



Saint Gabriel

Consolidated School

Master Plan & Feasibility Study Update

Why Do A Master Plan and Feasibility Study, and Why Now? Because when you do the math, it all adds up! Many things came together at the right time:

A new Archbishop was appointed to the Archdiocese, with a strong vision for Catholic education

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The accreditation process prompted an optimization/finalization of our school's mission that mirrors Archbishop Schnurr's vision for Catholic education

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A group of Saint Gabriel teachers attended an innovative educational conference in Washington, DC as part of their continued commitment to provide a quality learning place.

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The opportunity to cultivate excellence for our future!

When all of these came together, we knew we needed to first understand where we stand currently, and then understand what needed to be done to fully meet the Archbishops vision and fulfill our schools mission, and how we could implement an innovative curriculum. We set out to cultivate excellence for the future of our school.

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The first step was a study conducted with parents, staff, and faculty to understand where we stand currently. Survey findings show:

- When rating the school facilities to “meet current academic needs” the faculty rated the school as “fair”
- When rating the school facilities to “meet future academic needs”, the faculty rated the school well below “fair”, closer to “poor”.
- Our faculty and staff consistently plan for a high quality program with exceptional academic focus, their “Plan A”. However findings show that the school operates on a “Plan B” agenda:
 - Small cafeteria = lunch taken in multiple blocks, and the school often finds the schedule of classes to be compromised by the number of lunch blocks needed due to the small size of the cafeteria
 - Curriculum choices are made based on the weather (rain = gym in St. Mary’s Hall, any other planned activities in St. Mary’s Hall must be compromised)
 - By the multiple uses of St. Mary’s Hall (assemblies, prayer services, etc.) gym classes are often relegated to classrooms, thus negatively affecting the physical education curriculum
 - Science activities must be limited to ones that can begin and end in one class period, because there is no dedicated space to allow science experiments to cultivate uninterrupted across multiple periods.
 - No dedicated art room = Art on a Cart. The art curriculum is limited to supplies that can fit on the cart and be carried to each classroom. Time for art class is also constrained by the cart needing to be unloaded and reloaded.
 - The Music room is also our school Library; our Library usage is constrained by our Music schedule, and vice versa. Libraries and Music classes don’t mix well.

We also reviewed the demographics for the parishes and geographic areas that we currently serve. The population exists to continue to support SGCS.

And finally, our school was built in 1927, and expanded 47 years ago = the limitations of our physical space = the need to update our school to better meet the needs of our students and faculty, to fulfill the Archbishop’s vision, and our school’s mission.

In order to fully understand what is possible, or feasible, we hired professionals: Michael Schuster Associates (MSA), an Archdiocese approved architectural firm with extensive experience with schools and educational facilities.

We are currently working through the Master Plan proposed by MSA, including cost estimating. Our next step is to present our recommendation to the Pastors on the Advisory Commission for approval to continue to move forward with the plan.