

Subject: Marmion Together: Steering Committee Update & Reminder to Share Your Voice

Dear Marmion Faculty and Monastic Community,

Rooted in the Benedictine spirit of *listening with the ear of the heart*, we write to share a brief update on the work of the Marmion Steering Committee and the progress of the **Marmion Together: Expanding the Legacy of Excellence** co-educational transition.

Over the past five weeks, the Steering Committee has met consistently gathering in prayer, discernment, and action to ensure this historic transition honors the mission and values of Marmion Abbey and Academy. The committee's work is grounded in a deep respect for Marmion's legacy and a shared commitment to shaping a future that reflects our Benedictine call to community, hospitality, and wisdom.

Here are several key updates:

- **Stakeholder Surveys Distributed:**

Surveys have been shared with faculty, staff, students, families, alumni, and friends of Marmion. These surveys are essential in capturing your hopes, ideas, and insights about this transition. Several excellent suggestions have already emerged, including:

1. Adding the concept of "*sisterhood*" alongside our long-held value of "*brotherhood*"
2. Creating parallel community-building events—such as a **father-daughter dance** alongside the **mother-son** tradition

If you haven't yet completed the survey, we sincerely hope you'll take a few moments to do so. Your voice matters, and your perspective will help shape our shared future.

- **Committee Work in Action:**

Each subcommittee has been actively advancing the work of this transition:

- o The **Academic Committee** has drafted a comprehensive curriculum audit plan
- o The **Facilities Committee** has narrowed the selection of an architect to support inclusive and thoughtful design
- o The **Technology Committee** is assessing infrastructure and hardware needs to ensure readiness and equity
- o **Abbot Joel and Dr. Kiel** have been meeting one-on-one with committee members to deepen collaboration and accelerate planning
- o The full committee has also reviewed initial findings and concepts from **Maclyn**, the marketing firm supporting us in authentically communicating Marmion's evolving story

As always, our foundation remains grounded in the Benedictine values that have guided Marmion for generations. Together, we are committed to building a community where *brotherhood and sisterhood* thrive side by side, rooted in faith, scholarship, service, and leadership.

We thank you for your continued prayers, insights, and engagement. Please stay tuned for further updates and opportunities to participate in this exciting journey.

With gratitude and in the spirit of St. Benedict,

Abbot Joel and Dr. Kiel