



# Saint Gabriel

## Consolidated School

### **Master Plan & Feasibility Study** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### **WHAT are we doing?**

We are conducting a Master Plan and Feasibility Study...A what?! Put simply, we are trying to understand how to use our existing school, and what improvements are needed to enrich our children's educational experience and position SGCS for success now and in the future!

#### **WHY are we doing this?**

A foundation for what we are doing started from Archbishop Schnurr's own vision for Catholic education:

*"Catholic schools afford the fullest and best opportunity to realize the fourfold purpose of Christian education, namely to provide an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed; community in Christ is experienced; service to our sisters and brothers is the norm; and thanksgiving and worship of God is cultivated.*

*The vitality of the Church is inextricably linked to the health of its Catholic schools because they provide the most effective way to evangelize and form holy men and women who make God known, loved, and served."*

Archbishop Schnurr's vision mirrors our school's own vision, mission and values:

*St. Gabriel Consolidated School, a Catholic Christian elementary school serves a diverse educational community. We are dedicated to nurturing the whole child with an emphasis on academic excellence, service and faith. Together we form a partnership with parents and parishes to create a Christian environment that empowers each student to become valuable members of church, school and community.*

In order to position SGCS to compete with current and emerging educational options in the marketplace and ensure a quality learning place for our children for years to come.

#### **WHO is involved in this in this project?**

Parents, teachers, staff, and pastors committed to the success of SGCS, now and in the future. Specifically:

- Parents, teachers and staff participated in a study to collect data and assess the current school facility and conditions.
- Parents on the Advisory Commission: Aimee Davis, Ann Everly, Judi Fletcher, Mark Godbey, Rich Harknett, Phuc Bui, and Julie Anhofer.
- Joe Epplen, our Principal.
- All Pastors on the current Advisory Commission: Fr. Fay for St. Gabriel and St. Matthias Parishes, Fr. West for St. John Parish, Fr. Drew for St. Max Parish.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)**

### **WHO is conducting the Feasibility Study and Master Plan?**

Michael Schuster Associates (MSA) is a Cincinnati based architectural firm we have hired. They have extensive experience with schools and educational facilities within the Archdiocese. All references gave outstanding reviews.

### **I know an architectural firm that would do this and give us a deal. Why wasn't the assessment sent out for bid?**

We did interview several architectural firms however the Archdiocese has strict guidelines regarding which companies which may be involved with projects on Archdiocese property. MSA is pre-approved by the Archdiocese and are very familiar with their rules and procedures. MSA has an abundance of experience working with Cincinnati area schools regarding space optimization and facilities planning. Their portfolio includes Moeller, St. Xavier, Mount Notre Dame, Ursuline Academy, McNicholas, Nativity, St. Susanna, and Good Shepherd to name a few.

### **HOW MUCH will this cost?**

The estimated cost range to conduct the Master Plan and Feasibility Study is \$13,500 - \$19,500. This money was successfully raised in partnership with the SGCS families contributing \$8,000, the feeder parishes contributing \$4,800, and SGCS Building Improvement Fund contributing \$6,700.

We will publish costs for additional elements of the project as they are finalized.

### **HOW LONG will this take?**

At this point we only know when we are presenting our Strategic Plan and Recommendation to the Pastors: September 20, 2010. Once we have an approved plan, the details of this plan will drive the overall timeline and next steps. We will share these dates once we understand the scope of the approved plans.

### **WHERE will the Master Plan be executed?**

Right here on the grounds of the current school in Glendale. SGCS is a vibrant school with an excellent academic reputation, a diverse student body, and a rich history dating back to the 1800's that could never be replicated at another location. SGCS is centrally located for the parishes and regions we serve: St. Gabriel in Glendale, St. Matthias in Forest Park, St. John and St. Max in West Chester. Part of the Feasibility Study includes meetings between MSA and the Village of Glendale to ensure we fully understand and meet their requirements in our planning process.

### **I have connections in the construction business. Who can bid on this project?**

First, it's important to remember that we are currently only in the assessment phase of this project. There has not yet been a formal approval to move forward with space / facilities improvements.

If the process does move forward, there are strict Archdiocese guidelines that must be followed during construction including which contractors may be used. If a contractor you know would like to participate, they must be an accepted contractor approved by the Archdiocese.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)**

### **I WANT TO HELP. How can I get involved?**

You can help us right now! We need you to:

- Call any team member with your questions or concerns.
- Spread the word! Talk to fellow parents, parishioners, and your pastors about our project and encourage them to support it.
- Stay positive! Continue to show your support for SGCS and Catholic schools in general by contributing in spirit. We need as much positive energy within the SGCS community as possible!
- Pray! A prayer to our Patron Saint, St. Gabriel, for the wisdom, courage, and strength of all involved as we continue to move this plan forward.

As we continue to fulfill this plan we fully recognize the need to expand our team. There will be many ways to help once we receive approval to proceed with the plans. Once we fully understand the scope of the approved plan, we will outline the needs of a broader team and determine specific roles and responsibilities for volunteers.

### **WHEN will we know something?**

Our next steps in the process include:

- Finalization of the plans, sketches, space allocation and preliminary cost estimates for the Master Plan. This will be done by the core planning committee with MSA.
- Finalization of the strategic plan and recommendation to the Pastors.
- Presentation of the plan to the Pastors at the next Advisory Commission Meeting, September 20, 2010.
- We will continue to provide you with weekly updates over the next several weeks. Updates will be sent home via Thursday envelopes, posted on our website ([www.stgabeschool.org](http://www.stgabeschool.org)), and via e-mail blasts.