

Academy of the Cross

A distinctive model of high school excellence in the Lutheran tradition

Relevant. Inspiring. Transforming.

Connects learning to significance.

Links passion with possibility.

Turns potential into purpose.

The Academy of the Cross embodies a look to the future. Since this school will bring alive a bold and exciting vision, this unique name has been chosen to reflect that boldness and excitement.

Questions and Answers about the Name Choice

Why is the tagline “A distinctive model of high school excellence in the Lutheran tradition” used?

- The tagline reminds us that, as we begin, we are a decidedly Lutheran organization.
- Later our program itself will carry the Lutheran distinctiveness, while continually inviting and welcoming all Christians into this new model of learning excellence at the high school level.

Why use the word “Cross” in the name?

- There is no single word more central to our beliefs as Lutherans than the cross of Jesus Christ.
- We will build a community of the cross. The cross is what draws us to Christ, and the cross is what draws us in community with each other. From the cross is where we are sent out to bring the hope and healing of Jesus Christ to others. To the cross is where we return for renewal along the way.
- I Cor. 2:2 – *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

Why is the word “Lutheran” not included in the name?

- Leaders of the organization noted the example set for decades by our Lutheran colleges and universities who do not use the word Lutheran, but decidedly choose to live their Lutheran connection in the very fabric of the learning environment.
- The name alone does not make the environment Lutheran. Those who live the culture do. The school will seek to be a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod so that it may extend calls to educators who have been trained as LCMS church workers.
- This school will serve and support all Christians and congregations who desire to better understand their vocation as Jesus’ followers. As St. Paul reminded us in Eph. 4:1 we are to *lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*

Why is the word “Valley” no longer in the name?

- The view is to the future and to newness that brings relevance for today.
- The solid connection to the tradition of Lutheran secondary education in the Fox River Valley will be deliberately made by what is done. The graduates of “Valley” are Christian leaders in all walks of life all over the world. The best way to honor that leadership and the training that created those leaders is to build a culture that will continue to prepare faith-filled people equipped to be of significant service and positive influence in the years ahead. This is an unwavering commitment of the **Academy of the Cross.**

Why was the word “Academy” used instead of “High School?”

- The word academy is by traditional use associated with secondary education and schools who specialize in some realm of study. Our specialty is to be a distinctive model of high school excellence in the Lutheran tradition.
- The word emphasizes that this is a community seriously dedicated to learning.
- Finally, it allows for expansion of grade levels offered in the future without a change in name.