

The Campaign for Highland School “Ask Me”

Q: How is the building project being financed and are any part of tuition income or tuition increases being used to pay for costs?

A: The project is being financed using tax exempt bonds available to non-profit organizations. The money pledged to the campaign is used to pay off the bonds and is separate from tuition income. Any tuition income and increases are used for current School operations such as for faculty salaries and benefits and student programs.

Q: Why are we building during these difficult economic times?

A: Approximately 75 percent of the current financial commitments to The Campaign for Highland were pledged prior to the economic recession. These monies are restricted by the donors to the building project. Tuitions, annual fund, auction, golf tournament, summer programs, and facility rental income in addition to a small endowment draw support the School’s operating budget.

Q: I’m confused by the terminology being used. I hear the Campaign for Highland, Capital Campaign, Building Project, Bricks and Mortar Project, Endowment. What does it all mean?

A: The Campaign for Highland is an umbrella term used in fund-raising. In our case it basically refers to two pieces: new facilities and endowment. To date, we have raised more than \$12,000,000 for facilities which is sometimes referred to as the building project or bricks and mortar. These terms are used interchangeably. Endowment commitments are not used for construction. These funds are added to the School’s endowment investment portfolio and are closely monitored by the Investment Committee of the Board. We can spend a portion of the earnings for current operations.

Q: Will Middle School students have access to classes in the new Lower School building and what will be constructed next?

A: Once the lower school has moved out of its current home we can then evaluate how best to utilize the space for the benefit of the Middle School. Under the current phase of the campaign the following facilities will have been constructed:

- The new Lower School Building;
- The Humanities and Instructional Technology Wing;
- The Synthetic Turf Field and the Stadium Seating;
- Class of 2008 Courtyard; and
- In addition, \$2,500,000 has been pledged to the School’s endowment

Five years ago, the Strategic Planning Committee of the School’s Board of Trustees identified the current upgrades to the physical plant based on program needs. The committee’s task this year will be to draft a revised strategic plan that looks forward for the next five years and includes renovations to the Middle School and possible construction of a gym. Once complete, this document will

serve as a guide in determining the next phase of development of the campus master plan.

Q: Why didn't we include plans for a cafeteria for a lunch program?

A: While it was initially included in another plan it was deemed a lower priority than the need for instructional space. First, it would add to the cost of the project to build a cafeteria. Second, to manage an onsite full-service or even a delivery food program involves several aspects of health department inspections and monitoring and we would likely need to add personnel resources. Third, finding a vendor that can provide a nourishing yet appealing meal to students that's reasonably priced can be challenging. Last, it would add to the cost of tuition and making it optional is often not possible.

Q: What does it mean to be LEED certified and how much of the cost to construct the new Lower School does being LEED certified represent?

A: Once the Lower School is completed in the spring of 2010 Highland will be the only School in Fauquier County to be LEED certified. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.) To be LEED certified means that we have created a "Green School" and one that is conducive to a healthy learning environment through the use of energy efficient low impact and chemical free construction materials. There are several levels of LEED certification. Highland will at the very least meet the minimum standard. For the School to be certified adds approximately 5% to the construction budget.

Q: What's with the football goal posts on the new field and are we going to do more landscaping around campus?

A: The football goal posts have a dual purpose serving to anchor the soccer goals as well. The generous family who funded the multi-use field as well as the goal posts foresaw the day when we might have a football program and donated the goals for the day the sport would arrive. Once we have completed construction and the site has settled we will implement a full landscape plan with the School's landscape architect.

Q: How will the new facilities benefit my child?

A: Lower School – the benefits are direct in the use of a purpose built facility specifically designed for the ways our youngest students learn.

Middle School – the freed up space will allow us to renovate the Middle School to better meet the distinct needs of grades 5 – 8 and create a sense of identity for the Middle School.

Upper School – the new Humanities and Instructional Technology Wing allows us to group disciplines and provide specialized learning and teaching spaces. The Class of 2008 Courtyard and upgraded athletic fields add to the aesthetic quality of our campus and enhances our co-curricular activities.