“Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News. First and foremost, every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth....More and more people - parents in particular - recognize the need for excellence in the human formation of their children.”

-Pope Benedict XVI
Introduction
  Mission Statement .......................................................... 4
  Overview of St. John Bosco Schools ............................... 6

Programs
  Lower School .............................................................. 8
  Middle School ............................................................ 10
  Chesterton Academy of Rochester ............................... 11

Capital Improvement Needs
  Overview ........................................................................ 13
  Timeline ................................................................. 14
  Funding Breakdown .................................................. 16

Who is Involved
  Board of Directors ...................................................... 20
The mission of St. John Bosco Schools is to support parents in their God-given role as the primary educators of their children by cultivating the whole person - mind, body, and soul - and uniting spiritual life with work, study, and play.
St. John Bosco Schools (SJBS) seeks to cultivate wisdom and virtue by nourishing each soul with truth, goodness, and beauty. SJBS firmly believes that a rigorous, faith-based education and vibrant Catholic culture should be within reach of all parents who seek this formation for their children, regardless of financial means.

From its inception, St. John Bosco Schools has focused on three pillars:

1. Faithfulness to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church
2. Commitment to the charisms of St. John Bosco, the “Father, Teacher, and Friend of Youth”
3. Dedication to the search for truth through a classical liberal arts curriculum

At the center of SJBS’s efforts is the Catholic understanding that each human person is “a unique, unrepeatable gift of God.” Thus, true education in the fullest sense goes far beyond training for a career. It is preparation for life and for eternity.
OVERVIEW

Founded in 2008, in the wake of the closing of 13 diocesan Catholic schools, St. John Bosco Schools was established to provide an authentic classical education in the Catholic tradition. Any family who seeks a solid Catholic liberal arts education should have access to one. For this reason, SJBS has always maintained lower tuition rates and relies on the support of generous donors who share the vision of forming the future of the Church and our nation.

In a decade, SJBS has grown from humble beginnings in a wedding hall with 26 students, to a flourishing institution in its own school building, with over 150 students. Demand from parents led SJBS to open a high school, Chesterton Academy of Rochester, in 2014. Chesterton Academy of Rochester has had two graduating classes (2017, 2018).

St. John Bosco Schools/Chesterton Academy has been featured as a leader of the Classical Liberal Arts Renewal by The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education. St. John Bosco Schools is accredited by the National Association of Private Catholic and Independent Schools.

SJBS/Chesterton Academy offers the only classical, liberal arts curriculum to Pre-K through twelfth grade students in the Rochester area. The approach is part of a growing revitalization of education based on a genuinely Catholic model of teaching and learning.
“St. John Bosco provides a beautiful environment that fully integrates Catholic faith and practice into all aspects of a student’s school experience. SJBS has helped to inspire and inform a growing movement of substantial reform in Catholic schools around the country. Our institute’s work with these schools is richer and more effective because of our relationship with SJBS.”

-Andrew Seeley, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education
ST. JOHN BOSCO SCHOOLS

LOWER SCHOOL: PRE K-5

“St. John Bosco Schools aims to educate children in the truest and fullest sense by giving them the necessary tools of learning and by fostering wonder and love for all that is genuinely good, true, and beautiful.”

- St. John Bosco Schools Educational Plan (adapted with the permission of original authors, St. Jerome School in Hyattsville, Maryland)

WHY THE LOWER SCHOOL?
A classical liberal arts curriculum, full of faith and resounding in love, is the hallmark of St. John Bosco Schools. SJBS desired to “first, communicate a certain body of knowledge; and second, to cultivate a certain kind of person, to develop as far as possible what is uniquely human in him, and so to equip him with the skills, habits, and aptitudes necessary to embrace truth and to become the person he was truly created to be.” Parents see that such an education makes their young students truly happy and fully engaged in their own education and faith...and the word keeps spreading!

WHERE THE PROGRAM HAS COME FROM
After massive diocesan Catholic school closings in 2008, St. John Bosco Schools was founded to serve families hungry for an authentic classical, Catholic education. The unique gifts of Catholic education would be restored and highlighted, rather than toned-down to appeal to the masses. St. John Bosco Schools adopted the plan in 2012.
WHERE THE PROGRAM IS GOING
Faculty continue to steep themselves in the classical liberal arts curriculum. Students continue to widen the performance gap with other schools—currently SJBS students’ Terra Nova scores place them over three grade levels above national norms. SJBS teachers have presented at national conferences of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education. SJBS remains open to the possibility of additional campuses in other parts of the greater Rochester area.

WHO WILL BENEFIT
The child who has experienced an SJBS education is well on his or her way to fully embrace the truth and become the person he or she was created to be.

FINAL POINT
Right from the start, children at St. John Bosco Schools are fed and nurtured with beauty, truth, and goodness.
MIDDLE SCHOOL: 6–8

St. John Bosco Middle School leads students to find purpose and meaning through study and service.

WHY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL?
The SJBS middle scholars keep their relationship with God and with their neighbor as the center of their lives. All subject matter is connected to this center, and each piece has purpose and connection. As the students hone their reasoning skills, they are immersed in content that matters—what it means to be fully human.

WHERE THE PROGRAM HAS COME FROM
The children grew and were happy. SJBS grew along with them. The mission was bearing good fruit: faith-filled children with joy in their hearts. Parents knew that SJBS had to add a Middle School. SJBS added sixth and seventh grade, and had its first graduating eighth grade class the following year, 2010-2011.

WHERE THE PROGRAM IS GOING
In 2012, the Cor Unum project was born. Each middle scholar chooses a way to serve in the local community. Students do research and write reports examining an area of need. Students volunteer with local organizations coming face to face with Jesus Christ in the other. They reflect on this immersion experience and present it at the annual expo.

WHO WILL BENEFIT
Everyone benefits from a young population who knows how to think and how to live.

FINAL POINT
SJBS middle scholars interact personally with people in need. Challenging curriculum is connected with the challenges of life. Truth and faith become action in the world. By works is faith made perfect.
After six years of growth in the lower and middle school level, St. John Bosco Schools opened Chesterton Academy of Rochester for high school. Young men and women are embracing faith, reason and culture of life.

**WHY THE HIGH SCHOOL?**

SJBS graduates had no place to go to continue learning about beauty, truth and goodness. Chesterton Academy of Rochester is the only area high school that offers this intellectual and spiritual formation. Chesterton prepares students for life and eternity.

**WHERE THE PROGRAM HAS COME FROM**

There is a need for purposeful education at every age. Right from the beginning, parents talked about the expansion of St. John Bosco Schools to encompass the high school years. Each year the conversation became more serious, and in 2013, parents petitioned the Board of Governors to expand the educational program into the upper grades. Finding a partner in the nascent Chesterton Schools Network (based in Minnesota’s Twin Cities), St. John Bosco Schools’ Board of Governors decided to open the school’s doors to a Freshman class in 2014.

Six students made up that first group. At Chesterton Academy, they had daily Mass, Philosophy, Theology, Algebra, Biology, and the Fine Arts of Music, Art, and Drama. Most classes were taught in a small basement classroom, which the students themselves had painted to “look ancient,” corresponding to their first-year curriculum. There was a Cross-Country team, coached by SJBS founder Joe Indelicato, and the Headmaster started a Rifle Club. Students sang in choir, created their own works of art, and performed in “Twelfth Night.”
Since then, Chesterton Academy has grown steadily. The solid academic life is complemented by a growing athletics program. Since 2017, over 75% of SJBS graduates have decided to remain on campus and attend Chesterton Academy of Rochester.

**WHERE THE PROGRAM IS GOING**

For years, middle scholars from St. John Bosco went on to local high schools - from name brand private schools to local public schools. These students became known for working and achieving at levels above their supposed potential, and for speaking up for the unborn and others who most need a return to a culture of life.

Increasingly, SJBS students are staying for high school at Chesterton Academy. They have more opportunity to mature in a Catholic culture; they have more to bring out to the world.

**WHO WILL BENEFIT**

*Cultura Vitae: “Culture of Life” is the motto of the Chesterton Schools. Their students and graduates are the leaven to society for their generation. As future mothers and fathers, priests, religious, persons of business, medicine, politics, and education: SJBS graduates will benefit every sphere of culture by their presence and action to build a Culture of Life.*

**FINAL POINT**

Men and women of virtue are the heroes and saints of every age. Our time needs the men and women of Chesterton Academy of Rochester.
In honor of Fr. Gerard McMahon, St. John Bosco Schools and Chesterton Academy launch the 2018 Fr. Gerard McMahon Campaign. Fr. Gerard McMahon was a retired diocesan priest who was behind the mission of St. John Bosco Schools from the very beginning. He was generous with both his spiritual and material aid for which the school will always be grateful.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS
A classical liberal arts education fosters in students love for the good, the true and the beautiful. A beautiful campus is part and parcel of such an education. While the school is adorned with beautiful sacred art, it is also in need of several major repairs. SJBS’s primary facility requires a new roof, and improvements to ceilings, floors, and walls.

Roof: The roof of the St. John Bosco Schools building is literally leaking water into one of the hallways. For the health and safety of the students and faculty, the roof needs to be replaced and water damage repaired. The roof and ceiling are the very first priorities for funding.

Floors: The schools floors are dated and need replacement for greater safety and aesthetic appeal.

Ceilings/walls: Ceilings and walls at SJBS have been damaged by the faulty roof and will need to be repaired both structurally and cosmetically.

ADA Compliance: The SJBS campus needs to be updated to allow full access to disabled individuals.
TIMELINE

YEAR ONE ACTIVITIES
• Roof renovation
• Repair of interior water damage
• Stabilize operating budget

YEAR TWO ACTIVITIES
• Repair gymnasium wall tiles
• Replace floor tiles
• Stabilize operating budget

YEAR THREE ACTIVITIES
• Begin endowment fund for physical plant
• Maintain general operations
• Stabilize operating budget

YEAR FOUR ACTIVITIES
• Grow endowment
• Establish endowment of faculty positions

YEAR FIVE ACTIVITIES
• Continue growing endowment
• Establish second facility and seek to expand

Above: current state of SJBS roof
“St. John Bosco Schools is an incredibly powerful school which offers a traditional Catholic education, fulfilling the needs of their students to prepare for an ever changing world of tomorrow. The strength at SJBS comes from a very committed board of governors and an extremely committed administration and faculty. They have provided stability with love and learning for these students, which helps them to excel and mature in this environment. The students are such an inspiration because of their growth, development, confidence and character. This is all achieved with an integration of Catholic faith and understanding of the values of the Lord’s Gospel. It is extremely special to be associated with this fine group of leaders, teachers and students.”

-Bernie Iacovangelo, President, Faber Homes
ST. JOHN BOSCO SCHOOLS

THE OPPORTUNITY

5 Year Statement of Need .................................................................................................................. $2,400,000

Building Improvements ................................................................................................................... $400,000
St. John Bosco Schools is in great need of a new roof. The roof, inside ceiling, and wall repair, as well as extensive floor tile replacement will make the school safer, healthier and more beautiful for its students.

Financial Aid ..................................................................................................................................... $1,000,000
One of the founding principles of St. John Bosco Schools was that any family who wanted to give their students a Catholic, classical education should have the opportunity and access they need. To expand our ability to serve families requiring financial assistance, we need to endow a scholarship fund.

Faculty, Staff & Programming ......................................................................................................... $1,000,000
Many schools spend needless thousands of dollars on “smart” technology that, in the end, creates an over-dependency. SJBS recognizes that the greatest asset is not computers or the latest techno-fad, but its faculty. Over the next five years, SJBS needs to increase teacher salaries to stay competitive with the best classical talent, add several administrator, faculty, and staff positions, and round out the library with quality books available for study in and out of class.
“The classical model of education is a system founded upon beauty and truth and goodness. The great thing about studying beauty, truth and goodness all day is - you end up happy and living a life of virtue. It’s about what does it mean to be a human person? How are we supposed to live? In my opinion there’s nothing in modern education that responds to that need. What are we here for? What is the meaning/purpose of our existence? That’s what classical education is all about. How can I live a life of virtue? How can I live a life that corresponds with what I was made to do? It is the kind of thing that brings a person a very deep joy.”

-Colleen Richards, Headmaster, St. John Bosco Schools and Chesterton Academy
“My husband and I could not be more grateful for the deeply formative years our youngest son spent at St. John Bosco Schools. This amazing community of faith and learning changed his life as well as ours. Through the rich content, engaging teachers, joyful atmosphere, and, especially, the love of Jesus Christ that permeates the school, we saw him grow in countless ways. He learned to think deeply and to constantly make connections between what he knows and how he lives. The profound impact St. John Bosco Schools had on our son’s intellect and his faith inspired me to work with an organization that promotes the renewal of Catholic classical liberal arts education around the country. We consider SJBS a model to emulate.”

-Elisabeth Sullivan, Associate Director, The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education; former parent of a SJBS student
WHO IS INVOLVED

SJBS in an independent school chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. SJBS operates independently of the diocesan parochial system and is not affiliated with any parish. However, SJBS maintains open and cordial relations with the Diocese of Rochester, and recognizes and respects the proper jurisdiction of the local bishop in matters relevant to instruction in the doctrines and beliefs of the Catholic faith.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS – LEADERSHIP

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Mark Peterson, Founder President and CEO at Intersect Illinois

Robert Schick, Co-Chair President and CEO, Lyons National Bank

Colleen Richards Headmaster, St. John Bosco Schools ~ Chesterton Academy

Michael Gallagher, Secretary President, Benefits Management, Inc.
ST. JOHN BOSCO SCHOOLS

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John Lyle
Director of Research & Legal Affairs Institute for Priority Thinking LLC

Not pictured: Sharon Rivaldo
This is 434 for the New roof.

from Charles O'Brien