

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) RE SETON KEOUGH AND THE NEW WESTSIDE CATHOLIC  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Updated 03/05/10**

**1. *Why go to the expense of renovating space in Seton Keough and, subsequently, building a new elementary school when so many elementary school buildings have been vacated?***

The factors considered by the Archdiocese included the desire to establish a new state-of-the-art elementary school in an area that is safe and has sufficient outdoor space for recess and activities.

Seton Keough is structurally sound and well located on a beautiful campus. The building meets the codes required for elementary schools with minimal structural changes.

Seton Keough's building was originally built to accommodate 1,300 students so there is ample space to share.

**2. *How extensive are the structural changes to the current high school building? Who will pay for these?***

At this time, the changes appear to involve providing age-appropriate bathrooms and enclosing the stairwells (a building code requirement). The Archdiocese will oversee and fund these changes.

**3. *From which consolidated schools will students come to the new elementary school?***

There are five predominant consolidated schools: Ascension, Father Charles Hall, St. Bernardine, St. Rose of Lima, and St. William of York.

**4. *What will the elementary tuition be?***

To be determined.

**5. *Will there be a family discount for families with children in both schools?***

This has not been discussed but will certainly be considered.

**6. *How will additional traffic be handled?***

The two school principals will create a schedule that will stagger arrival and departure times.

**7. *Will there be aftercare at the school?***

Yes. Details will be communicated at a later date.

**8. *How does Seton Keough benefit from this addition?***

- a. This is a marvelous opportunity for collaboration.

- b. This model will witness to Christian hospitality.
- c. Shared space also includes shared expenses freeing up funds for augmenting the high school programs.

**9. *What facilities will be shared by the two schools?***

- a. Cafeteria, gym, auditorium
- b. The principals will work out the schedules for sharing space without co-mingling student bodies.

**10. *Will there be an outdoor playground for the elementary school? How will this impact the high school classes?***

- a. An area has been designated to create a playground.
- b. This area will be far enough from the classroom windows that it will not impact the learning environment for the high school.

**11. *Was consideration given to using the Gibbons' buildings for the new school?***

A significant challenge for Cardinal Gibbons School was the age and condition of the buildings. Major repairs, such as window replacement, were needed. The presence of asbestos and lead in older buildings exacerbates the problems. Additionally, code requirements for an elementary school would prohibit the use of those buildings.

**12. *Is it true that St. Agnes Hospital is buying the Gibbons property?***

A statement issued by St. Agnes Hospital reads:

“Saint Agnes has a long and solid relationship with Cardinal Gibbons School and we are saddened by the news that the school will be closing. Despite some reports, Saint Agnes Hospital does not have plans to purchase the property. As a friend of the hospital, Cardinal Gibbons has graciously provided an option for additional associate parking spaces while our hospital undergoes our expansion, but that is not to be taken as a plan to purchase.”

**13. *Is there a daycare facility in the area for pre-schoolers?***

La Petite Academy on the St. Agnes Hospital campus serves children aged three through five. Information can be obtained by calling 410-644-0207.

**14. *Will the elementary school students be able to buy a hot lunch?***

Seton Keough participates in the Archdiocesan School Nutrition Program. Breakfast and lunch are available. Eligible students receive free or reduced price meals.