



## Archdiocese of Seattle

# New Catholic High School Feasibility Study

February 2024

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### The Call for Catholic Education

We know how much our current Catholic school families desire to continue their children's Catholic education into high school. Here in the Archdiocese of Seattle, we are blessed with committed parents and families, visionary leadership, and the prayerful support of many friends and benefactors for our schools. And yet, we are acutely aware that families in our Northern Deanery (serving Whatcom, Skagit, and Island counties) do not have any local Catholic high school options.

### Why are we looking into a new Catholic high school?

To fulfill the Church's calling and its Catholic education mission, we are assessing the need for a new Catholic high school to serve our Northern Deanery. The Deanery has commissioned an enrollment feasibility study in cooperation with the Catholic Schools Office, pastors, and lay leaders from our regional parishes. We are grateful for the generous support of our local community, the Ferry Foundation, and Fulcrum Foundation in this endeavor.

### What is involved in studying this opportunity?

We are partnering with Meitler, a nationally recognized Catholic planning firm, to conduct this feasibility study. Meitler has over fifty years of experience with Catholic schools and new school planning across the country. Local community and Catholic demographic research are already underway, and an **online market research survey will be sent out in the spring** to families with children in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and younger. This survey will assess parents' willingness to enroll their children at the proposed new high school.

### When and where would the new school open?

The decision of whether to open a high school in the Northern Deanery will depend on interest, enrollment demand, and funding. Possible locations are being assessed and would be chosen based on the feasibility study feedback and financial viability.

### Next steps

Additional information will be shared throughout the study process over the next four- to five-months. We ask for your prayerful support as we take this step forward towards expanding the availability of Catholic secondary school education in our Archdiocese.