Teutopolis Grade School Renovation Project

A vote for our continued tradition and future generations

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
TEUTOPOLIS, IL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Understanding the facts before voting on the Teutopolis Unit #50 referendum

Why do we need to make improvements to the building at all?

The state requires a facilities assessment to be completed every few years, and after the most recent assessment completed in 2024, it became clear there were several ***critical*** items that need to be addressed:

- Restrooms in the main section of the school have not been updated since it was built in the 1950's and 1960's
- Sewer lines and water lines are all original infrastructure and are showing *critical* signs of deterioration that could cause major issues if they collapse including school closure until fixed.
- Many areas are not ADA compliant.
    - Students in wheelchairs have no access to the library and during rainy or cold weather, they must use outside ramps to get to the cafeteria.
    - Restrooms throughout the building that are used during school and other community events are not accessible for those that need it.
- Classrooms have been maintained but have not been updated to the new standard of learning.

How does this benefit the students and the Teutopolis Community?

- Updated restrooms with ADA accessibility for our students and community during events. Our building will finally be ADA compliant.
- Installation of elevators will allow access for students and community to all parts of the building
- Updated classrooms, and educational spaces for special needs students that provide a better learning environment for all our kids and retention of our best teachers for decades to come.
- Updated stage and auditorium will provide a benefit to the drama and music program and other community events
- Centralized library and cafeteria will benefit the students and community and allow for easier expansion for future growth.
- All the items above continue the tradition and support our future generations

Have questions?
Email sfc@stfrancischurch.com
or call 217-961-6404

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What is the estimated annual/monthly cost impact to our property owners?

	$15 Million **15 Year Option**		$15 Million **20 Year Option**	
Fair Market Value Home	**Annual Tax Impact***	**Monthly Cost**	**Annual Tax Impact***	**Monthly Cost**
$100,000	$84	$7.00	$51	$4.25
$200,000	$186	$15.50	$114	$9.50
$400,000	$389	$32.42	$239	$19.92

*Includes $6,000 Homestead Exemption.

What happens if the referendum fails - The district must still address the items in the facility assessment report for required restroom and ADA updates, which will impact property taxes. Since these mandatory fixes are unavoidable, it is more cost-effective to renovate the entire building correctly from the start.

Why is the school district spending money on a building it doesn't own?

- The partnership with St. Francis Parish has been financially beneficial to the school district. The school district has paid $0 for rent of a 78,000 sq ft building over the past 5 years, which has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers. St. Francis Parish **does not gain financially from the partnership.**
- The school district and the parish have agreed on an agreement that would not require any rent during the repayment of the bonds and discussed extending the lease up to an additional 50 years. The school district is responsible to keep the facility updated and maintained in proper order. This means continued savings for years to come.

Why not just build a new building?

- Choosing to remodel our existing building for $15 million instead of constructing a new one for $30 to $40 million saves taxpayers millions of dollars.
- *This partnership has resulted in Teutopolis Grade School excelling in academics and sports over many years.*

Why is this important to you as a member of St. Francis Parish?

- This unique partnership that started in 1954 as a *handshake agreement* has allowed the parish to provide daily religious education to children to help instill a strong foundation of faith.
- A vote for this renovation project enhances the continued tradition of the St. Francis daily religious education program.
- This facility has been a huge asset to our community and provided a venue for many parish events for many decades.

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