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Students fill the halls at De La Salle North Catholic High School. The faith-based, college prep school is losing its lease for a building that it has called home for 11 years, the former Kenton Elementary school in north Portland, and has launched a search for a new home.

## School Needs a New Home

### Lease running out for De La Salle North

De La Salle North Catholic High School is inviting community members to help in the search for a new school building.

The faith-based, college prep school, one of the most diverse in all of Oregon with 31 percent of the students being black and 41 percent Hispanic, will not be able to renew its lease for a building that it has called home for 11

years, the former Kenton Elementary school at 7528 N. Fenwick Ave.

Built in 1913, the school is owned by Portland Public Schools and its current \$440,000 annual lease to De La Salle is set to expire in June 2021.

School District officials told the Portland Observer on Friday they have no specific plan for how the school site would be used in the future, but say recent events have demonstrated a need for additional facilities to house school district programs in a way that serves students best.

“We are disappointed that we cannot stay in our current building; however, the expiration of the lease provides us the opportunity to find a new location to continue to offer our transformative education model,” said Patti O’Mara, chair of the De La Salle North Catholic Board of Trustees. “The highly competitive Portland real estate market makes this a challenge, but with the help of the community, we are confident we will find a new home.”

De La Salle North Catholic is sponsored by the Christian Brothers and is a part of the Roman

Catholic Archdiocese of Portland/Western Oregon. The school is known for its rigorous academics coupled with exposure to real-world work opportunities. On average, 98 percent of the school’s graduating seniors earn acceptance to college. Most recently, 100 percent of the 51 students in the class of 2017 were accepted to college and were awarded \$3.8 million in scholarship funding.

Students at the school attend class four days per week and work for a local company one day each week as part of the Corporate Work Study Program that pro-

vides work experience, business contacts and helps offset the cost to educate students.

Donations from individuals and foundations cover more than 40 percent of the school’s operational budget. Tuition and support from the Christian Brothers make up the rest. Family contributions range from \$120 to \$2,995 per year based on financial need.

“We don’t turn away any capable or interested student because they cannot afford our modest tuition,” O’Mara said.

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