

## **Bishop Kearney High School Closure FAQ**

### **Why is Bishop Kearney High School closing?**

Declining enrollment and changing demographics, combined with increasing and reduced income have reached a point where operation of the school is no longer viable. This was a very painful decision for the Sisters of St. Joseph to reach, and was only made after a thorough examination of the school's financial picture, and exhaustive exploration of all alternatives.

### **Will the Class of 2019 graduate as planned?**

Yes, the current senior class should not be affected by this turn of events in any way. Graduation will take place as planned. It will be a bittersweet day as these will be the final commencement exercises of Bishop Kearney High School.

### **How will Bishop Kearney assist in student transfers?**

We have begun outreach efforts to nearby Catholic schools to inform them of our closing and to coordinate and facilitate student transfers.

At Bishop Kearney, we have established the following transition coordinators for each of the four classes in our student body.

- o Class of 2020: Anna Cantirino and Margaret Minson
- o Class of 2021: Shirah Dunphy and Brittany Sconzo
- o Class of 2022: Catherine Schmidt and Marie Elena Giossi
- o Class of 2023: Toni Ann Hayes

A transition coordinator will meet with each student and her family to review grades, Regents and academic goals, and to work on a new school placement. They will also review financial aid and scholarship information to determine if or how that funding can be applied to the new school.

For the Class of 2020, transition coordinators will also review the college application process to make sure every student has all of the necessary transcripts and teacher recommendations to make application.

Our transition team is making every effort to help the incoming freshman class of 2023 secure enrollment in another high school, and as often as possible, at a Catholic high school. Though these students have not had the chance to walk our halls, we consider them part of the Bishop Kearney family and will assist them with this process.

**Can I make new school arrangements for my daughter without coordinating with the Kearney staff?**

Yes. The transition team is here to help facilitate the process for the students, but if parents wish to take the lead and make their own arrangements, they are welcome to do so. If you need any additional support, you may contact the transition coordinator assigned to your daughter.

**Will scholarships be honored at new schools?**

We are reaching out to the many sponsors of our scholarship programs to ask that their generosity follow our award recipients to their new schools. We will make every effort to facilitate the transfer of all scholarships.

**Where can I get a copy of my daughter's transcript?**

Assuming all outstanding financial obligations have been met, transcripts will be emailed to current students free of charge.

**Are summer school classes continuing?**

No summer school classes will be offered at Bishop Kearney in 2019.

**What is the status of other planned summer events?**

Summer Experience and Volleyball Camp have been cancelled. Full refunds will be issued for families who have already paid for these events. The Welcome Bar-b-que for incoming families on June 27 has been cancelled.

**Is pre-paid tuition for the 2019-20 school year being refunded?**

Yes. All pre-paid 2019-20 tuition will be fully refunded during the week of May 13, 2019. Outstanding tuition balances for the 2018-19 school year are still due.

**What provisions are being made for the faculty and staff of Bishop Kearney?**

We will continue to meet all of our contractual requirements for salary, insurance and pension payments through August 31, 2019. We are grateful for their dedication and commitment to our students.

**What will happen to the Kearney building?**

The Sisters of St. Joseph do not own the building and are not part of future decisions regarding its use. When Bishop Kearney closes, the Diocese of Brooklyn will own the building, and will determine its future use.

**Will the PreK housed in the courtyard wing of Bishop Kearney continue to operate?**

While the future of the PreK will be decided between the Diocese of Brooklyn and the New York City Department of Education, we expect it to remain open for the time being.

**I am a graduate of Bishop Kearney. Will there still be reunion celebrations and networking opportunities for alumnae?**

The legacy of Bishop Kearney High School lives on in our alumnae. As women who shape the present and future, alumnae will undoubtedly take the lead in organizing reunions and events using the tools of social connectivity readily available in today's world.

**How will I be able to obtain an official transcript in the future?**

We continue to have a system for alumnae to request transcripts through [our website](#).

After August 31, transcripts will be available through the Sisters of St. Joseph. Requests will need to be submitted through the CSJ website:

<https://brentwoodcsj.org/contact-us/transcript-request/>

Employers looking to verify graduation information for an alumna may email [verification@kearneyhs.org](mailto:verification@kearneyhs.org).