

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – QUEEN OF PEACE TRANSITION

### **ACADEMICS**

Will my daughter's GPA transfer over to St. Laurence?

*Yes, since Queen of Peace is on the same GPA scale as St. Laurence, we will be able to honor her GPA.*

Will my daughter's credits transfer over?

*Every student's transcript will be reviewed on an individual basis, however we are committed to finding out what is needed to make sure each student is able to fulfill requirements and graduate on time.*

How will class rankings, Valedictorian and Salutatorian be handled?

*The girls who transfer in will be held to their own separate class rankings from the current St. Laurence students. Neither the boys' nor girls' class rankings will be affected by the transition. This was a method used by schools that underwent similar transitions in the past. Class rankings will not be combined between boys and girls until the Class of 2022.*

Will classes be single-gender?

*We want to provide all students undergoing the transition the single-gender education they signed up for. As such, all core classes will be single-gender. We will also have some optional coed elective offerings if a student is interested.*

Will there be separate graduations?

*No, boys and girls will graduate in the same ceremony.*

How do exams work in the 30-minute period?

*It is the responsibility of our teachers to make sure our students can finish the tests in the 30-minute period. If needed, teachers are able to create multi-part tests that take place over two periods. St. Laurence also has a testing policy that limits the amount of tests in one day for students.*

What is St. Laurence's average class size?

*On average there are 25 students per class room.*

What is the student-to-teacher ratio?

*St. Laurence has a 13:1 student-to-teacher ratio.*

When can the girls pick their classes?

*St. Laurence students typically pick classes in mid to late March. If we receive the necessary information from Queen of Peace families by that time, we hope to put those students on the same timeline.*

What will the schedule look like?

*St. Laurence begins school at 7:57 am and ends at 2:33 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; we also have a late start every Wednesday and begin at 9:27 am. On regular school days, we have 12 30-minute periods, where students go to their core classes in science, math and English twice a day.*

Would letters of recommendation be helpful for placing students in classes?  
*While letters of recommendation are not necessary, we would gladly accept them.*

What if my daughter has an IEP?  
*If your daughter has an IEP, please include a copy of the paperwork with your transcripts.*

Why does St. Laurence have 30-minute classes?  
*Our 30-minute classes allow our students more time with their core classes of science, math and English, which they attend twice a day.*

Will the girls be able to take your ACT prep course?  
*Yes. St. Laurence offers all of its juniors a free, 10-week ACT Prep Course. We have seen very positive results thus far, with students averaging a 4-point increase in composite scores by the end of the course. We are excited to extend this class to our new students.*

What is the student-to-counselor ratio?  
*Our student-to-counselor ratio is currently 250:1. We are already looking into hiring another counselor to assist in the transition.*

Are you committed to graduating the girls, no matter the size of the class?  
*St. Laurence stands committed to serving your daughter and helping her graduate.*

What is the percentage of female teachers?  
*43% of teachers at St. Laurence are females.*

Will you hire teachers from Queen of Peace to fulfill the new needs of the increased enrollment?  
*This week we will start to reach out to Queen of Peace faculty members to gauge their interest in coming to St. Laurence. Whoever we hire, they will first be going through our interview process to make sure that they are able to teach our project-based curriculum. Over the last 5 years we have made great additions to our faculty, and we want to make sure that whoever we hire fits into our culture.*

Will support be available for the college admissions process?  
*Yes, students will have availability to our counselors. We plan on hiring another counselor in order to assist in the transition. If a student already applied to colleges, they should contact the college to find the next course of action. As we always advocate, the parents' role is also crucial in the application process.*

What kind of curriculum does St. Laurence use?

*Our project-based curriculum focuses on real world problems and situations that are solved in a team-driven setting.*

Who develops the curriculum?

*Our curriculum is developed by our faculty. This gives us the opportunity to constantly assess ourselves and improve our students' learning experience.*

Will the girls have access to participate in leadership opportunities?

*St. Laurence is proud of our leadership program, which gives students outside experiences that provide leadership mentoring. We also have character leadership classes that are offered to sophomores and organizational leadership classes that are offered to juniors and seniors. We look forward to offering these to our female students.*

What technology do students need?

*Prior to the news of Queen of Peace's closing, we were having internal discussions on whether or not we were planning to do full iPad integration in the school. While we are in the process of reviewing if we will have full iPad integration, all sophomores will need to have an iPad.*

How many service hours are needed to graduate? Will service hours carry over?

*St. Laurence students need 20 total service hours to graduate. We will honor all previous service hours that students completed at Queen of Peace.*

## **ADMISSION**

Is there a deadline for admission?

*Our Academic Leadership Team would like to begin its review process as quickly as possible. As such, we are requesting transcripts, financial aid forms and a \$280 registration fee by Thursday, February 23, 2017.*

How do we submit our transcripts?

*Students or parents can drop off their transcript, registration fee and financial aid information to St. Laurence's main office at the south entrance. Students can also drop it off to a liaison at Queen of Peace, set up by QOP parent Eric Vates.*

## **FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS/FUNDRAISING**

How much is tuition?

*This year's tuition is \$9,950, plus a \$280 registration fee and Family Raffle (30 tickets per family, \$10 tickets. Whatever is not sold is added to tuition). Our Board of Directors has not yet reviewed what next year's tuition will be, however President Joe Martinez has a commitment to make Catholic education affordable and plans to maintain that commitment. In the last 5 years, St. Laurence's tuition has only been raised \$700 total.*

How is tuition paid?

*St. Laurence uses FACTS, the same system that Queen of Peace uses.*

Do scholarships follow the girls to the next school?

*Queen of Peace has stated that they intend to honor all merit-based scholarships throughout the duration of their transferring students' high school careers, as long as they go to a Catholic school. In addition to these, St. Laurence recognizes Big Shoulders, Daniel Murphy Scholarships, HighSight Scholars and HFS Chicago scholars. For scholarships from outside organizations like these, the student's family will have to reach out to them individually to see if the scholarship follows the student.*

Will QOP parents have to re-do FACTS?

*If there is a boy in your family who attends St. Laurence, there should be an option to switch over to St. Laurence in the dropdown. Otherwise, families will have to re-do their FACTS information. Parents will receive an e-vite from St. Laurence to update their payment plan.*

Are there funds in place to make facility upgrades?

*While St. Laurence is currently in the middle of a \$5 million capital campaign, its funds are not specifically allocated to outfit our building for girls. We have had initial discussions with alumni representatives from Queen of Peace that give us confidence that we will have their support in providing female students a quality Catholic education.*

What are fundraising expectations?

*All families at St. Laurence must participate in our Family Raffle. Each family will receive 30 tickets which are to be sold for \$10 each. Whatever is not sold will be added to tuition.*

When is the deadline to apply for financial aid?

*The deadline to apply for financial aid is March 22.*

What is the parking fee?

*Parking spots are available for \$100.*

## **ATHLETICS**

What sports will be available to the girls?

*Our initial plan is to offer girls volleyball, basketball, soccer and softball. After those, we will gauge the interest of our students in order to provide additional offerings. Sports like cross country and track will practice under our current coaching staff and compete in their own female competitions. In addition, if an individual sport such as bowling or golf does not receive enough interest from the female student body, the athlete will be able to practice with the boys team and participate in the girls postseason IHSA tournaments.*

Will coaches from Queen of Peace be hired at St. Laurence?

*We will be reaching out to coaches from Queen of Peace to encourage them to apply for these positions. No matter who we hire, they will undergo the same interview process that every coach goes through. We need to make sure that they fit our culture. We've had a lot of success*

*over the past years with our programs, and we want to make sure that success translates to our girls' teams.*

Will transfers from Queen of Peace be eligible to play sports next year?

*Yes, we have spoken to the IHSA and they reinforced that transfer students from Queen of Peace will be eligible to play sports at St. Laurence next year.*

Will Queen of Peace's facility be used for sports?

*We will be reaching out to the Queen of Peace Board of Directors to see what opportunities are available. The Province Leader does not have an immediate issue with St. Laurence using the gymnasium and lockers under these two conditions: they do not incur any additional costs and it does not interfere with the selling of the building. St. Laurence will still have to get this approved by the Queen of Peace Board of Directors.*

What class will the girls be in for sports?

*We are currently in discussions with the IHSA to see how the change in student body will affect our classification.*

What athletic league will the girls compete in?

*We have already contacted the GCAC to inquire about the potential of replacing Queen of Peace in the conference.*

What if a girl wants to play a male sport that is not offered to females?

*By IHSA state rules, a school is required to allow girls to play a sport for which a female alternative is not available (i.e. wrestling, football).*

## **ACTIVITIES**

What honor societies does St. Laurence have?

*St. Laurence currently has the National Honor Society. Current members of Queen of Peace's NHS will be admitted into our NHS. Just like all other activities, we will gauge student interest in additional honor societies.*

What programs do you know you won't be able to provide?

*Our programming is dependent upon student interest.*

Will activities be coed?

*We will encourage collaboration between genders for our after school activities.*

What if the girls are interested in activities that you do not already provide?

*We are always proactive in listening to what our students are interested in participating in. If there is enough interest in a new club, we will review the steps we need to take to provide it.*

Does St. Laurence have driver's education?

*Yes. We have already partnered with Queen of Peace for driver's education classes, so this will not be a major transition.*

What other activities do you offer?

You can find a list of some of our established activities [here](#).

### **TRANSITION/COED-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS/MISCELLANEOUS**

How many girls indicated interest in coming to St. Laurence?

*Our survey saw 188 total respondents from Queen of Peace families. Of those families, 180 stated they would be interested in transferring to St. Laurence.*

Does St. Laurence have the facilities to accommodate female students?

*Space is not an issue – we have the classroom and locker space to cater to an increase in enrollment. We are currently reviewing our facilities to see what opportunities there are to convert boys bathrooms into girls bathrooms. We are also reviewing the potential to use Queen of Peace's locker room and gym with their Board of Directors.*

Will the girls be Queen of Peace students in the St. Laurence building?

*No, all students will be St. Laurence Vikings. We want these girls to be a part of our community and culture, and this assures that. Female students will not be confined to one area, as there will be classroom availability throughout the school.*

Will lunch be coed?

*We still need to review time and space availability. As of now, it is possible that lunch will be coed.*

How will you ensure girls feel accepted?

*Our faculty will be undergoing training on how to teach in a coed environment and handle situations appropriately. Additionally, St. Laurence carries a strict anti-bullying policy that will not change. We will continuously think of ways to ensure that girls feel a part of our community and are treated with dignity and respect.*

Are there shadow opportunities?

*On Wednesday, March 1, Queen of Peace students will have the chance to meet our welcoming community – from our students and faculty to our counselors and nurse. Students will be able to share the sports and activities they are interested in and sit down with our academic leadership team to review their transcripts. If they cannot make it, we will work with QOP to prepare another similar day.*

Can the girls meet the female teachers when they visit?

*Yes, we will make female teachers available to meet the girls.*

What transportation is offered?

*St. Laurence and Queen of Peace have worked together with transportation for years to provide private bus services. Routes are dependent upon ridership but run northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest.*

What uniforms will the girls wear?

*We are still deciding the specifics of uniforms for our female students. The families will be notified when the ad hoc committee decides.*

What is the timeline for the ad hoc committee?

*The ad hoc committee is not tied to a specific timeline, rather it will continuously advise throughout this transition process. As new decisions are made, parents will be notified.*

Will the spirit shop be available on the days the girls are at St. Laurence?

*Yes, we will make sure the spirit shop is open on days when girls visit St. Laurence.*

Will non-QOP students be able to transfer in?

*Currently, our plan is to allow non-Queen of Peace girls to transfer in, just as we would let any other student transfer in. All transfer students undergo an academic review prior to their acceptance. The only class we will not accept female students for is the Class of 2021.*

Do you have parents clubs?

*St. Laurence will continue to have a Mothers' Club and a Fathers' Club. Both groups will be welcoming to any parents of transfers and would love additional support.*

Who is your cafeteria provider?

*St. Laurence uses Country House, which provides breakfast and lunch for students every school day.*

Who is on the ad hoc committee?

The ad hoc committee chair will be Dr. Robert Smith. Other members include Dr. Donna Kiel, Dr. Ravio Rao, Mrs. Kelly O'Brien, Mrs. Patricia Gaytan Perez and Mr. James Rojas.