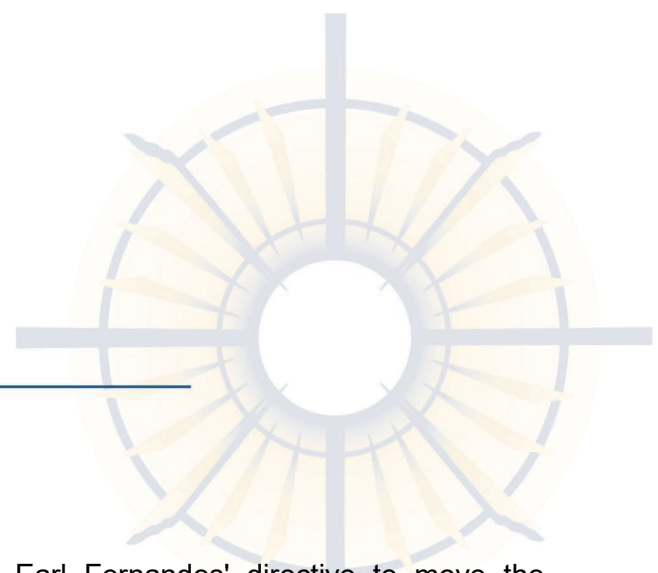




ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church



April 22, 2026

Dear Families,

We are excited to share more details concerning Bishop Earl Fernandes' directive to move the Confirmation age to 4th grade for the Diocese of Columbus. This change reflects a need and desire for our young people to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit so they are able to grow in their identity as sons and daughters of God throughout their formative years.

We, at St. John Neumann, are in full support of this change and the reasoning behind it. We also understand that with change, finding the best pathway to implement this transition can be challenging. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we developed a plan that will not only achieve the goal of moving the Confirmation age, but also fuel the Parish and Youth Ministry's mission of bringing people to a transformative encounter with Christ.

This strategy, which is shared by all of the parishes in our Deanery, will be a "stair-step" approach that gradually moves the Confirmation age down from 8th grade to 4th grade. We will begin this process this coming fall of 2026. Please reference the timeline below to see how this plan will progress:

- 2026-2027: Students in grades 7 and 8 will be confirmed (current 6th and 7th graders/ first year (students).
- 2027-2028: Students in grades 6 and 7 will be confirmed (current 4th and 5th graders).
- 2028-2029: Students in grades 5 and 6 will be confirmed (current 2nd and 3rd graders).
- 2029-2030: Students in grades 4 and 5 will be confirmed (current KDG and 1st graders).

As parents, we understand you may have questions: we are ready to answer them as best we can. We truly feel blessed to walk alongside our families as we partner to pass on our faith to our children and at the same time, continue to walk and grow in our own faith journeys together.

More details, schedules, and information are available on our website for our families that will start this process in the fall. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Confirmation Coordinator, Sarah Gantz sgantz@st.johnneumann.org.

You are in my prayers,

Reverend Dan Dury
Shepherd, St. John Neumann