



July 19, 2023

RE: Dragon's Grove

Dear St. Margaret of Scotland Families:

I am writing with an update regarding our Dragon's Grove garden space. As many of you might be aware, the parish and school community have rented the Dragon's Grove space through the Land Reutilization Authority with the City of St. Louis for many years. This program allowed community members in the city to lease vacant or unused properties from the city for, in our case, a dollar per year. In March, the parish was notified that the LRA program was being discontinued and that our lease was ending.

Following this notification, we began looking into options to continue the Dragon's Grove program. After consultation with the Archdiocese, it has been determined that the land the garden currently sits on is not desirable for purchase, due to its use many years ago as a gas station. While studies conducted by the Department of Natural Resources have shown that the topsoil conditions are safe, our utilization of the land would be limited due to this prior usage. This, in addition to other factors, led the Archdiocese to decide against pursuing purchasing the current Dragon's Grove plot. We will be returning the property back to the city and will attempt to work with city officials and other community partners to ensure that the property is maintained.

Know that we value the education of your children and look forward to exploring options for continuing the program in some format, as it has become such a valuable part of our students' education and our community's experience at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School. As always, we will continue our mission of providing a quality Catholic education, rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, with an emphasis on diversity, inclusivity, service, and social justice.

Sincerely,

Patrick Holley
Principal, St. Margaret of Scotland
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