



Catholic School **MARQUETTE**



MISSION STATEMENT

Marquette Catholic School is dedicated to academic excellence formed in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Marquette nurtures each child's growth in knowledge, faith and Christian stewardship fostering a life of holiness and virtue.

"THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY, NOT TOMORROW." – ST. JOHN PAUL II



Our History

In the early 1900s, the mining industry established and a surge of immigrants settled on the Iron Range. These immigrant families founded several Catholic churches and Marquette Catholic School. A tribute to those families' deep faith and willingness to sacrifice, these institutions continue to foster disciples of Christ today. Marquette Catholic School has been in operation for over 100 years and currently serves more than 200 pre-K through eighth-grade students from all over the Iron Range.

OUR CURRENT SPACE

Our original 1917 school building has served us well over the past century, but it has reached the end of its practical lifespan. The building is too small for our current numbers, inhibits our ability to expand, lacks adequate restrooms, does not meet accessibility standards, has roofing issues and needs a full conversion of its heating system. The estimated bill to renovate, modernize and upgrade our current building is overwhelming, and we still wouldn't have room to grow. But something must be done, or we will have no choice but to close the school. ***To keep Marquette thriving, growing and fostering faith in our Iron Range families, Marquette needs a new facility to best carry out its mission.***



The grand vision is to create a space that will allow Catholics throughout the Iron Range to flourish in faith. A leadership group comprised of several valuable voices – including Bishop Daniel Felton, Fr. Brandon Moravitz, the finance council and school board – formed to investigate our options as we face the reality of our current facilities. Seemingly almost providential, we learned that the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) building and property was available. This building and property have the potential to become the space we envision, a place that can truly be a light to the entire Iron Range Catholic community. The plan is to buy the building and property and transform it from a corporate building into a modern school facility that feels like a Catholic school and has the educational necessities of today, including standard classrooms, science and STEM labs, fine arts rooms, a school kitchen, a cafeteria, office space and a welcoming, secure entrance.

Though the specific plans and details are still being decided, the new school building and property will have:

- Twice as much space as our current school building, and all on one level.
- An estimated capacity of 550, potentially allowing our enrollment numbers to more than double.
- Separate elementary school space and middle school space, with age-appropriate amenities for each.
- A temporary chapel for 200 to 250 people that could later be converted into additional classroom space.
- Room to grow by adding more sections of each grade and, God willing, a high school in the future.
- Cafeteria space dedicated to the school – not shared with the church.
- More office/administrative space for both the school and the parish offices.
- Better highway access, making the campus more accessible for families in the region.
- Significantly more security measures, as well as a safer location.
- Abundant green space for school children to run and play, as well as proximity to the city park.
- Ample parking (about 400 parking spots) with improved safety for dropping off and picking up students.
- Handicapped-accessible entrances, classrooms and restrooms.

Estimated cost to purchase the property and renovate the building: \$4.9 million



IF WE DECIDE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PURCHASE, we anticipate opening the doors to our new school building for the 2023-24 school year. But a new school building for our pre-K through eighth-grade students is just the start of our vision. Future plans include building a standalone fieldhouse that would hold two full gymnasium floors and a large cafeteria/ social space, which would be used for the school, parish and the entire community. Our plans also include relocating Holy Spirit Parish to create a cohesive Catholic community, though the current effort is focused on the immediate need: a new school building.



By the Numbers

CURRENT SCHOOL BUILDING

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING



Campus size

1.77
acres

15
acres



Building size
(in square feet)

33,000

60,000



Classrooms

11

22



Restroom stalls

9
(0 handicapped-accessible)

25



Parking stalls

30

416



Purchase price

\$0 (paid off)

\$2.9 million



Estimated renovation costs

Over
\$8 million

\$1.5 million -
\$3 million





WHY CAN'T WE RENOVATE THE EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDING?

Renovating and upgrading the current school building would cost an exorbitant amount. The conversion of the heating system, roof repairs and upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act would cost more than buying and refitting the BCBS building and property. The current building also doesn't allow Marquette School to grow. To offer an Iron Range Catholic education to all, we need to have the space to add more sections of grades and, someday, a high school.

WHAT ABOUT A NEW CHURCH? WHY ARE WE FOCUSED ON A NEW SCHOOL INSTEAD OF A NEW CHURCH?

Frankly, the new school is a more urgent need, and that's why we are focusing on it first. But keeping Marquette and Holy Spirit Parish united is important – both are crucial to growing the Catholic culture and mission of our community. A new church on the same campus as the new school is in our future plans. We want to build a parish that will be a beautiful place to worship and to grow our parish life. We saved the stained glass from St. John's Church – some of the most beautiful in Northern Minnesota – and will use it in our new church. For now, though, our top priority is to provide a safe and secure environment for our children to grow in both faith and knowledge.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

At this point, the best way you can help is to participate in our planning study. This study will gauge community support for this project, while identifying donors and volunteers necessary to move it forward. We would be most grateful if you would please complete our online survey and accept the invitation to sit down for an interview if you are asked. Thank you so much for being an integral part of this important initiative.



MARQUETTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL