



Sacred Heart Catholic Academy

115-50 221st Street

Cambria Heights, NY 11411

Phone: 718-527-0123 Email: shcaoffice@gmail.com

FAQs

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy (SHCA) building share with Merrick Academy Charter School (MACS)

1. Why is the SHCA building being shared?

The diocesan office estimates the SHCA building requires in excess of \$2,000,000.00 in CRITICAL capital improvements. For example: windows replacement, new roof, brick work repairs to building facade, etc.

Sacred Heart parish pastor (previously Fr. Hilaire Belizaire and currently Rev. Jean Delva) is SHCA landlord who is responsible for external SHCA building maintenance. Sacred Heart parish does not have \$2,000,000.00 to address the various critical building issues.

Representatives from the following diocesan offices can be considered the stakeholders for this proposal:

- Office of Financial Administration and Econome: **Very Rev. Patrick J. Keating, Esq**
- Rocklyn Asset Corp (Diocese of Brooklyn real estate office): **Ms. Coleen A. Ceriello**
- Superintendent of Catholic Schools: **Deacon Kevin McCormack**

2. Who made the decision to rent lease out SHCA space?

Given the lack of feasible alternatives to raise \$2,000,000.00 the decision was made by the following stakeholders:

- Office of Financial Administration and Econome: **Very Rev. Patrick J. Keating, Esq**
- Rocklyn Asset Corp (Diocese of Brooklyn real estate office): **Ms. Coleen A. Ceriello**
- Superintendent of Catholic Schools: **Deacon Kevin McCormack**
- SHCA landlord: Sacred Heart parish Pastor **Rev. Hilaire Belizaire**
- SHCA Board of Directors: **Kevin V. Punch**

3. What is the benefit to SHCA community?

The MACS 2-year rental income will provide a substantial amount of funds which will be applied to a prioritized list of capital improvements. Please note, the rental income funds will exclusively be utilized for SHCA building capital improvements.

Our Mission Statement

Sacred Heart Catholic Academy is a family community, one in faith, with students, parents and staff working together with reverence for God and respect for one another. As such, we strive to instruct, instill, and inspire each other to be responsible, productive, Catholic Christian members of society.



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4. Who negotiated the lease agreement with MACS?

Per standard diocesan procedure, lease terms were negotiated by Ms. Coleen A. Ceriello, Executive Director, Rocklyn Asset Corp (Diocese of Brooklyn real estate office).

Note, SHCA Directors (Kevin Punch and Harry Itoka) and Dr. Celestine participated in a few discussions with Ms. Ceriello and MACS representatives to determine proposal feasibility.

5. Why are SHCA parents/guardians now being informed about this plan on Aug 6, 2024?

Final lease terms were completed during the **week of July 29, 2024**. SHCA Board Chair Kevin Punch was the last signature on the lease agreement on **August 4, 2024**.

6. How long will SHCA building be shared with MACS?

The new MACS building is scheduled to be completed in 2 years and available for the 2026/27 academic year. Hence the lease is for 2 years.

7. What happens if the MACS construction extends beyond 2 years?

At that point, there will be a decision to either EXTEND the lease or TERMINATE the lease. I imagine this decision would include the following stakeholders:

- Office of Financial Administration and Econome: **Very Rev. Patrick J. Keating, Esq**
- Rocklyn Asset Corp (Diocese of Brooklyn real estate office): **Ms. Coleen A. Ceriello**
- Superintendent of Catholic Schools: **Deacon Kevin McCormack**
- SHCA landlord: Sacred Heart parish Pastor **Rev. Jean Delva**
- SHCA Principal: **Dr. Cynthia Celestine**
- SHCA Board of Directors: **Kevin V. Punch**

8. How many MACS students will be present in SHCA in Sep 2024?

MACS estimates:

- total of 150 6th graders will be in the building for academic year 2024/25
- total of 250 6th and 7th graders in academic year 2025/26

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9. What space will MACS students utilize in the SHCA building?

SHCA Pre-K for All and K thru 8th grade students will occupy 1st and 2nd floors.

MACS classrooms will occupy the 3rd floor. Also, MACS will have their administrative office in the 1st floor classroom on the north end of SHCA building (SHCA door closest to the church).

10. What is the MACS school day?

Subject Area	SHCA	MACS
School day	8:00AM to 3:00PM	8:30AM to 4:10PM
Lunch period	11:30AM to 12:30PM	12:55PM to 1:40PM
Entry/Dismissal doors	Center doors and South doors (by the flag pole)	North doors (by the church)
Emergency egress	All doors available	All doors available

11. What common areas will MACS students utilize in the SHCA building?

MACS and SHCA students will utilize the auditorium at staggered times.

Both SHCA students and MACS students will utilize the school nurse. Note, the nurse's office will remain in its current 3rd floor location.

12. What steps are being taken to ensure separation between SHCA and MACS students?

SHCA does not employ hall monitors. We are still vetting options. Two suggestions that require further vetting:

- Install additional cameras in the stairwells and throughout the floors
- Swipe cards for the MACS students (6th graders)

13. Is SHCA planning to merge with MACS?

No. SHCA is a **private Catholic school** where our Catholic Identity is a critical, non-negotiable component of who we are and what we aspire to instill in our students to help form productive members of society.

MACS is a **public charter school** and Catholic Identity is NOT a component of their identity.

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14. Is there a MACS uniform requirement?

Yes. MACS students are required to wear a school uniform.

15. Will there be any visible external MACS signage?

Yes. A MACS banner will be visible at the SHCA building north entrance (doors adjacent to the church) – which is designated for MACS student, staff, visitors entry/egress.

16. Will there be any SHCA building changes?

Yes, specifically:

- SHCA 3-K, Pre-K, K thru 8th grades will be consolidated on the 1st floor and 2nd floors
- SHCA counselors' rooms will be moved to the 1st floor

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