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ARCHBISHOP BERGAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL TO OPEN A NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Archbishop Bergan Catholic School, a ministry of St. Patrick's Catholic parish, is continuing to explore how it can serve families in the Fremont area. Since late 2015, an Early Childhood Committee consisting of administration, staff, parents and community members has been investigating and developing a plan to open and successfully operate an Early Childhood Education Center and Pre-Kindergarten program. In August of 2016, Archbishop Bergan Catholic School will open a new Early Childhood Education Center to minister to families with children that are at least three years of age and are toilet trained. The center will be located in the St. Patrick's Community Center on the corner of 4th and Union streets on the Bergan Downtown Campus.

-This new center will provide an academic environment for children in a preschool format in which children explore social development, gross motor skills, fine motor development and introduction to an academic environment.

-There will be a child care operation at the center that will take place from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm in order to provide convenience for families.

-Children that attend Bergan Elementary will be able to take advantage of the program by participating in a Before school care and After school care program operated at the site utilizing the connected St. Patrick's Auditorium as well.

-Students that utilize the Before and After care programs and attend Bergan elementary will have the opportunity to be transported via bus to Bergan Elementary School before school and be transported back to the Early Childhood Education Center after school.

-Along with this exciting new opportunity Bergan will now offer a Pre-Kindergarten program at Bergan Elementary. This program will operate using a more rigorous Ready, Set, Go academic curriculum, instructional technology, fine/gross motor development opportunities, and Kinder music.

"Archbishop Bergan Catholic School is excited to continue to look for opportunities to minister to all of our children regardless of their age. An academic educational environment should begin before Kindergarten in order to provide a child a successful entry into elementary school." --Dan Koenig, Principal

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If you would like more information on this topic or to schedule an interview with Mr. Dan Koenig, please call 402-721-9683 or email him at <u>dan.koenig@berganknights.org</u>.

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