

Project Summary - Chesterton Academy of the Rogue Valley

Owners/Members: Jon Bates

Address of property: 600 Beebe Rd., Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon

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Chesterton Academy of the Rogue Valley is a classical high school, in the Catholic tradition. Our mission is to provide a joyful learning experience and deliver a quality education using an integrated curriculum centered on the Catholic faith. We will be a tenant organization at Shepherd of the Valley Catholic church to provide promote faith-filled activities in a Catholic setting to students from all over the Rogue Valley.

Oversight of Chesterton Academy activities is by a governing board of directors. A headmaster will be responsible for daily operations, overseeing five faculty members, and ensure the safety and welfare of the current roster of 12 students. For the 2023-24 school year, we will start with a 10 person Freshman class, and a two-person Sophomore class. We are projecting 49 students in grades 9-12 and eight faculty members by the 2025-26 school year (our third year of operation). Faculty, staff, and volunteers will each undergo Safe Environment training and receive a criminal background check. For the next three academic years, our organization will be separately raising funds to either build or lease a facility in Central Point that will allow us to increase the number of students we are safely able to support.

The location we are leasing for our school is two existing modular buildings, already consistently being used for religious learning activities. Each modular is comprised of two classrooms (four in total), each secured by their own doors and locks from the inside. Restrooms and facilities are available for use in the adjacent parish hall since there is no running water or sewage in the modular buildings. When invited, this same parish hall will be where our students enjoy lunch activities with family and parish members as part of our commitment to be an active part of the parish community. In the Fall of 2023, after the weather cools, the adjacent empty field is anticipated to be seeded with grass seed to establish a physical activity field for outdoor sports and exercise. During times of inclement weather, the parish hall will also be available for light, indoor physical activity.

We have no plans to modify the buildings or classrooms to occupy and use this space. We do intend to file requisite building permits to modify the inclined walkway leading up to the classrooms. Our intent is to add a secondary egress route via stairs and paver walkway to the east.

Our school year will run from August 28, 2023 to June 7, 2024.