



February 12, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters at St. Philip and St. Raphael Parishes  
and parents at St. Philip and St. Margaret of Scotland Schools,

Over the past two months I've promised you news about decisions regarding our South Regional Catholic Elementary Schools (SRCES). Thank you for your patience, prayers, and support as you have waited to hear from me.

The SRCES board of directors voted to recommend that St. Margaret of Scotland and St. Philip Schools merge for the 2021-2022 academic year and confirmed that the yet-to-be-named newly merged school should be situated at the site of the former St. Margaret of Scotland School. Bishop David Zubik has approved that recommendation.

This decision comes after more than a year's deliberation and many, many hours of study. I assure you that this or a similar decision was necessary in order to address substantial demographic and financial challenges in our schools and parishes. While change can be difficult, we can bring together the best of the past to support a strong future for the newly merged school.

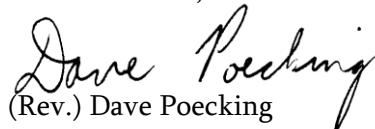
Our regional administrator, Sharon Loughran Brown, will oversee the next steps: recommending a hiring process for a principal, forming an implementation committee to advise on the merger and recommend school name(s), identifying the enrollment process, and publicizing a tuition policy.

Please see the attached Questions and Answers for more information, and you may email further questions to the SRCES office at [info@SRCESpgh.org](mailto:info@SRCESpgh.org).

Catholic schools reflect the Church's efforts to help parents raise their children as Catholic Christians: leavening all studies with the truth revealed by the Lord Jesus, reinforcing habits of daily prayer and weekly worship, and encouraging a generous fellowship within the Church and community. On behalf of our pastors, administrators, principals, and teachers, I thank you all for your support of Catholic education, and especially you parents for the sacrifices you make in order to send your children to a Catholic school.

May God grant you a prayerful Lent and a joyful renewal of faith for Easter!

Yours in Christ,

  
(Rev.) Dave Poecking

South Regional Catholic Elementary Schools

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