

# Incarnation School Playground Renovation

Summer 2023



## Why is a playground renovation needed?

During the fall of 2021, school administration and maintenance contacted a playground company to make minor repairs to the structures. The coating had worn thin in high-traffic areas. The current playground systems are 15-23 years old (there are three that were installed over time). Once the playground representative saw the overall condition of the playground, it was recommended that a larger renovation was needed.

There has been a drainage problem for years, which has resulted in corrosion of the soil and rock beneath the surface of the playground. While the structures remain sound, there is long-term concern and the mulch washes away or pools in heavy rains.

It became apparent that after inspections and discussions with playground experts that the best plan was to remove the existing playground, raise the overall elevation, and install new equipment and a modern, track-type surface which is a safer and lower maintenance surface than the current mulch.

The new playground will include safety measures from outside entities as the playground will have deeply rooted benches and large flowerpots with balustrades hidden within. Berms will also be established around the street and parking lot sides of the playground.

Four bids were acquired, but the company which was ultimately selected, Playcare Playground Solutions, is well-known and respected within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The company is owned by a Catholic and he offers discounts for Catholic institutions. We received a 30% reduction in cost.

### Why Now?

Currently, the playground is still safe and passes inspection. We know this will likely change in the future and are being proactive to provide a safe place for our students to play. Planning, ordering, demolishing, and installing a new playground of this size is a huge undertaking and needs time. From the time the order was placed on the equipment to its projected arrival was nine to ten months, and we want all the work to take place over the summer months when the students will not need the playground.

### What are the costs?

The total cost for the playground is \$346,679. This includes demolition and excavation of the current playground, substrate and soil to raise the elevation, new equipment and solid surface materials, and all associated labor and costs.

The benches, pots, and landscaping needed are not included in the playground bid and will be contracted separately. There will also be a concrete walkway around the perimeter of the playground. We anticipate these additional costs to be approximately \$50,000.

Our total fundraising goal is \$400,000.

### How will we pay for this project?

All fund-raising goals for the school for the year will be to support funding for the new playground. The Crusader Club's Day of Giving event on November 29 will focus solely on generating 100% family participation for financial support of the playground.

The school and parish are partnering to establish a Playground Committee, which will communicate with families and create opportunities for giving.

The PTO will provide the down payment for the project. All funds raised throughout the year that are over and above the PTO's operational budget will be directed to the Playground Renovation efforts. This includes fundraising from: Crusader Classic, The FRY, The Crusader Club, and Day of Giving.

Lastly, there are many grants which will support playground improvements. We will be following all possible leads to seek out funding from supportive agencies.

## **Where can I donate?**

**A link will be sent out to all families on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, the eve of our Day of Giving, and will be added to the school website. Donations can also be dropped at the main office during regular hours or mailed. Information will be posted to social media, as well. Thank you for your generosity as we work for the future of our children and the school!**

## **Why should families invest in this for the future of Incarnation School?**

**Playground structures have a 20-25 year life expectancy, so investing now in the renovation for the playground creates a legacy for thousands of children yet to walk the halls of Incarnation School. Current parents may have future grandchildren who will become Crusaders and they will benefit from today's investment. This is an opportunity for current families and sponsors to leave a lasting mark on the school through a much-needed improvement.**