



**STELLA MARIS
ACADEMY**

We are expanding!

Stella Maris Academy commits to opening a high school no later than Fall 2022. A President will be appointed to support this period of significant growth and to lead the Academy into the future.

It is an exciting time at Stella Maris Academy, and we are full of hope.

"Stella Maris Academy began with a hope. A hope that our families would have PK-12 Catholic education. This is our fulfillment of that promise." –Father Wroblewski

Why are we opening a Catholic high school?

Stella Maris Academy differentiates itself from any other school in Duluth by a close link of academics and Catholic spiritual formation. Since the inception of Stella Maris Academy, a Catholic high school has been a key part of the strategic plan to provide the full continuum of Catholic education in Duluth, allowing for the formation of young Catholics through twelfth grade. This decision is supported by current enrollment, healthy finances, and a strong outlook for Catholic education in Duluth. It will be the first time a Catholic high school has operated in Duluth in nearly 50 years.

When will it open?

The Stella Maris Academy Board has committed to opening the high school no later than Fall of 2022. A specific opening date will be determined as part of the responsibilities of the President.

Where will a high school be located?

Existing facilities will be used to house the high school, keeping costs to a minimum and allowing for efficiencies as the Academy expands. Determining the best location for new grades will be a responsibility of the President.

How will a President be chosen?

A search will be conducted beginning immediately. Candidates will be interviewed by committee and hired by the Board of Directors, with new leadership in place no later than the beginning of the

next fiscal year, July 1, 2021. The President will be responsible for leading the Academy through this period of change as well as providing oversight of the entire Academy.

What will tuition be?

Tuition structure for the high school is yet to be determined. Stella Maris Academy is committed to providing affordable Catholic education to all who desire it. Fall 2021–2022 tuition has been previously determined by the Board; the opening of a high school will not affect the costs associated with lower grades.

Can the Academy afford the associated costs?

With stable and healthy finances, the Academy is able to pull from reserves, including the funds received from the Loraine Casshie Trust in 2018, to open the high school. Using current facilities, technology acquired due to the circumstances of the current academic year, and existing administrative staff, opening costs remain modest.

Will athletics be a part of the high school?

Ways to incorporate a strong, stable athletics program into high school programming are being considered, with local partnerships remaining a possibility.

How will the enrollment of the high school affect the Academy?

As we grow the enrollment in the high school, the entire Academy is strengthened through financial stability and an additional base of families, volunteerism, and community connections.

How is future growth being considered?

The protocols put in place during the pandemic have allowed SMA to learn and adapt, introducing new technology and remote learning across the Academy. These adaptations will allow for the possibility of a virtual connection to other Catholic schools across the Diocese of Duluth, filling a need for Catholic high school education across the diocese, and furthering the Academy's mission to prepare lifelong learners who lead, love, and serve as Jesus taught—transforming our world one student at a time.