



DE SMET JESUIT

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

De Smet Jesuit has begun an exploratory study to determine the feasibility of offering an academic program serving boys in grades 6, 7, and 8. This message explains how we arrived at this decision and the details of the exploratory study. The Archdiocese has given De Smet Jesuit permission to conduct this study and supports the process we are deploying to gather data.

De Smet Jesuit History and Mission

De Smet Jesuit was founded in 1967 in response to the growing need for Jesuit secondary education options in St. Louis County. De Smet Jesuit teaches Jesuit, Catholic traditions in a college prep, well-rounded environment that enables a wide variety of students to realize their God-given potential and, ultimately, to transform the world, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* (for the greater glory of God). We believe boys would benefit from education and formation in the Jesuit tradition earlier in their development.

De Smet Jesuit Strategic Vision

We spent the 2022-2023 academic year asking, "Where is God calling De Smet Jesuit?" Following a year of listening, reflecting, and learning, a strategic vision emerged that focuses on delivering a learning experience inclusive of these four priorities: Catholic and Jesuit, Academic Excellence, Care for The Whole Person, and Men for Others.

Innovative Exploration: An Academic Program for Grades 6,7, and 8

As part of our strategic visioning process, we began exploring the need for a Jesuit, Catholic school serving grades 6, 7, 8. We know that ages 11-14 are pivotal years for faith development and religious belief and practice. We also know that there are specific ways in which boys learn at these ages. The first step in exploring this concept is to study the need in our community for this type of program and objectively measure the level of interest among families to determine enrollment potential.

De Smet Jesuit has commissioned Meitler, a nationally recognized Catholic planning firm, to conduct this study. Meitler has extensive experience working with Catholic schools and new school/expansion initiatives nationwide. As part of the study, comprehensive community demographic research is already underway, and a market research survey will launch on Monday, October 2, 2023, to our current and prospective De Smet Jesuit community. The survey will assess parents' willingness to enroll their sons in the proposed new academic program for boys in grades 6, 7, and 8.

Next Steps

This process includes distributing a survey to various constituencies in our community, including families who may otherwise not have considered a Catholic school. The link to the survey is below. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and feel free to forward it to your friends and family who may have an interest in this initiative.

<https://survey.meitler.com/s3/De-Smet-Jesuit-HS-Expansion-Study-to-Serve-Grade-6-to-8>