



“Our generation will show that it can rise to the promise found in each young person when we know how to give them space. This means that we have to create the material and spiritual conditions for their full development; to give them a solid basis on which to build their lives; to guarantee their safety and their education to be everything they can be.”

- Pope Francis

Our Story

Like many Catholic schools, Lourdes Academy grew out of a small system of local parishes that have existed in the Oshkosh area since the 1800s. These parishes established schools and, over time, the need for a centralized Catholic high school led to the opening of Lourdes High School in 1959. The high school and other Catholic elementary schools were supported by small area parishes until 1992 when the schools began to consolidate to operate more efficiently. By 1997, all the schools were brought together as the Unified Catholic Schools of Oshkosh. During this time, the system began to see increased enrollment and make major physical and curricular improvements.

In 2012, the entire system became known as Lourdes Academy, a PreK-12 Catholic education system, which currently serves more than 600 students from Oshkosh and the surrounding communities at one elementary school and a combined middle and high school.

Lourdes Academy provides a family environment in which students can achieve academic excellence, develop strong moral character, live as authentically Catholic disciples, and contribute positively to their communities. Inspired by Our Lady of Lourdes, Lourdes Academy forms and challenges students to realize their God-given potential. Our school will usher in a new era that will transform Catholic education in Oshkosh with a 21st century focus on growth and excellence, while holding true to the Christ-centered values upon which it was founded.

Our Plans

Today, the commitment to investing in transformational educational experiences for its young people and growing missionary disciples is vibrantly alive and evident at Lourdes Academy. With the support of the parishes of Most Blessed Sacrament, St. Jude, St. Raphael, St. Mary in Winneconne and St. Mary in Omro, as well as the Diocese of Green Bay, we intend to forge a historic partnership that will focus the combined resources of the Oshkosh Catholic community toward the goal of a renovated and remodeled campus. This is a vision that no one parish could make a reality on its own.

We strive to achieve a vision to expand the system in order to reach more families in our community. We are currently serving 20% of area Catholic children. Significant changes in best practices of educating children have moved the school environment from traditional classroom formats to project- and individual-based learning scenarios including a foundation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). STEM programs develop critical and creative thinking skills that parallel real-world learning and help prepare students for the workforce.

It is our goal to make Catholic education available to all families in the area. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program allows our school to serve a more diverse population that previously could not afford to attend Lourdes Academy. We wish to serve this diversity with the same level of excellence that Lourdes Academy families have come to expect.



Our existing elementary school building is at maximum capacity with no ability to flex classrooms or pursue elementary enrollment growth. Our existing 90-year-old elementary building is not cost-effective to expand, maintain or upgrade. A single campus will allow for adjustment of space according to enrollment fluctuations and will maximize resources while limiting logistical disruptions. Centralization to a single campus will allow for more efficient sharing of system resources in staffing, maintenance, and supplies. Additionally, consistently available outdoor athletic and physical education facilities will improve student engagement and provide higher quality opportunities at all grade levels. A central location of one campus in the center of Oshkosh exposes students to more educational opportunities across the entire system. Our existing secondary campus has significant maintenance issues both short and long term, and upgraded technology is needed to keep pace with today's curricular needs. Local colleges, local medical providers, and local vocational training facilities are looking to expand in the area and looking for partnerships at the high school level, however our existing facilities limit our participation in these partnerships.

In addition to academic facilities, Lourdes Academy will be a resource to the Catholic community by hosting the citywide Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, a place for personal prayer and spiritual growth. The chapel will serve as an outward symbol of our faith and will foster a connection between our school, our parishes and our community.

Catholic education is a powerful tool for forming both young hearts and minds and fruitful societies, and the new renovated facility will become a beacon of excellence where abundant and superior opportunity is offered for students to flourish. We propose the renovation and remodeling of a new, centralized, single campus that may include the following:

- New high school wing addition;
- Our elementary and middle school areas will feature multi-purpose space and workstations for project and group work with flexible grouping of classrooms, and ability to mix and match classrooms and grade levels;
- New additional space for an all-elementary Mass, cafeteria, and special parish and community events;
- Adoration Chapel and grotto;
- Dedicated and upgraded space for special programs (arts, music, STEM, etc.);
- Separate library and technology labs;
- Additional gymnasium in the elementary/middle school wing;
- Infrastructure to facilitate technology integration into the curriculum;
- New roof at current high school building;
- Sufficient space for Central Business Office staff;
- An energy-efficient infrastructure, including;
 - New HVAC system with automated controls;
 - Lighting occupancy sensors;
 - LED lighting;
- A dedicated maintenance area and a maintenance transportation vehicle.

Citywide Eucharistic Adoration Chapel



To facilitate this transformational endeavor, Lourdes Academy and parish leaders would like to engage in a capital campaign to raise \$ 10 million. The campaign would enlist the support of all parishes and the Green Bay Diocese to fund this project. We are currently in discernment through a Feasibility Study to determine financial potential and gain the community's insights on this project. We encourage your prayerful discernment and feedback on these plans. The results of the study will determine our next steps and our ability to move forward. We thank you for your participation.

