



## Frequently Asked Questions

### DePaul College Prep

#### Fr. Gordon Campus

- 1. Is the school closing?** No. In fact, the school is getting stronger. Thanks to academic support from DePaul University, the school is now better prepared to educate students and to become another strong Catholic high school option which north side parents are asking for.
- 2. Why does the name need to change?** Gordon Tech's equity has eroded over the course of the last decade. The current strategic direction of the school requires a solid repositioning to better meet academic needs and fund facility and curriculum improvements. To build a sustainable financial model for the future, Gordon Tech needs to be relevant in today's marketplace. The new name reflects the many improvements now in place at the school and signals a new beginning for the school.
- 3. Isn't this just the same old school with a new name?** Absolutely not. The academic improvements and professional development opportunities introduced since 2012 which build on earlier improvements made in 2011 by the school's leadership, represent an entirely new academic environment.
- 4. When will the name change take place?** The name change will become effective in summer 2014.
- 5. Will the diploma for the graduating class of 2014 be from Gordon?** Yes. The changes will occur in the summer of 2014.
- 6. Are you saying that Gordon has not provided a strong education in the past?** Gordon's founders and sponsors, the Congregation of the Resurrection (CRs) recognized that academics and enrollment at Gordon were not competitive and despite high demand in the neighborhood for another Catholic high school option, local families were not choosing Gordon. In 2012, the CRs invited DePaul University to help it develop a stronger academic curriculum and develop strategies to increase enrollment.
- 7. Why is DePaul involved at all?** DePaul was invited by the CRs in 2012 to help Gordon improve its academics so that the school might develop strategies to improve its financial stability. DePaul's interest is in strengthening Catholic high school education options in Chicago. The academic partnership with Gordon Tech is an extension of the University's urban, Catholic and Vincentian mission.

8. **Will the name change affect tuition?** Many factors affect tuition, but the name change does not.
9. **Who made the decision to change the name?** After a lengthy process of meetings and communications with faculty, parents, students, alumni, area pastors and principals, families of prospective students and the CRs, the Board of Directors evaluated the data and information it received and recommended rebranding and renaming to the school's Sponsors. The CRs who also participated in the process, accepted and approved the Board's recommendations.
10. **Did DePaul request the name change?** No. DePaul University did not request the name change.
11. **Why the name DePaul?** The name reflects the strong and continuing academic partnership with the University, is a national brand and represents a respected Catholic educational institution of higher learning. Many of those brand equities will benefit the high school.
12. **What happens to the Gordon Tech Alumni? How will you continue to honor the Gordon history?** Gordon Tech alumni will continue to be an integral part of the high school. The alumni will continue to be recognized for their contributions and for their history which is the foundation on which the new school is built. The Fr. Francis Gordon Endowed Scholarship Fund has been established to benefit the relatives of Gordon Tech Alumni and alumni will be encouraged to support that scholarship. Currently, children of Weber and Gordon alumni are eligible for tuition assistance and there are no plans to change that policy. Additionally, the board has voted to create a Heritage Committee to ensure that the school's history and heritage are appropriately celebrated and maintained. Those efforts will incorporate additional recognition for the Weber alumni and their heritage as a CR high school.
13. **Will the athletic teams still be named the Rams?** Yes.
14. **Will the school colors change?** To acknowledge the history and traditions of the school, the school colors will incorporate the orange so strongly associated with Gordon Tech and the board will consider adding another color to represent the future direction of the school.
15. **Will there be new school and athletic uniforms?** Yes, new uniforms will be phased in over the next few years in consultation with the school administration.

- 16. What is the role of DePaul University ?** DePaul University will continue to support and expand its academic partnership with the high school including extension of in kind resources, professional development, curriculum, administrative and academic expertise, college planning and counseling, college-specific educational resources and initiatives.
- 17. How much money is DePaul giving Gordon Tech?** DePaul University is not giving money to Gordon. The University provides significant academic expertise and physical resources to make the school academically viable and attractive to prospective students. To become financially viable, the school must meet the academic and co-curricular expectations of area parents, pursue an aggressive development strategy to provide financial aid to those students unable to pay full tuition, and engage in capital fundraising to address deferred routine maintenance and other capital needs.
- 18. Is DePaul taking ownership of the school and the building?** No. DePaul University is not taking ownership of the school or the building. DePaul is not buying the school. DePaul is not taking over governance of the school.
- 19. Is DePaul running the school?** No. In 2013, the CRs turned over governance of the school to the board of directors who continue to run the school.
- 20. Are the school's administration and academic leadership team remaining?** Yes.
- 21. Who owns the school and the grounds?** The Congregation of the Resurrection continues to own the school building and the grounds. In 2012, the CRs and the Board entered into a 10 year lease of the building and grounds. The Board is responsible for funding all capital improvements to the building.
- 22. What is the role of the Congregation of the Resurrection after the name change?** The CRs continue as the school's sponsors and to ensure its Catholicity. They will continue as they do now, to assist the Board in creating an inclusive, welcoming and supportive learning environment; and are integral to fostering a deep commitment to Catholic education that embodies the school's core values of: Faith, Respect, Excellence and Service.