



December 2, 2020

Dear Visitation Family,

It is with genuine optimism that I share with you news about Visitation Catholic STEM Academy moving to a new location in the 2021-2022 school year. The attached letter from Archbishop Etienne shares the archdiocesan strategic planning vision for Tacoma. Visitation Catholic STEM Academy is part of the consolidation of four parishes into a new Catholic community in South Tacoma. Those parishes include St. Rita, Holy Rosary, Visitation, and St. Ann, with St. John of the Woods existing as an affiliated parish of the new larger parish. As part of this overall strategic plan, Visitation will move three miles east, to a school building located at St. Ann parish. The exact address is 7025 S Park Ave, Tacoma, WA 98408.

Moving the school signals a strong desire from the archdiocese and the local parishes to invest in a bright future for Visitation. The new school location also provides some noteworthy benefits for students and families. The schoolyard is large, includes grass, and bathrooms have external access to the playground. The main school building is a single story, which will enhance the school's plans in terms of facility maintenance and updating. The multi-cultural parish is vibrant, which aligns well to our school's mission and beliefs. Lastly, the school will be more centrally located in South Tacoma and the neighborhood that surrounds the school has the economic capacity to support a Catholic school.

The profound reasons that we love the school will remain the same- our school teachers, leaders, and families will just be moving to a new location. In upcoming months, we will be introduced to new members of our community. As an established and enthusiastic school family, we will play an important role in contributing to the welcome and positive experience of our new Catholic community. The reasons we love this school can in turn be multiplied and shared with a great new cohort of people who share a love of faith and learning with us.

While I look forward to the potential and growth for the school, the feelings of loss must be acknowledged. This is not a time only framed by optimism, for there are fond memories tied to this location, which are real and meaningful. We abide in respect of every member of our community, which means that we share in the grief that will be experienced during this move.

Thank you for looking ahead toward the good things that this move will bring to our school. Thank you for sharing this experience as a school community, both bringing us closer as a school family, and readying the way to welcome students and new families into our lives.

With gratitude and prayer,

Marc Nuno
Principal