

At our first town hall on April 1st, we set a clear mission: to raise \$2 million to address deficits and ensure the independent operation of Saint Dominic Regional High School over the next two years. That mission remains unchanged. The Diocese's announcement on Friday simply confirms that they will not proceed with their alternative plan for a "bridge year" to run the high school as a Diocesan school. This means we can now move forward as originally envisioned, fully engaging with the community.

Here are some questions that have been raised recently that we would like to answer:

1. Is the only option for 6-8 students at the Lewiston Campus?

Answer: The Diocese has indicated they wish to keep a PreK-8th grade school at the Lewiston campus. While this group continues to move forward in starting up a high school, we recognize that there may be opportunities to add the middle school grades in the future. Additionally, we will always strive to ensure there is vibrant PreK-12 Catholic education available in the Lewiston/Auburn area. We must take this one step at a time.

2. Will the Independent School be under Diocesan control under a lease agreement for the Auburn Campus?

Answer: No, the independent school will not be under Diocesan control or management. The independent school will simply be a tenant of the Auburn campus, though we would seek recognition by the Diocese as a Catholic school.

3. Are you considering other locations besides the Auburn campus?

Answer: Our primary focus right now is leasing the building, land and personal property at the Auburn campus for the 2025-2026 school year to operate an Independent Catholic high school. That being said, we do have at least two alternative locations if we cannot reach financially reasonable lease terms with the Diocese for 2025-2026.

4. Would the new independent school be a Catholic school?

Answer: This board strongly agrees that the new Independent High School will be a school grounded in the Catholic faith. The school has always and will continue to accept students from all faiths.

5. What is the tuition for the new high school?

Answer: We are working on a budget to hold tuition at \$14,950 for the 2025-2026 school year. However, there will most likely be a pay-to-play component for athletics. The amount will vary by sport, but our goal is to make sure this is not a barrier to any student participation.

6. Is there a discount for Catholic families?

Answer: We will be working with local parishes and other partner organizations to ensure our Catholic families have access to scholarships to help subsidize the cost of tuition.

7. Will there be financial aid offered?

Answer: Yes, the intent is to budget for financial aid, and we will be seeking supporters and access to restricted scholarship funds established to support all students at St. Dom's.

8. What are the highest priorities for the board at this time?

Our priorities are as follows:

- Finalize a lease between Saint Dominic Regional High School and the Diocese at the Auburn campus.
- Engage with individuals who have pledged money to convert those pledges into gifts. In less than two weeks we have converted over \$100,000, but will need to make further investments in this start-up phase.
- Engage with families to enroll their students into the new independent high school tuition management system for the 2025-2026 school year. While tuition would not be due at the time of enrolling, it would show a commitment that will help in our budgeting processes.
- Formalize Volunteer Committees and establish regular meetings.