



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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McDonnell Area Catholic Schools and McDonnell High School Foundation Announce Landmark Land Acquisition for Future Development

Chippewa Falls, WI – McDonnell Area Catholic Schools (MACS) and the McDonnell High School Foundation are pleased to announce the purchase and planned development of approximately 57 acres of vacant land from the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, St. Joseph's Hospital. This land, formerly known as County Farm, is located south of the former hospital building near the Chippewa River.

The Hospital Sisters and MACS share deep historical roots in the Chippewa Valley, dating back to the region's pioneer days. For over 140 years, MACS has provided families with a Catholic, faith-based educational option and currently serves more than 600 students in grades 3K through 12. Notably, the missions of both MACS and the Hospital Sisters are closely aligned—Catholic education and healthcare have long been two pillars of service in the community.

A Vision for the Future

MACS President Molly Bushman expressed her enthusiasm for the acquisition, stating, "We believe this opportunity is a testament to God's timing. Having recently completed our 2030 Strategic Plan, MACS is preparing for a significant capital project to expand our capacity and renew our campuses. Our enrollment has grown by more than 30% in the past six years, and we are eager to collaborate with alumni, supporters, and the community to envision a campus that will both secure and transform the future of Catholic education in the Chippewa Valley."

The sale closed on February 6th with Vatican approval. While development plans remain in the early stages, MACS envisions utilizing the property as an expanded school and community campus. This future campus will further MACS's mission by fostering the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation of young people through a Catholic Liberal Arts education, vibrant student life, athletics, and the arts. Additionally, MACS will explore opportunities to share the Gospel, promote the common good, and encourage spiritual wellness and healing.

In the short term, MACS aims to use the land for outdoor classrooms and nature studies, supporting sustainability initiatives and integral ecology.



A Call for Collaboration

MACS welcomes community members and organizations interested in potential partnerships for the development of this property. For inquiries, please contact **advancement@macs.k12.wi.us**.

For further questions, please reach out to the Dean of the Chippewa Deanery, **Fr. Jesse Burish**, at **j.burish@macs.k12.wi.us** or **715.723.7108**.

McDonnell Area Catholic Schools is a WRISA-accredited PreK-12 school system and a proud Member School of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education. Currently celebrating over 140 years of partnering with parents to provide a faith-based education, MACS offers robust campus ministry, award-winning academics, athletics, the arts, and the building of servant leaders for today and the future.

Our Mission: Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.