



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy

The Change

Q: Why was this decision made? Why now?

A: The ongoing uncertainty around the future of the Holy Rosary Church and the campus is causing enrollment, marketing, and fundraising problems for the school.

Q: What are the benefits to this move?

A: We see many benefits in the move to the Fife campus:

- The school will have weekly masses, a church for children to celebrate the sacraments and strong pastoral leadership from both Father Michael Radermacher and Father Anh Tran of St. Martin of Tours.
- The parish will also provide financial support to the school, which will help the school's annual budget.
- The Fife school facility is in great shape with a brand new roof, a new heating system throughout the school, air conditioning in all classrooms, new carpeting and paint in all classrooms, a gym/auditorium with a stage, and a completely updated commercial grade kitchen. The Fife

campus is very peaceful and has a huge field on which the kids can play. Additionally, the campus is much safer than the current one in Tacoma.

- With this move, we will change the educational model. The new educational model will allow students to have the same homeroom teacher every day, streamlining the communication between teachers and parents and allowing more time and flexibility with the teaching/instructional process since the students do not go between classrooms every other day, while still creating bilingual learners focused on Spanish language acquisition.
- This change will also allow the school to increase enrollment because students can enter the school in all grades, instead of only Pre-K and K (which is the current protocol). Also, the school will serve an area that currently has no Catholic school (Fife, Milton, Edgewood, Swan Creek, and Brown's Point), instead of competing for enrollment in the Tacoma area, which has 3 other Catholic elementary schools.
- Finally, the school recently received a technology grant to institute a 1:1 technology program, which provides the school with brand new interactive white boards that will move to the new facility.

Q: How will this solution help HRBA financially?

A: Currently, the school receives no financial support from Holy Rosary Parish. In fact, the school has incurred additional bills relating to the campus that were traditionally covered by the parish (prior to 2019). As part of St. Martin of Tours, the school will now receive financial support from the parish.

Q: Will the community have a steady priest presence at the school? What about a church for masses and sacraments?

A: Yes. Since HRBA will be joining the St. Martin of Tours community, Fr. Michael Radermacher and Fr. Anh Tran (Pastor and Parochial Vicar) will be serving as the school priests. They will celebrate masses and sacraments, as well as spend time in the classrooms working with the kids.

Q: If there is no final decision yet on HR Church, why is the school deciding to move?

A: The ongoing uncertainty around the future of HR Church and the campus is causing enrollment, marketing, and fundraising problems for the school.

From Old to New

Q: How will this move and the model change impact the school's mission?

A: Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy's mission will not change. The mission is: "Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy offers a safe and caring community that supports parents as primary educators for their children. Founded to serve any family committed to Catholic education, Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy strives to educate every child in a Christ-centered environment, providing both an excellent education and a strong moral foundation. We are committed to diversity, accessibility, and excellence".

Q: Will the educational model change beginning with the 2020-21 school year?

A: The model will not change for the Pre-K, staying a full immersion 100% Spanish model. Kindergarten through grade 8 will change so that math, science, social studies, language arts (English), and religion will be taught in English. There will be one block of Spanish language arts taught every day with a minimum of 45 - 60 minutes in Spanish, depending on the grade level/age of the students. There will also be intro to Spanish classes for new Spanish language learners.

Q: What about all of the recent renovations to the Tacoma school building?

A: While the school has undergone significant renovations in recent years, including new bathrooms and an elevator, the school is still in need of approximately \$1 million in maintenance/renovations, including a completely new roof, tuck pointing of the brick, new windows, and heating for the 1st floor of the building. The prior remodeling was done before the problems with the HR church building and the uncertainty of the campus' future.

Q: What about the playground big toys and swings that were installed in the last year or two?

A: The two big toys, the swing, and the Gaga Pit will be moved to the new campus.

New School**Q: How far away is the new campus in Fife?**

A: Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy will relocate to the St. Martin of Tours Parish campus in Fife, which is 4.8 miles from the current school campus in Tacoma and typically an 8 minute drive. The address is: 2303 54th Ave E, Fife, WA 98424.

Q: Will there be other opportunities for Spanish at HRBA?

A: Yes. HRBA will continue to have opportunities for after-school clubs/activities in Spanish, such as Hispanic dance classes. The emphasis will be on not only Spanish language acquisition, but also on the cultural elements that make the HRBA community so special.

Q: The Fife campus currently has only 8 classrooms. Will space be a problem?

A: For the upcoming 20-21 school year, the school will be able to run a Pre-K through grade 8 model, due to current number projections in each grade level. The plan is to add portables to the campus for the 21-22 school year, which will be used for the middle school.

Q: What about the school's name and uniforms for next year?

A: The school will retain the name Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy and will keep all of the same uniforms and spirit gear.

Q: Will there be a change in tuition/fees for the 20-21 school year?

A: The tuition/fees will remain the same as what was published in the past several newsletters.

Q: Will there be a change to school hours, including morning and afternoon Extended Care?

A: There will be no change. Extended Care will still be offered from 6:30 am - 8 am and 3 pm - 6 pm. School hours will remain 8 am - 3 pm.

Q: What if I have already enrolled for next year and now I have changed my mind?

A: We respectfully ask that you at least tour the Fife campus before making this decision. However, if you decide you will not be returning next year and have already enrolled before this meeting (2/27/20), please let us know and we will refund your registration fee and void the contract for the 2020-21 school year. ***The school office must be notified (in writing) no later than March 15, 2020 to be able to void a contract and get your registration fees 100% refunded.*** After March 15th, the registration fee will not be refunded and the contractual obligations will be in effect.

Q: What about the teachers and classes for next year?

A: Hiring decisions will be based on enrollment. We will be able to determine that after March 15th. Additionally, we will determine whether a class will be a “stand alone” or a “multi-age/combined” class after March 15th.