



St. Odilia School

3495 N. Victoria • Shoreview, MN 55126-3895

Dear Families,

We have much to be grateful for as a community. In particular, we are grateful for those who have donated their time and resources as we have spent the previous 8 months planning a new playground and outdoor classroom for our children! Today, I am excited to announce more details of this project and show you the final schematic design.

As stated before, we aimed to build a newer, safer, bigger play area, replacing the current playground initially installed in 1995, so that our children would be able to utilize the playground everyday. Currently with our 20-year-old playground, due to the size restraints and consistent maintenance, certain grades can only use it once a week. We want every child to be able to play on it everyday, and this design does just that.

Not only will all students be able to use our new playground everyday, but it also has some unique characteristics such as a basketball court, many climbing devices including a rope pyramid, a one of a kind climbing hill and slide, more benches, and a specific bench called a “buddy bench” where students can sit if they are looking for someone to play with, creating a more inclusive environment. Thank you to the Playground Committee who helped design this project to meet our schools needs and desires. See the attached designs.

There is still a need for more financial resources to get this project done, but I remain committed to having this design be the one that kids see the first day of school! That being said, if you are looking for ways to help and financially support this project, please let me know.

One of my favorite parts about this project for our kids is that **we, the St. Odilia community**, will be building it for them! In the early to mid-part of August we will build this playground together. Currently we are tentatively planning on August 13-16, but more information and ways you can help will be coming out as soon as we receive confirmation on the shipping date.

The current playground will be removed and salvaged by a local company then provided to another school in need. Starting on Monday July 14th, the current school playground will be off limits as we prepare the removal of the equipment; however, the preschool playground in the southeast corner of the church will still be accessible.

We are also planning on installing a one of a kind outdoor classroom for kids to use during the year. See the attached inspiration and design (see attached for the concept, location is still being determined.) This is a very exciting time for our community! I am grateful for your support in the project and looking forward to collaboratively working with you to making this happen for the children of St. Odilia.

Sincerely

Brian Ragatz
Principal

Catholic Community of St. Odilia

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