



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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# News

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### **Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools to be restructured**

COLUMBUS – Catholic schools in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, will adopt a new configuration beginning with the 2009-10 school year that will merge Sacred Heart School, New Philadelphia, and St. Joseph School, Dover, into one school for students in pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and change Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School, New Philadelphia, to a junior/senior high school covering grades 7-12.

The St. Joseph Elementary School facility, located at 600 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover, will be the site of the new consolidated school, and the present Sacred Heart Elementary School, 320 Fair Ave. N.E., New Philadelphia, will close.

The St. Joseph facility will not be large enough to house the collective population of both schools, which necessitated the need to move the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to Tuscarawas Central Catholic, 777 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, N.E., New Philadelphia.

“The consolidation of schools will enable Catholic education to remain available and affordable in Tuscarawas County,” said Lucia McQuaide, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Columbus. “The decision to close Sacred Heart School was based on the number and cost of capital repairs needed at the facility. Also, the model of junior high/high school consolidation has been successful in the diocesan system at both Notre Dame High School, Portsmouth, Ohio, and Marion Catholic High School, Marion, Ohio, for more than 20 years.”

The plan was announced to the affected school and parish communities during the weekend of February 21-22, 2009, by the Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, and the Diocese of Columbus' Office of Catholic Schools.

Bishop Campbell has directed that the Office of Catholic Schools establish and work with a preliminary governing board to begin to provide direction and answers to questions regarding this new model of Catholic schools in Tuscarawas County. Representatives from Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School, Sacred Heart Parish, and St. Joseph Parish will form this board. Mrs. McQuaide will serve as chair of the group.

The new plan was developed as a result of a year-long study, responses to a survey distributed by the Catholic Schools Office, and recommendations from the pastors and key leaders in the Tuscarawas area.