

CONCORDIA ACADEMY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS TO CLOSE BLOOMINGTON CAMPUS AT END OF 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

Bloomington, Minn. – Oct. 9, 2008 - The Concordia Academy Association of Schools will close its Concordia Academy-Bloomington location at 8201 Park Avenue South at the end of the 2008-09 school year. There are 105 students enrolled in the school in grades 7 through 12.

The Association cited low enrollment numbers, several years of budget shortfalls and fundraising difficulties in the current economic environment as reasons for the closing. Students, parents and staff were notified of the decision at meetings held at the school on Oct. 8.

“The decision to close Concordia Academy-Bloomington was extremely difficult but necessary given all the challenges,” said Lynn Henry, chief administrative officer of the Concordia Academy Association of Schools. “When it was clear that we would not be able to increase enrollment or raise the necessary funds, we felt it was important to make this decision sooner than later so we could do everything possible to help students and staff make a smooth transition to the next academic year.”

Previously known as Minneapolis Lutheran High School and Lutheran High School of Greater Minneapolis, the school – which opened in 1963 - has faced a series of financial and enrollment setbacks over the years. Concordia Academy began operating the school in 2004. Beginning in 2005, enrollment numbers grew but dropped by over 10 percent at the start of the current academic year.

“When Concordia began operating Lutheran High School in 2004, we knew our challenges were great,” said Henry. “But we also knew about the strong passion that many families, alumni and supporters had for the school. Sadly, the passions of our hearts do not always transfer to workable financial statements. At the end of the day, we could not downsize anymore and still offer a quality program into the future.”

At this time, Concordia’s Executive Council has no firm plans for the use of the property. In 1990, Lutheran High School purchased the former Northgate Elementary School from the Bloomington Public Schools. In 2005, a full-sized gymnasium was added. The 8.23-acre campus is adjacent to Bloomington’s Smith Park.

“We are looking to successfully complete this school year with all of our planned programs and events,” said Henry. “Our first concern is for our students, families and teachers. Above all, we want to ensure a strong transition into the next school year for every student and teacher.”

Concordia Academy-Roseville, like CA-Bloomington, is committed to the dual mission of spiritual growth and academic excellence. The school offers a similar comprehensive, college-preparatory academic program as CA-Bloomington. Over 90% of CA-Roseville’s graduates go on to post-secondary education. This year the Roseville school has 404 students in grades 9-12.

Parents and students are invited to learn more about CA-Roseville’s programs by visiting the website at www.concordiaacademy.com. Need-based financial aid is available and association tuition credits are extended to all families that are members of association congregations.