



SEAS Catholic Elementary School Study

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

At the request of your Parish Council, 35 dedicated SEAS Parish members have undertaken a three stage study regarding a SEAS Catholic Elementary School.

In conjunction with the work of the Study Team, a concerted effort has been made to communicate with the Parish membership.

To date five Parish Educational Forums were conducted in February. Eight Focus Group sessions were conducted in February-March. To further enhance the communication with the Parish a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with answers are now being disseminated in print and here on the website.

The FAQs that follow are a subset of the total list of questions. You are encouraged to check the website frequently over the next three weeks for more FAQs and answers. FAQs with

answers will also be distributed “in the pew” for the next two weekends.

Click [here](#) to view the "in the pew" version.

FAQ 1

What is the definition of an Elementary School?

The term Elementary School is defined as Pre-School/Kindergarten thru Grade 8.

FAQ2

What is the quality standard guiding the SEAS Catholic Elementary School Study?

The Study Team guidance is to provide students with a superior learning experience in a Catholic faith setting.

FAQ3

Carmel has one of the best school systems in the State of Indiana. How would a SEAS Catholic Elementary School be able to match or exceed the existing level of educational opportunity?

The elementary school education provided by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Maria Goretti has for the past ten years equaled and in most years exceeded the ISTEP test scores for Carmel elementary schools. Their experience leads us to believe that a SEAS Catholic Elementary School can match if not exceed the Carmel Schools elementary educational achievement levels.

FAQ4

Is the SEAS Catholic Elementary School Study being conducted by a consulting firm and, if so, at what cost?

The Study is being conducted by 35 SEAS Parish members with the support of two graduate student interns at no cost to the Parish. The Study Team members were selected based on their professional knowledge and experience. Instead of a cost outlay there was a cost saving of

more than \$45,000.

FAQ5

How is the Study Team organized?

There are four Subject Matter teams and two Support teams. The Subject Matter teams include Curriculum, Learning Technology, Educational Finance and Building/Facilities. The Support Teams are Survey Design and Parish Communications.

FAQ6

The Study has been referred to as a Three Stage Study. What are the three stages?

The three stages of the Study are:

1. Design the Framework of a SEAS Catholic Elementary School
2. Determine if SEAS has the capacity to build and operate an elementary school
3. Measure Parish support for an elementary school

FAQ7

What is the status of the Study?

Stage 1 is complete. Five Single Best Ideas (SBIs) have been specified for Curriculum, Learning Technology, Educational Finance and Building/Facilities.

Stage 2 is complete. There are sufficient numbers to populate an elementary school and sufficient financial capacity to finance an elementary school.

Stage 3 is in progress. With the completion of the parish-wide survey in early May, the measure of support will be determined.

FAQ8

When will we know the outcome of the Study?

The Study Team will present its findings to the Parish Council in early May for review and discussion. It is anticipated that the Parish Council will make a decision on the Study Team report at the June meeting.

FAQ9

If the decision of the Parish Council is favorable, what are the next steps?

The Study should be viewed as the first step in the decision-making process. The next phase will involve a detailed planning effort prior to a final decision on whether to proceed with construction.

FAQ10

What are the major components of the curriculum identified in the Study?

There are six components of the curriculum:

1. Catholic Faith
2. Excellence in the “Basics”
3. Second Language Proficiency
4. International Awareness
5. Fine Arts and Renaissance Subjects
6. Service Projects—Applied Catholicism