



Expanding Our Vision

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the goal of the Campaign?

We have an ambitious Campaign goal of raising \$11.5 million by 2020. These funds will be used to minimize borrowing as we finance our expansion, and to increase our Endowment. In a larger sense, the goal of the Campaign is to ensure **every** family has a sense of pride and ownership in our creation of a stronger future, regardless of the size of their gift - we are hoping to see 100% parent participation.

Why do we need a new building now?

In 2014, we established a Strategic Plan outlining five Strategic Pillars that would guide the evolution of the school over the next 3-5 years. One of those pillars was Facilities, a commitment to responding to the changing needs of our curriculum by building and/or acquiring additional space.

This project represents the fulfillment of that pillar: our program has grown, and our facilities must grow to accommodate it, including the addition of a youth-regulation size Gymnasium, dedicated Math classrooms, larger Science and Innovator Labs and an updated Library and Media Center, among other new spaces. Only by expanding our facilities can we realize our most ambitious vision for our academic program and remain the New York Leader in K-8 Education.

Has the design of the building received final approval from city agencies?

We have received approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission on the design of our façade and are currently in the process of submitting our designs to all of the required city agencies for final approvals over the coming months.

What is the projected construction timeline?

We hope to begin construction during the summer of 2019 and conclude building by the school's 50th Anniversary in 2021.

How will the construction affect students during the school year?

It is important to remember that construction is not taking place within our current building, but separate from and adjacent to it. However, we will be working with outside consultants to implement the appropriate safety measures around the construction site and are carefully planning to mitigate any potential disruptions.

We also recognize this building project as having great potential to make a positive impact on our students, and the administration has already started brainstorming ways to incorporate the construction into the curriculum. Students of all ages will have opportunities to learn from the project, whether they are calculating the necessary proportions of steel and concrete or discussing classroom dimensions in Math; considering how the new building reflects community needs and wants in Social Studies; keeping an eye on the construction progress through a live camera feed; designing 3D buildings in Minecraft; 3D printing their own building designs or working on projects with the architects.

Are you excavating below street level?

Yes. In the current site of the Big Yard, we will be digging down one level below the current basement level to build a youth-regulation size Gym.

Where will Woodshop, Recess and outdoor Gym classes be held during construction?

The Woodshop program is designed to be flexible and will be relocated to a space inside the current school building.

We are exploring a number of options for Recess and Physical Education classes, including the Rooftop and Auditorium. We have also begun looking at alternative spaces both large and small within our neighborhood, and see this project as an opportunity to provide students with new fitness options such as spin, boxing or yoga classes at nearby studios. During this time Upper School students will also continue to use Pier 40 as necessary.



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When the building is complete, are there plans to increase enrollment or add a high school?

No. The purpose of our expansion is solely to support our current and envisioned program.

How can I support the Campaign? Can I make my Annual Fund gift at the same time?

Throughout 2019, members of our Campaign Committee will be reaching out personally to every family about making a pledge. Connie and Eve are also available to speak with you about making your gift.

Annual Fund and Capital Campaign gifts can be thought of comprehensively or separately. Campaign pledges are generally paid over 3-5 years.

How much of the project is being financed? What will happen if the goal is not met?

We have every confidence that we will reach our fundraising goal. Construction will be paid for with a combination of fundraising, reserves and prudent financing.

Could the cost of tuition be affected by any potential debt?

Refinancing, fundraising and reserves will allow us to complete the project without having to raise tuition costs beyond normal annual increases.

My child will have graduated by the time the building is complete. Why would I contribute to a project that won't benefit my family?

We know from the example of past alumni how exciting it is for VCS graduates to visit the school and see all that has changed, and the pride they take in feeling that their family contributed to those changes.

Most importantly, we view VCS2020 as an opportunity to leave a meaningful legacy. Just as families that came before you made the construction of our current building possible for the benefit of your children, so too can you help to ensure a strong future for other VCS families.

Other Questions?

Please feel free to contact the Capital Campaign Chairs or reach out to Connie Sopic directly.