

Low Enrollment Forces School Closure

(KAIR)--A local tradition of Catholic education comes to an end.

That comes as the Board of Trustees for the Leavenworth Regional Catholic School System announces the planned closure of Leavenworth's Immaculata High School.

In a statement posted on the school's website, Board Chair Rolly Dessert says the closure will be recommended to the Archbishop, and is tentatively expected to become effective June 2.

The statement says ending grades 9-12 would allow a restructuring for a more viable preschool through 8th grade Catholic school.

A declining enrollment is cited as the reason for the decision to close.

Because of the low number of students, Immaculata lacks “the resources to provide any further financial assistance” from the existing foundation. All funds from the 2015 Spring Appeal fundraiser campaign will be expended to meet current obligations in light of what the statement calls a “significant” cash flow problem.

The Board of Trustees plans to use the next 3 to 5 years to focus on a restructuring plan for the elementary and middle schools to achieve what the statement calls “a better posture for the schools to be sustainable.” Additionally, the Board plans to develop a new long-term plan that “leverages funding sources beyond the local community.”

Due to the announcement of the planned closure, the Board of Trustees will hold an information meeting at 7:00 on the evening of January 12 to address questions and to provide more information on planned future actions.

Many Signals Communications