

Q & A: Why **CHANGE** our name?

I have truly felt blessed to be a part of the 60 years of tradition at St. Bernadette – a place of academic excellence and a strong formation of faith and values. I feel equally blessed to be a part of the exciting plans for St. Bernadette’s future. When Sr. Mary Paul (the Superintendent of the Archdiocesan schools) and Ms. Paty Welagala (our Associate Superintendent) proposed that St. Bernadette School become a “model” for the Archdiocese and become a multiage academy fostering Inquiry Learning skills and the implementation of technology in all curricular areas, the idea of changing our name to **St. Bernadette Catholic Academy** became a serious consideration.

Last spring Sr. Mary Paul and Paty Welagala recommended that I form a committee of teachers and parents to investigate some schools that foster multiage learning and/or the Inquiry Learning model. As we visited Holy Family Catholic Academy on the Northwest side and Ancona Academy in Hyde Park, we became more excited with the prospect of our school becoming an academy. It was very important that the traditions of “St. Bernadette” and being “Catholic” remain a part of us yet we felt that we were becoming something more than the traditional school of learning. When we looked up the definition of “academy” in the dictionary it was defined as “a school of specialized learning” which is exactly what we are planning to become.

Our children will learn differently than others. The days of “Open up your Science book to p. 34 and begin reading” are over. We will still use textbooks as one of our learning tools but there will be many other additional learning strategies - websites on the computer, trade books, collaborative learning, learning centers, creative projects, and manipulatives. Learning at **St. Bernadette Catholic Academy** will be exciting and fun – check out our website (sbschool.us) for future updates.