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**St. Dominic High School**

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St. Dominic High School Among First to Launch On-Campus Building Trades Program

New hands-on curriculum encourages young men and women to explore construction-related fields

O'FALLON, MO – St. Dominic High School is set to launch its **Building Trades Program** at the start of the 2025-26 school year. When the program is introduced, St. Dominic will be one of the few private, co-educational schools in the region to offer this type of on-campus curriculum.

The new program, which seeks to foster students' curiosity and passion for the industry, will include hands-on construction trades coursework in four core areas: carpentry, electrical, plumbing/pipefitting, and HVAC.

"By offering this exploratory curriculum, we aim to help our students make informed career choices, emphasizing the importance of skill development and problem-solving," said St. Dominic Principal **Mrs. Stacy Stewart '89**. "Through this program, we seek to inspire both our male and female students to consider pursuing further education or apprenticeships in construction-related fields, while also nurturing an appreciation for the built environment in which we all live and work."

The new curriculum, which will be restricted to juniors and seniors, was designed in response to students who have been asking for trades coursework at St. Dominic. According to recent school surveys, over the past two years nearly one in five students said they would be interested in having the option to take trades program courses at St. Dominic. The initiative to implement industrial arts programming is also part of the school's current five year strategic plan.

"We are continuously evolving to meet the needs of our students and our community," said St. Dominic President **Mr. Jim Welby**. "What's truly remarkable about our new Building Trades Program is that students can gain exposure to the field right here on St. Dominic's campus as part of their daily coursework, along with their core classes in traditional subjects like science, math, literature, and religion."

To accommodate the new program, the school has acquired a 28,000-sq.-ft. warehouse that neighbors the existing campus. The property was purchased through the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, who donated \$2.4M—the single largest gift in the history of the school.

Renovations to develop two classrooms and four separate lab areas in the existing space have started and are expected to be completed this summer.

"We support St. Dominic High School in its endeavor to expand opportunities for students pursuing Catholic education by introducing its new Building Trades Program," said **Archbishop Rozanski**. "We look forward to witnessing the tremendous impact and blessings it will bring to our St. Louis community and beyond."

About St. Dominic High School

St. Dominic High School is the largest co-ed, Catholic high school in the state of Missouri, offering a college preparatory education to over 1,100 students on our 50-acre campus. Located in O'Fallon, Mo., St. Dominic aims to educate with a higher purpose and form disciples of Jesus Christ in the Dominican tradition of prayer, study, community and service.

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