

To sign up to help with
a capital campaign:

<https://shmorrilton.org/HelpSH26>



Follow-up

At the end of 2025, Sacred Heart conducted a feasibility survey regarding several campus improvement projects. We appreciate everyone who took the time to respond and share your thoughts.

The consensus from the survey supports a capital campaign that will enable the school to expand the kitchen and cafeteria and to build a central office at the front of campus. The responses to the other projects proposed, including those for the parish, were almost completely split down the middle, with 50% of the responses in support of the given project and the other 50% split between uncertain or no.

This feedback, combined with multiple conversations with parish and school families, tells us that we should pursue the kitchen/cafeteria/office projects further, but also that we should simultaneously dig deeper into other needs for the both the parish and school. Next steps include:

- Retention of the architect firm H&N from Conway to help guide us through a long-range planning process whereby we collect information and ideas and work to create a campus plan to meet the current and future needs at Sacred Heart.
- Host a second townhall discussion, this time with H&N architect Joanna Nabholz. This will be held April 19th at 5pm at the Maus Warehouse. We will then serve dinner at 6:00pm and hold the school endowment Legacy Society celebration at 6:30pm. *You are invited to attend either or both of these events and dinner. Please RSVP at akoonce@sacredheartmorrilton.org.*
- Seek additional input from all constituents. Please click the link above or complete the attached survey regarding the areas you can contribute your opinions.

While we are still in the very early stages for both of these endeavors, we also wanted to answer a few questions that were presented in the survey responses. Please see the these FAQs on the back.

Legacy
SOCIETY DINNER

Join us for a Celebratory Dinner in Honor of our
Sacred Heart Endowed Funds + Legacy Society Members

Sunday, April 19, 2026
5:00pm Happy Hour and SH Campus Planning Townhall
5:30pm Dinner
6:00pm Legacy Society Recognition

Maus Warehouse, 1221 Hwy 9, Morrilton, AR 72110

RSVP to Alisha Koonce
akoonce@sacredheartmorrilton.org
501.354.8113

This year's event will begin with a follow-up townhall discussion with H&N Architect Joanna Nabholz, regarding improvement plans for Sacred Heart Church/School, followed by dinner and then the Legacy celebration. Families are invited to attend one or both events and dinner - please RSVP.

Sacred Heart Endowment Fund is pleased to recognize and celebrate:

The families and alumni who have created a lasting legacy for Sacred Heart School by establishing **Family and Class Endowed Funds**

+
Members of the Legacy Society - individuals who have indicated their intention to leave the Endowment Fund in their estate plans. To join the Legacy Society or learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/SHLegacy>

+
All supporters of the Sacred Heart Catholic School Endowment Fund

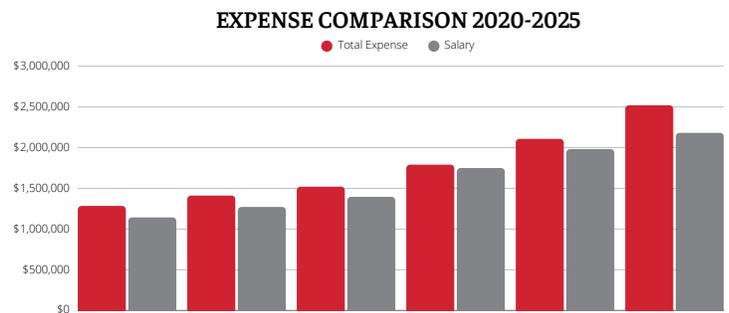
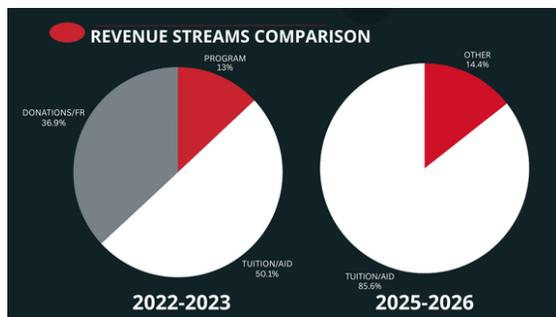
Families Welcome!
Please bring your family members and/or classmates to celebrate!
RSVP BY April 15, 2026
akoonce@sacredheartmorrilton.org

Response to Survey Feedback

As we begin to embark in this process, we want to first respond to comments submitted in the survey. We maintain our commitment to transparency for our families and our donors. Although not all questions and concerns may be addressed here, please know that they have and will be shared with the appropriate people as we move ahead in this process.

1. Is the school financially sound and how are Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) affecting school finances? Are teachers being fairly compensated? What will happen if EFAs go away?

Sacred Heart School has been so incredibly blessed over the years. In an effort to maintain affordable tuition, the school has relied heavily on donations and fundraisers for many years. EFAs have been a game changer for our school in that they allowed us to compensate our teachers and staff more adequately. The school budget went from being supported 50% by tuition and 50% from other sources (primarily fundraising and donations) to now receiving 85.6% of the school budget from tuition/aid (which includes EFAs). EFAs also reduced the amount of tuition paid by families, making it more affordable for more people. As for the effect of potentially losing EFA funding - we share this concern. For that reason, a finance committee was established several years ago to carefully monitor and plan as best we can for the future of the school. The fact is that not participating in the EFA program would have been immediately detrimental to our school, as public school teacher salaries increased to \$50,000 under the LEARNS act. Sacred Heart made a concerted effort to apply the increase in revenue from EFAs to our teachers and staff as well and our salaries are now above the Diocese of Little Rock pay scale and within 92% of the Arkansas public school starting salary. For more financial information, the school publishes an annual report which may be found on the school website - <https://www.sacredheartmorilton.org/school/Support/Annual-Report>



2. Does the school's enrollment support growth?

In 2012, Sacred Heart added pre-school classrooms for 3 and 4 year olds, with a total capacity of 27 students. For 26-27 and 27-28, both classrooms are full with waiting lists. In K-12, enrollment over the past 20 years has fluctuated between 219 to 270.

Currently in year 3 of the EFA rollout, all but two SH students have an EFA and enrollment grew by 32 students (a 14% increase). Enrollment for 2026-2027 is projected to grow by at least 5% and several classrooms are near capacity. For the first time, the school is considering splitting a junior high class if space and staffing will allow. New classrooms will have a major impact on the school's ability to sustain this growth.

This year, the school has seen an increase in Hispanic students and will be adding a Spanish/ESL faculty position in 26-27.



While we celebrate an increase in enrollment, we are also cautious in our admissions process. All applications are thoroughly reviewed to ensure that we can meet the students needs. We also consider the size of each class to ensure an ideal teacher/student ratio. In keeping with diocesan policy (and our own pre-k admissions policy), we have implemented priority acceptance standards that give preference to Catholic students, followed by those with siblings at SH, and finally date of application. We welcome families from all faith backgrounds but remain committed to maintaining the Catholicity of our school. Non-Catholic students have consistently represented 25%-30% of our student population for decades and that remains true today.

3. What about academics, Catholic teaching, and other extracurricular activities for students?

This is a broad but important topic and we welcome direct conversations to fully address concerns. Some general areas of improvement/emphasis have included:

- The addition of 14 new courses to our academic course catalog and improvements to the Honors program
- We opened a Learning Services classroom for students needing extra help. This is utilized by students who receive instructional pull-outs, but also for those who require quiet testing space or additional services. It is also equipped with a life skills classroom and staffed by qualified and credentialed faculty.
- Our pre-k curriculum in the 4-year-old room is the same one used in kindergarten, so as to best prepare our students (3-year-olds also follow a more play-based curriculum).
- Our religious education programs utilize the *In Spirit and Truth* curriculum and we will be adding Theology of the Body as well.
- Parents have requested investment in a Gifted and Talented program, which may become available contingent on a continued increase in enrollment and available classroom space.
- Extracurricular options for all students are especially valuable. For this reason, Sacred Heart has invested in non-athletic programs to include e-sports, robotics, drama, choir, Quiz Bowl, etc.

4. Why is kitchen/cafeteria expansion needed and how will this benefit the school?

While it is true that all schools must rotate classes through for lunches, and that will still be necessary after this expansion, Sacred Heart does face special challenges as a PK-12th grade school. Lunches are delivered from the cafeteria to the PK everyday and then lunch begins at 10:45 for elementary and 12:15 for high school. Those last in line have a short window to finish lunch and we anticipate that this will improve with the expansion. As for the kitchen itself, improvements have been needed for a long time. In the past couple of years, the school has received grants that have allowed for the addition of new equipment including the walk-in cooler / freezer that was recently installed, warmers, and a floor mixer. These additions required some demolition work which led to realistic conversations about a true renovation. Much of the equipment in the existing kitchen is currently not up to code and there is no fire suppression system installed. These will also be addressed by the renovation.

5. How will moving the school office really benefit the school? What about the need for more classrooms?

Classrooms are a crucial issue at Sacred Heart. The long term planning that will take place with H&N is meant to fully address these. In the meantime, this project and the addition of a central office will

- Direct all traffic (students checking in/out and visitors) through one accessible entrance and one exit
- More efficiently organize staffing between office and classroom needs

- Minimize security exposure for students by eliminating the need to walk outside between buildings
- Ensure that the principal and assistant principal are more present in both the high school and elementary
- Provide space to relocate programs and add classrooms. Although this is not yet confirmed, options exist to: move the special learning services program into the current high school office, freeing up two classrooms in that building; move therapy services and nurse into the existing elementary office, freeing up the current teacher lounge as a classroom and the nurses office for a faculty lounge (necessary to provide bathrooms in that building for teachers and staff)

6. What about the pavers in front of the gym? How will they be maintained?

We fully intend to preserve the pavers and will work with the architect for creative ways to incorporate them into the additions.

7. What about the other projects in the survey?

- For the church sound system, a committee has taken on the project and is working toward the right kind of replacement system. The parish should be able to take this project on directly apart from the capital campaign for about \$15,000.
- The batting cages have been fully funded by a private and anonymous donor to whom this project was important. An announcement about this will be forthcoming very soon.
- The parish hall and gym are both major projects that, along with the need for more classrooms, will be fully discussed in the long-range planning process. The feedback provided will be considered and more will be sought.

8. What about the comments given to both the school and church regarding other specific needs and improvements not otherwise addressed?

Thank you for sharing this feedback. It is being shared with the appropriate groups so that we can begin to work through it and consider options. Of course, if you are interested in a more direct or specific answer, please do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Stephen, Mrs. Roscoe, or Mrs. Koonce. We welcome and appreciate your interest and support.

9. What happens now?

As listed on the front page, we will begin forming a committee to work on the planning process. If you are interested in contributing your time and talents, please complete the survey or reach out to us directly.

10. How can I stay more informed about parish and school projects?

If you are not already, please be sure to sign up for weekly parish and school emails:

- Parish: <https://sacredheart48.flocknote.com/home>
- School: <https://shmorriton.org/PrayerEmail>

Sacred Heart Catholic Church & School

www.sacredheartmorriton.org

501.354.8113

Fr. Stephen Hart, Pastor
fatherstephen@sacredheartmorriton.org

Mrs. Jennifer Roscoe, Principal
jrosoce@sacredheartmorriton.org

Mrs. Alisha Koonce, Director of Advancement
akoonce@sacredheartmorriton.org

2026 SH LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY

Please complete the form below to indicate your interest in planning for the future at Sacred Heart.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

How are you affiliated with Sacred Heart School/Church? Please check all that apply:

Parent of Sacred Heart Student

Alumni of SH

Parishioner of Sacred Heart Church

Other: _____

This process should encompass all areas of the campus and how they function. Please consider how you are involved at Sacred Heart and areas where you can contribute opinions in the process:

Parish (such as music ministry, youth, formation, etc): _____

School (such as STEM, arts/music, athletics or activities, etc): _____

Regarding fundraising, are you interested in serving on the committee? Yes No

Which area of the committee are you most interested in?

Leadership Gift Solicitation

Gift prospect division: alumni

Gift prospect division: parents

Gift prospect division: parish

Marketing/Communications/PR

Events/Receptions

Outreach (notifying constituents about events, etc)

Where most needed

Other

Have you ever served on a campaign committee in the past? Yes No

Additional Comments/Feedback: _____

*Please drop in the collection basket or return to Sacred Heart School
106 N. St. Joseph, Morrilton, AR 72110*