



SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT
At
Assumption Academy

Media Contact: Ed Vittardi
(440) 237-1032 • (216) 701-0500
evittardi@saint-albert.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Catholic School Model Debuts Sunday During Open House

Community is invited to explore first-of-its-kind partnership between two Roman Catholic schools

Broadview Heights, Ohio – January 23, 2019 – On Sunday, January 27, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the newly formed **St. Albert the Great at Assumption Academy** will host an Open House, during which residents of the surrounding community will explore the school's offering for children ages 3 through 8th grade. Part of the school's celebration of *National Catholic Schools Week*, the open house will also mark **the first official event since a partnership was forged between the two Roman Catholic elementary schools, St. Albert the Great and Assumption Academy, to resolve related challenges.**

Enrollment at Assumption Academy in Broadview Heights has been declining for several years while the waiting list for St. Albert the Great, located just 3 miles away in North Royalton, has increased to nearly 40 students. The waiting list represents, in part, a significant number of families who live in proximity to Assumption Academy yet choose to commute to St. Albert the Great instead. While St. Albert the Great is esteemed in the area, highly sought after for delivering a high-quality brand of Catholic education, Assumption Academy has lacked forward-thinking strategy necessary to thrive in a fast-growing, desirable community with increasing competition. School leaders believe intervention from St. Albert the Great will result in a course correction.

“Our hope is that this partnership will help sustain Catholic education for Broadview Heights and surrounding communities,” said Father Justin Dyrwal, pastor at Church of the Assumption. **“We look forward to the advice, partnership, and assistance from a neighbor in our time of need.”**

Rather than a merger, the partnership is an alliance with Father Ed Estok and Principal Ed Vittardi of Saint Albert the Great that aims to strengthen Assumption Academy as a stand-alone school while expanding St. Albert the Great's ability to serve families in the area. Per the agreement, St. Albert the Great will manage Assumption Academy for the 2019-2020 school year. **Change is already underway, as Ed Vittardi, Principal of St. Albert the Great, has assumed the role Head of School for Assumption Academy.** A lifelong educator with a track record for success in both the public and private school sectors, Vittardi is frequently present at Assumption Academy and has completed a full evaluation of the school's budget, programming, technology, and staff. Vittardi is expected to hire a new principal.

During the open house on Sunday, families considering the benefits of a Catholic education will have the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers, talk with school parents, and enjoy student demonstrations. Information on the school's brand new 3 Year Old Program, 4 Year Old Program, and Pre-K Program will also be available. To learn more, visit www.AssumptionAcademy.org or search **AssumptionAcademyBVM** on Facebook. ###

St. Albert the Great at Assumption Academy | 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, OH 44147
Phone: 440-526-4877 | Fax: 440-526-3752 | Email: sch_assumption@dioceseofcleveland.org
Website: AssumptionAcademy.org | Facebook: [AssumptionAcademyBVM](https://www.facebook.com/AssumptionAcademyBVM)