

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Lakeside Academy Now Part of SouthWest Metro Intermediate District 288**

*“Program of One” features specialized school curriculum combined with licensed treatment and mental health services*

BUFFALO, Minn. — Beginning Sept. 5, 2017, Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge clients in Lakeside Academy’s residential licensed treatment and behavioral programs will be enrolled in the SouthWest Metro Intermediate School District 288. As part of the district, onsite classes at Lakeside Academy will now follow the public-school calendar, with classes scheduled five days per week and breaks for MEA, Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring Break.

SouthWest Metro Intermediate School District 288 is one of just four intermediate districts in the state and serves nearly 40,000 students. These specialty school districts provide defined student services to a group of regular “member” school districts in the areas of special education, area learning centers, career technical programs, and online learning.

“Participants in the Lakeside Academy program will now be enrolled in a licensed Minnesota school district with teachers onsite who specialize in working on an individual basis with students who have substance use, mental health or behavioral health issues,” says Jeff Dye, center director of Lakeside Academy. “This truly means we can offer a ‘program of one,’ a personalized learning plan and pace to match the needs of each individual student.”

Lakeside Academy is a residential treatment center for boys ages 13 to 18 who are facing challenges due to substance use, anger management and other behavioral issues. It can enroll up to 60 teen boys at any given time. Currently, Lakeside Academy hosts 17 boys. Since moving the Teen Boys Program to Lakeside Academy in August 2015, more than 75 boys have participated in the program.

“Our long-term graduation rates have never been higher, and we have seen great success with boys completing their high school education and enrolling in college,” Dye explains.

“These boys have been facing multi-dimensional challenges that have disrupted many parts of their lives,” adds Dye. “Being a part of the local school district will enhance our program because when a student starts having success in one area, it will spread into other areas of their lives and they can build on that success.”

Two licensed teachers will be onsite daily at Lakeside Academy. In addition, the program administrator, Tom White, will be onsite for two days each week. White is an experienced clinical social worker and school administrator, and is currently a school supervisor for the SouthWest Metro Intermediate School District 288. He focuses on providing special education for the highest-need students that other schools cannot address.

“Students will be able to receive traditional classroom instruction, online courses, and experiential project-based learning opportunities,” explains White.

“SouthWest Metro has a history of collaboration and it is our mission to equip, motivate, and educate learners of all ages and abilities in an inclusive and flexible learning environment,” adds Jennifer Bock, communications specialist for the SouthWest Metro Intermediate School District 288.

Each student will be assessed based on his current grade level, history, and comprehension of reading, math, science, and social studies in accordance with Minnesota Standards.

#### **About Lakeside Academy**

Lakeside Academy, a program of Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge, is a faith-based residential treatment center for boys aged 13-18 years who have substance use, anger management, and other behavioral issues. Set on 48 acres in Buffalo, Minn., Lakeside Academy offers licensed treatment, mental health and other counseling services, and onsite educating including conventional, online and project based learning.

#### **About Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge**

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge (MnTC) is a drug and alcohol treatment and recovery program that has been in operation since 1983. With 11 locations throughout the state, MnTC offers a full range of services including long-term recovery and short-term intensive treatment programs as well as extensive prevention services through the organization’s program, Know the Truth (KTT). Each year, Know the Truth speaks in more than 160 high schools and middle schools across the state, sharing personal stories of addiction with students to help prevent substance use.

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