

# Questions & Answers

## **Why is this happening?**

- As the greater Fox Valley area has experienced a change in population, it has given us the opportunity to reevaluate our current single sex model. We are always looking at ways to keep Marmion moving forward as a leader in spiritual growth, leadership and academic excellence. The Monastic Community and Board of Directors believe this is what will make Marmion viable and vibrant for the future. We have a phenomenal opportunity to share the Benedictine charisms with a whole new set of students!
- This model will foster academic growth, mutual respect and social skills needed to succeed in life while still upholding the religious values and traditions that define our school.
- Marmion history dates back to 1933 and has undergone changes to adapt to the needs of the community while staying true to the mission. These examples include: closing of the Lake Street campus in the early 1970s, becoming Military Optional with the addition of the LEAD program in the early 1990s and closing the residential program in 2002. While change can be difficult, these changes have positively impacted the evolution of Marmion Academy.
- We recognize the importance of traditions rooted in single sex experiences. Certain programs, retreats and events designed to foster brotherhood, or sisterhood will continue as part of the Marmion experience.

## **When is this going to happen?**

The private phase of this process is complete. The Marmion Board of Trustees has recommended a shift to this new, hybrid model. The Monks of Marmion have voted and have approved the recommendation of the Board. We will now begin the public phase which includes developing new programs, professional development for teachers and staff and inviting the contributions of all stakeholders to ensure the best experience for all students.

- Implementation is scheduled for the 2026/27 school year with accepting freshman and sophomore young women. Classes will remain single sex freshman and sophomore years with coed classes beginning junior and senior years.
  - Current freshman and sophomore students will be juniors and seniors when the young women join our community, but those young women will be part of the Freshman/Sophomore single sex classes. They will, however, be in the hallways and participate in many of the accelerated classes and activities that the young women of Rosary are currently enrolled in.
  - Current junior and senior students - nothing is changing.
- Remember, Marmion is used to teaching young women with the elective classes we have offered to them for more than 40 years with band and choir, and more recently AP computer science, LEAD, AP stats, law classes and our CPARC classes.

- Marmion will always be Marmion. Our mission, core values, and traditions will remain unchanged.

### **What about the Marmion Brotherhood?**

This new model will not impact the Marmion Brotherhood. This experience will have single sex classrooms for freshman and sophomores as well as single sex retreats and other experiences all four years that will continue to support the Brotherhood as it is today. Young women will also have opportunities to form and grow a sisterhood and both young men and young women will come together to become “One community in Christ”.

### **What about Rosary?**

Communication with the Dominican Sisters of Springfield has been ongoing for over two years. As mentioned in a recent letter from Prioress Sister Mary Paul, Rosary College Prep will maintain their single sex identity and we will continue to support their mission.

### **Do we have room?**

Yes! Plans were already in the works to renovate Benkert Hall and Athletic Locker rooms and bathrooms. Once renewed, our facility will be able to support a much larger enrollment.

### **What if I have more questions?**

In the near future, we will be sending out information that includes surveys and meeting dates to obtain stakeholder feedback. We want to hear your ideas as we move forward.