

FAQs for Trenton Catholic Academy

1. What is the plan for closure?

The Administration of Trenton Catholic Academy has announced that the school will close at the conclusion of the current school year. Students will be welcomed into any of the following schools for the 2021-2022 school year:

Notre Dame High School, Lawrenceville, ndnj.org

Our Lady of Sorrows School, Hamilton, olsschool.us

Sacred Heart School, Mount Holly, sacred-heart-school.org

St Gregory the Great School, Hamilton Square, stgregorythegreatacademy.org

St. Ann School, Lawrenceville, saintannschool.org

St. Paul School, Burlington, stpaulbrl.org

St. Paul School, Princeton, spsprinceton.org

St. Raphael School, Hamilton, srsnj.org/srs

2. Why is the closure taking place?

The decision was made after much prayer, reflection, and evaluation over a period of several years and centers on a financial shortfall that cannot be overcome. Unfortunately, the growing cost of providing a quality, innovative education has consistently outpaced tuition and fundraising income, leaving the school with a \$2 million deficit each year and a cumulative need for \$24 million in financial support over the past 12 years. Additionally, a special fund once established for the school has been nearly depleted.

Marketing and development plans to generate revenue for the school have been hindered by the coronavirus pandemic, which has dealt a serious blow to families' abilities to afford tuition.

3. Why was the decision made at this time?

The aim in making the announcement in early January – before Catholic Schools Week – is to provide school families time to research other schools and to prepare for this transition. Affording faculty and staff members an opportunity to explore their next steps is also a key objective.

4. What will the tuition be at the other schools?

The tuition at other Catholic elementary schools is in the same general price point as that at Trenton Catholic Academy Lower School. Notre Dame High School is priced a bit higher than the current tuition at Trenton Catholic Academy Upper School. To assist families in continuing their Catholic education, the Diocese will provide a tuition stipend for the 2021-2022 school year, based on need, to all current TCA students who enroll at Notre Dame High School or Catholic elementary schools affiliated with the Diocese or one of its parishes. This stipend will be in addition to any diocesan assistance that the student may be eligible to receive.

5. Will there be any transportation available for students to attend other Catholic schools next year?

Transportation has not been determined at this time but receiving schools will work with parents to assist in the process. All eligible students will either receive transportation or aid in lieu of transportation funding, as determined by their particular sending district.

6. How will this decision affect faculty and staff members at Trenton Catholic Academy?

Employment at TCA will conclude with the closing of the school. A team of diocesan representatives will meet with faculty and staff members to review severance and benefits packages, and to offer assistance in finding employment.

7. What will happen to the transcripts and records of Trenton Catholic Academy students?

All current Trenton Catholic Academy students will have their transcripts and records sent to the school that they attend for the 2021-22 school year. Historic records of graduates and other former alumni will be maintained as part of the Diocesan archives.

8. How will the students' grade point averages and class rank be calculated?

All current Trenton Catholic Academy students who enroll at Notre Dame High School will have their grade point averages re-calculated based upon the grading scale utilized at Notre Dame High School. Class rank will then be determined based upon the re-calculated grade point average.

9. What school activities will be available to TCA students in their next school?

Students will be invited and encouraged to join any number of student activities offered at Notre Dame High School. To learn more about NDHS' clubs and athletic programs, visit www.ndnj.org.

On the elementary level, TCA students will be welcomed into any activities or athletic programs sponsored by the school. Visit the school websites listed above to learn more.

10. What will happen to the Trenton Catholic Academy building?

Trenton Catholic Academy, in conjunction with the Diocese of Trenton, will evaluate the optimal use of the property. Attempts will be made to utilize the property with the hopes of maximizing the positive impact for the community.

11. What efforts will be made to help the transition process be as smooth as possible for Trenton Catholic Academy students and parents?

The TCA Administration team, along with representatives of the Diocese, will work together to ensure that students and their parents are assisted in the transition process. Area Catholic elementary schools and Notre Dame High School will hold open houses exclusively for current students and parents of Trenton Catholic Academy.

Each family will be invited to meet with Mr. Michael Knowles, TCA president, to develop a transition plan, which will address registration, tuition and funding, school activities, transportation and more.

