools Endowment with the Catholic Foundation in the Archdiocese of Dubuque with an initial gift of \$546,000. As of 2021, the endowment fund has grown to \$1.1 million and CVCS distributes 4% annually to support operating costs. The current goal is to grow the endowment to \$2.5 million by 2026. This opportunity to increase an ongoing source of income will help to relieve pressure on the annual fund campaign, allow for program expansion and address the salary gap for our staff compared to public school benefits.

(over)

OBJECTIVES



The current strategic plan identified Catholic Identity as a strength for our system. Four areas of focus are proposed to continue our investment in this area.

- A \$400,000 renovation and expansion of the chapel at Columbus Catholic High School will create additional seating, allowing students to celebrate Mass with their theology classes. Students can also regularly participate in the sacrament of reconciliation and enjoy enhanced prayer and faith exploration experiences.
- Construct an Outdoor Stations of the Cross across the Columbus Catholic High School and Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School campus at an estimated cost of \$150,000. This project will provide a visible representation of our Catholic identity on the exterior of the buildings and provide a unique faith opportunity for our students, alumni and community members.
- Endow theology faculty positions. Secure \$2 million to fully endow the program, distributing \$80,000 a year to support the positions. This will allow CVCS to grow the faith formation offerings for all students across our campuses. This plan would include two full time theology teachers, offering additional class options for students, and two campus minister/chaplain roles. One is to support Columbus Catholic High School, including a chaplain for the athletic programs, and the other for the CVCS system to support faith formation.
- Raise \$100,000 to provide retreats free of charge to students and explore working with outside organizations in providing additional opportunities to students for spiritual growth.



There are three areas of immediate need for maintenance at Columbus Catholic High School. These include 1.) updating the outdoor stadium field lights (estimated: \$200,000), 2.) refurbishing the gymnasium floor (estimated: \$100,000) and 3.) upgrading the heating & cooling system (estimated: \$500,000).

YOUR VOICE

We are grateful for your prayerful support of Cedar Valley Catholic Schools over the years. Over the next several weeks, CVCS will conduct a campaign planning study to gather feedback regarding our proposed plans. Your valuable input will help us determine whether there is sufficient support to accomplish some or all of the priorities. We appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts and feelings about these proposed initiatives.

