

Dear St. Wenceslaus School Families,

I want to share with you information regarding a proposed addition to St. Wenceslaus School. Around 11 years ago (2007) the results of a survey given to the St. Wenceslaus Parish showed that one of the major things the Parish wanted to see done was to get rid of the current portable building next to our school. To replace the portable an addition to the school would be needed. This addition would not only help replace the two rooms that were in the portable building but also give a room to call home for our speech teacher instead of being in the kitchen commons area. Also, a larger computer room has been a need as our current one cannot fit all the students from the same classroom in it. Around 7-8 years ago when putting together this plan it was combined with a new parish hall which could then be used for our students to eat lunch in instead of walking back & forth from Bishop Neumann. This combined plan was going to hook on to both the school & church which would cost around \$4-4.5 million. At the same time this new building campaign started the Diocese of Lincoln also started their "Joy of the Gospel" campaign. Due to both campaigns going on at the same time St Wenceslaus was unable to get enough money pledged to break ground on this addition. In the past year anyone that had given money to this campaign was given options on where they could have their money go to (church roof, sanctuary renovation, new church sound system, church doors, school addition, etc..). This left around \$900,000 to be used toward a proposed \$1.4 million addition to our school.

In the past I have never shared this information with all the school families due to the fact that it was a combined church/school campaign and not all of you are from the St. Wenceslaus Parish. Now that this new campaign is mainly for the school with a few benefits for the church I feel that anyone that has a strong interest in making sure Catholic education continues to improve & thrive for the future. I have attached several items that I hope will give you a better understanding of the entire project. Please know if I wanted to type out the perfect explanation that it would have been WAY TO LONG to read. For anyone that is interested in knowing more about this please don't hesitate to visit with Fr. Faulkner, Mary Bartek or myself. Also, feel free to forward this on to anyone that you feel would be interested in supporting this addition.

To conclude, it is very important for everyone to understand that any pledge given to the "Lightning Campaign" cannot replace what you give to your parish collection on the weekends. All of our parishes are struggling financially and need their weekend collections to increase more than what they are getting now and if giving to this campaign keeps you from increasing what you give to your parish then unfortunately we discourage you from supporting this campaign.

Thanks,

Mike Weiss
St. Wenceslaus Principal