

## Facility At A Glance

- **Overview:** Austin Catholic Academy has been designed with a long-term focus on durability and traditional design that meets the goal of providing a quality Catholic educational resource for up to eight hundred 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students in Northern Macomb County. It is a traditional facility that will foster and encourage collaboration among students and staff.
- **Architect:** French Associates, Rochester, Michigan
- **Contractor:** George W. Auch Company, Pontiac, Michigan
- **Key Features:** Austin Catholic Academy has been designed to provide a quality Catholic educational experience with state-of-the-art technology as a key consideration.

The future chapel will allow for a worship opportunity for the entire student body and will become the major exterior element giving the facility a distinctive image for the Catholic community.

“Green” features include daylighting, super insulation, renewable energy and storm water management. Artificial lighting was designed for no more than 1.0 watt per square foot, further optimized by modulating photoelectric daylight and occupancy sensors. Increased insulation in the walls and roof, along with slab perimeter insulation, reduce heat loss and gain.

A media center is centrally located to act as an anchor to the building, both academically as well as architecturally. There are four academic zones where students will spend a good portion of their school day. Convenient to these academic zones are the centralized science rooms on the upper floor. This area also radiates around the Media Center and creates a very prominent presence.

A separate large technology lab will act as a magnet to each academic zone. Housed in the hub near the media center, this classroom/lab can either be operated by the media center or used in direct support to the academic teams. Portable technology, accessible to students and faculty, will play a major role. This portable technology is achieved through a wired and wireless network, a local data network and an intranet for use by students and teachers. Ceiling-mounted projectors, smart boards, video broadcasting equipment and sound systems have also been added.

The site has been planned for future athletic components that will be located directly north of the building. A competition stadium, baseball fields, tennis courts, as well practice areas and future team rooms, will allow for physical education opportunities along with competition sports.

- **Planning Process:** Planning for Austin Catholic Academy has been under way for almost a decade.

Since 2000, French Associates has assisted the Archdiocese of Detroit, as well as the Austin Catholic Academy Committee, in evaluating the development potential of the overall property.

The planning pace increased in 2005 with the planning committee directed by Fr. David Brecht of the Augustinian Fathers and Brothers that will operate the school with Fr. Brecht as its first headmaster.

A series of collaborative interactive workshops involving the architects and school planners were held. They listened to those involved in the education process and together the group developed concepts to create a learning environment that will support the instruction models established by the Congregation for Catholic Education.

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