



ACADEMY OF THE
SACRED HEART



June 2023

Re: Campus Safety Assessment: Security and Infrastructure Enhancements

Dear Sacred Heart Community,

As I write this letter, I reflect on how this time of year is filled with joyous Prize Day celebrations and gratitude for Academy of the Sacred Heart's delivery of its mission. A mission as great as ours is never fully complete or fully realized. Our mission is a sacred work fulfilled only through the enfolding of it by each generation. Here, students discover and make known the love of the heart of Jesus. As educators, we are proud partners in each student's journey toward developing confidence, achieving success, and affirming that all are created in the image and likeness of God. As a community, a sense of pride and excitement exists for each Child of the Sacred Heart's bright future.

Building a culture of confidence and providing a safe community is central to our mission as an educational institution. Learning environments today are starkly different from 1958 when Academy of the Sacred Heart Bloomfield Hills campus was founded. Initially referred to as "*The House Built on Confidence*," this building was designed as a school and home for the RSCJ to uphold the tradition of lovingly educating children (as articulated in the *Goals and Criteria*) and supporting each Sacred Heart family.

This location was chosen for its serenity and connection to nature to enhance the educational experience of young people. The RSCJ understood that a connection to nature would positively influence a student's learning experience during their class time (6 hours per day over 190 school days) and contribute to the formation of the whole child. In their wisdom, the nuns designed this building to fill each room with natural sunlight supporting a child's well-being and inspiring learning. A design intended for building a world reflective of the attitudes of Christ's Heart, not as a fortress.

Educators in the U.S. are facing a new reality, with threats and acts of violence becoming more common. More than 338,000 students in our country have been exposed to gun violence in school since Columbine, a 1999 catalyst event. In the 1950s, Academy of the Sacred Heart was ahead of its time in designing a school to maximize students' emotional and cognitive well-being. Today this design is a consideration in our risk assessment. As part of Sacred Heart's safety appraisal, our emergency preparedness partners, The Detroit Protective Security Advisor, Oakland County Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Southeast Michigan Intelligence & Information Center, Bloomfield Hills Police and Fire Departments, and Academy of the Sacred Heart Safety and Security Liason Officer (retired FBI agent), have reviewed our Emergency Operations Plan and identified infrastructure upgrades to enhance school security and mitigate risk.

As the Head of School and a parent, it is important that I share the plan created in response to our partners' facility upgrade recommendations. We have developed a three-phased approach (attached). A 2023-24 budget assessment allows us to **prioritize the immediate installment of Phase I Facility Investments (\$40,000+)** addressing risk mitigation. [*Philanthropy at Sacred Heart commitments will expedite Phase II progress.*](#)

The attached plan has been designed with the assistance of experts in threat assessment, emergency preparedness, community response, safe schools, and surveillance. I am personally grateful to members of our parent community who have assisted the Board of Trustees and me in obtaining quotes and identifying products that best meet our needs.

I talk with current and past parents, volunteers, and philanthropic supporters regarding the safety of Sacred Heart children. The discussions reflect how educators must be prepared for classroom vulnerabilities and facilitate immediate response. There can be no vacillation between feelings of confidence or uncertainty. Lockdown, evacuation, and shelter-in-place drills are routine classroom activities for teachers. Our educators must be skilled in helping a child achieve academically and taking action that keeps them safe. **Providing an academically enriched environment that mitigates risk requires presence, attention, and community support.**

We ask for your assistance in expediting **Phase II Facility Investment**. A *Philanthropy at Sacred Heart* response card is included for your convenience. You may also donate online at <https://www.ashmi.org/giving/make-a-gift>.

All donations make an impact. For those interested in supporting Phase II with an investment of \$15,000 or more, please contact Lisa Zanlungo, Chief Advancement Officer, at lzanlungo@ashmi.org or 248.646.8900, ext.134 or me at dhermann@ashmi.org, or 248.646.8900, ext.139.

We are in an emerging moment in our history, and safety is top of mind for all of us. I am deeply grateful to this community for your collective commitment and generous support.

Cor Unum,



Damian Hermann
Head of School



PHASE I Facility Investment: June/July 2023

Access Control Management System for West, South, and East Entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides real-time door status - open, closed, locked, unlocked. • Maintains access during a power outage/reporting. • Keyless (card-issued) operation.
270-degree Campus Monitoring at West, South, and East Entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides remote and real-time viewing access for multiple authorized users. • Operates during a power outage.

PHASE II Facility Investment: 2024/25*

**dependent on Philanthropy at Sacred Heart*

3M Window Security Film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay/deter intruders. • Holds shards of shattered glass together. • Prevents glass from becoming sharp projectiles. • Creates a shatter-resistant barrier. 	Estimate pending for all ground-level windows and doors. Facility upgrade is approximated to be \$350,000.
Two retired police officers with a CCW permit (110 hours per week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed and trained to use a firearm. • Skilled in identifying risk and risk management. • Experienced in managing threats. • Experienced in communicating the status of a situation with local authorities. 	\$160,000 ongoing annual investment
Visitor Management System and Door Alarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate visitor background checks and query of Michigan's sex offenders' list. • Self-serve Kiosk. • Compatible with the student information system. • Late arrival and early departure student tracking. • Efficient, expedited guest check-in. • 52 doors equipped with an alert system activated when a door is left ajar or propped open. 	\$16,500
Phase II Total Investment:		\$526,500

PHASE III Facility Investment: 2026/27*

*dependent on Philanthropy at Sacred Heart

Additional internal and external surveillance cameras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor pathways inside the school, public gatherings, sporting event areas, all road entrances, and around the property. 	\$45,000
Bollard Safety Barrier System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install at West, South, East entrances and Field House walkway. • Prevents a vehicle from penetrating a door/walkway accidentally or intentionally. 	\$20,000 quoted May 2023
Natural (tree) barrier to block visibility from parking lots to outside play areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting tall evergreen shrubs provides a natural barrier and obstructed view to play and athletic fields. 	\$3,000
24-hour security service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track primetime and off-hour activity. • Record unpermitted/unknown vehicles. • Distribute private property notices informing trespassers this is a school zone and only official business is allowed. 	\$TBD
Phase III Total Investment:		\$68,000 + Security Service \$TBD