



The Sustain Campaign Update



September 15, 2023

Dear Topeka Collegiate families,

We are delighted to provide you with an update on the progress of our Sustain Campaign. Despite the inevitable challenges of any significant construction project, our staff and students have launched the new school year with incredible energy and enthusiasm. We have swiftly adapted to the campus construction, strategically relocating several teachers and staff to minimize disruption and revamping several areas of our eight-acre campus with state-of-the-art construction zones. Best of all, our current staff and students share your excitement and anticipation as we look forward to the completion of the building remodel and addition, which we know will transform the future of our school.

- I am excited to have everyone in one building - Ruth Bammes, 2nd Grade Teacher*
- I am most excited about the entire project and how it will positively impact education - Sally Riggs, Art Teacher*
- I am most excited about the potential for many collaborative spaces and safety improvements- Kay Siebert, Music Teacher*
- Every part of the Sustain Campaign is exciting. We are modernizing our campus to reflect the innovation in our classrooms. - Michael Flax, Academic Dean*
- Our students are eager too!! ~~
Hear what **Bennett (PreK)**, **Roger (PreK)**, **Mina (Grade 2)** and **Eddie (Grade 3)** had to say.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Our ambitious Sustain Campaign officially kicked off in early June and has been progressing steadily ever since. While we experienced a slight hiccup with an early delay due to required asbestos abatement, our expert team quickly resolved the issue and resumed full speed ahead.

HVAC Upgrades

The original boiler and its associated components have been safely dismantled and removed, making way for newer, more efficient equipment. Workers have poured a new pad and installed additional roof reinforcement, new mechanical lines and ductwork, delivering critical upgrades to our facilities. We have removed the chiller, which will be the location of our Memorial Star in honor of Tim Elmer as part of phase two. All classroom registers have been removed, and new lines have been installed, ready to accommodate cutting-edge, high-efficiency classroom units.

Hallways

The building's hallways underwent a significant upgrade, including the installation of new ductwork for distributing fresh air to all classrooms. The existing skylights were upgraded with new sheetrock to improve their aesthetic

appearance. L.E.D. lighting was installed in the hallways, making them brighter and more visually appealing. Planning ahead, in the project's second phase, similar lighting fixtures will be installed in all classrooms.



Front Entry

The transformation of the Front Entry has begun! The old roof and offices have been cleared out to make way for the changes. The footings and piers have already been completed, and the floor will be poured next week.



Classroom Addition

We said goodbye to two outdated trailers in June, which was bittersweet but necessary to pave the way for a much-needed addition. The ground was then fully excavated to provide a proper subbase, and all footings have been completed. Underground plumbing has also been set, and the classroom addition floor will be poured soon so that the walls can be erected.

Student Tours

Recently, our Grades 2-5 students were given an exclusive construction tour and lesson that left them buzzing with anticipation! KBS project superintendent Tim Burton led the tour and shared highlights of the construction progress. The students were amazed by the storm shelter shear wall, fully realizing its impressive strength designed to withstand 240 mph winds. They were also fascinated by the new plumbing pipes, appreciating the innovative technology that goes into creating a modern, state-of-the-art learning environment. It was a rare opportunity that ignited their curiosity and imagination!



COST OF THE PROJECT

We want to remind you of the significant impact your gifts will make towards reshaping the future of our school. The total cost of this project is just under \$7,000,000. (This is updated from an earlier goal of \$6 million.) In phase 1, we have ambitious yet essential projects, including

- an upgraded, secure, and remodeled front entry (\$1.5 million),
- a state-of-the-art classroom addition featuring an art classroom, music classroom, science lab, multiple collaboration spaces, and three core classrooms (\$3.5 million),
- a top-of-the-line HVAC mechanical system (\$1.37 million), and
- a crucial building-wide window replacement (\$465,000).

Moving on to phase 2, we are eager to tackle the transformative courtyard playground, the Memorial Star to honor Tim Elmer, and finally, the original building L.E.D. light replacement. With your support, we can surpass even our most ambitious goals and give our students the best possible chance for success.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



GIVING PROGRESS
As of 9-11-2023



We have achieved 76% of our target for construction. The Sustain Campaign has raised an impressive \$5,343,830 for the construction project and an additional \$745,000 restricted to the school's Endowment. We are grateful for each contribution and commitment. We have not yet met our goal, and hope that all families will help us get to the finish line and know that their donations will make a difference.

Our students and staff wanted to ensure you know how much your support means to us. They left their precious handprints as a tangible show of thanks!



Our Steering Committee, led by Sean Frost (Emma Kate, K), works to maintain momentum by reaching out to our friends, past and present. It has been over 15 years since our last capital campaign, making this a compelling investment opportunity for all! Rest assured that ALL pledges and gifts have been credited to our project's goals, with no campaign dollars or school funds used for outside consultants.

Want to Learn More?

Stay up to date with all the latest developments in our Sustain Campaign by checking out our Weekly 3 Update and photos, available on our website, www.TopekaCollegiate.org/SustainCampaign.

I am committed to keeping the lines of communication open and accessible to our valued community. That's why I urge you to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have - my door is always open, and my email is always on. But I don't stop there - for those who want to experience the Sustain Campaign first-hand, I have extra hard hats available and am thrilled to offer an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour. There has never been a better time to get involved, ask questions, and learn more about how we are shaping a better future for our students.



Thank you again for your support that will make our vision a reality!

Gratefully,

Lyn Rantz, EdD P'19, P'21
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