



## MCHS STEM CENTER

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### What does STEM mean?

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Universities, researchers, federal and state agencies and employers have acknowledged the United States needs to produce more graduates skilled in the STEM fields. An increasing number of careers will need skills in one or more of the STEM subjects.

#### Why is the MCHS STEM Center needed?

Marquette Catholic High School has long had a reputation for producing students who excel in the STEM fields. For example, Marquette's Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry, Physics and Calculus scores are annually above national and state averages.

<i>AP Calculus</i>	<i>MCHS 4.20</i>	<i>State 2.98</i>	<i>National 2.91</i>
<i>AP Chemistry</i>	<i>MCHS 3.11</i>	<i>State 2.65</i>	<i>National 2.63</i>
<i>AP Physics</i>	<i>MCHS 2.88</i>	<i>State 2.50</i>	<i>National 2.36</i>

Engineering and Technology students routinely compete and succeed against the most respected academic institutions in the State of Illinois and the St. Louis region. Annually, Marquette graduates students who go on to become medical doctors, researchers, health professionals, scientists and engineers.

The STEM Center will provide a "*State of the Art*" facility and equipment to support and further our academic programs. Labs for Engineering and Technology are non-existent currently. Meanwhile, Marquette's enrollment has grown by 76% over the past 10 years and averaged more than 410 students for more than **5** years, with available classroom space at **98%** capacity. Additionally, the

increase in available square footage will allow for the future repurposing of existing space to enhance Marquette's successful, and growing, Fine and Performing Arts programs.

### **Where will the STEM Center be located?**

The STEM Center will be located in approximately 10,000 square feet of the former Millers Mutual Building, across Easton Street, immediately west of the current gym entrance. The Center will be on the floor that is street level with Easton Street and will occupy approximately half of the total space on that floor. The space occupied by the Center will be on the eastern portion of the building for quick access by MCHS students.

### **Has Marquette purchased the building housing the new STEM Center, or will it in the future?**

Marquette is not purchasing the former Millers Mutual Building. Giant City Properties, LLC purchased the building in 2016 and has completed significant renovations throughout major portions of the building. Giant City Properties and MCHS have entered into a long-term lease. The STEM Center will be custom built to MCHS specifications.

### **How much will the STEM Center cost and how will it be paid for?**

The STEM Center estimated cost is \$1,600,000. \$600,000 has already been raised. The cost includes the new construction of three labs and four classrooms, lab equipment, smart boards, classroom furniture as well as a restricted fund to provide future funding for the STEM program. The school is working to raise the funds necessary to pay for the STEM Center from private donors, foundations and corporations. If you are interested in contributing to the STEM Center please contact the Development Office at 618-463-0585 or visit [www.marquettecatholic.org/stem](http://www.marquettecatholic.org/stem).

### **Will Marquette conduct a Capital Campaign to cover the cost?**

\$600,000 has already been secured toward the total project cost of \$1,600,000, with \$1,000,000 remaining. Marquette will conduct a "quiet" capital campaign and seek contributions from private individuals, non-profits, foundations and corporations to cover the cost of construction and equipment. Additional funds will be placed into a restricted fund, with a percentage of annual returns used to support the STEM program.

### **I contribute to the Marquette Annual Appeal, can I direct my Annual contribution to the STEM Center?**

Marquette relies on the Annual Appeal to support all academic, athletic and extra-curricular programs, as well as assist out students with financial aid. Please continue to support the Annual Appeal as you have done in the past. Any amount above your regular annual contribution can be directed to the STEM Center. The goal for the 2017-2018 fiscal year Annual Appeal is \$150,000. When this amount is added to the STEM Center estimated cost of \$1,450,000 the total amount to be raised is \$1,600,000.

### **Are naming rights available for my contribution?**

**Yes.** Naming rights are available for each of the three labs and four classrooms at \$100,000 and \$50,000 respectively.

**Can my contribution be paid in installments?**

**Yes.** Gifts of \$3,000 or more may be made in monthly or annual installments, over a period not to exceed 3 years.

**Who will use the STEM Center?**

The STEM Center will house most of the academic courses covered in the STEM learning area, and therefore will be utilized by all Marquette students.

**How will students travel safely back and forth between the main building and the STEM Center?**

The administration is working with the lessor and the City of Alton to determine the safest options for pedestrian traffic between the buildings. More details will be released once the plan has been finalized.

**How often will students move back and forth throughout the day from the STEM Center to the main building?**

The administration of MCHS is currently working to build student's daily schedules in a way that will minimize excessive back and forth movement. Once a final determination has been made, parents and students will be notified.

**Will student movement between buildings be monitored by MCHS?**

**Yes.** All movement by students between class periods will be monitored. The STEM Center and the space between the buildings will be equipped with security cameras which can be monitored from the main office.

**Will the STEM Center be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?**

Yes.

**Will the STEM Center be accessible by other tenants of the building not affiliated with MCHS?**

No. The same high level of safety that exists on the current campus will be maintained in the STEM Center. All doors to the school, including the STEM Center, will be locked and only accessible with an electronic badge issued by the school, or by access being granted through a live video screening system.