

# Community School of Davidson

## *Parent Information Session*



# AGENDA



- **Community School of Davidson – Today and Tomorrow**
- **Next Year – Welcome Freshman**
- **High School Vision**
- **Program and Facility**
- **Curriculum & Methods**

# The Basic School Foundation

- Boyer's work in reforming High School and College Education
- Focus on 4 C's continues to guide our philosophy and foundational principals
  - The School as Community
  - Curriculum with Coherence
  - A Climate for Learning
  - A Commitment to Character
- Small class and school size
  - High School ~ 400-500 Students



**“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” – Martin Luther King Jr.**

# High School - Research and Overview

- High School and College Visits
- Three Years of High School research
  - Committee groups intensify research
  - Each group specialized in specific topics such as curriculum, assessments, internships, advisory , etc.
- Intensified committee collaborated over the past 12 months
  - All High School research condensed
  - The “CSD Research Book” is prepared

# High School Vision



## ➤ Hopes & Dreams

- A CSD High School graduate is highly sought and “Cream of the Crop”
- Students are published authors, experts in various disciplines
- Students who are intrinsically motivated and are successful in college and beyond
- Graduates with meaningful lives

## ➤ Daily High School Life

- College preparatory curriculum with opportunities to modify for students with specialized interests or needs
- Students love coming to school
- Staff collaboration & “relationships” are school-wide values

## ➤ A Learning/Teaching Institution

- Staff Co-Author “The Book” the various articles for education publications
- CSD as a model school – A Laboratory School that is a “work in progress”
- CSD will host professional development conferences

*“Create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion” ~Jack Welch*

# Individual Learning Plan and Portfolio of Achievement

- Process begins in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade – Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is a personal plan meticulously mapped out
  - Contains on & off campus integrated components & goals
- Portfolio of Achievement (PA) takes shape by 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Achievements in academics, arts, service, talents, sports
  - Published works & areas of expertise
  - “Above Mastery” level products are showcased
  - Portfolio will include an autobiography that all students will write as a graduation requirement. Students will begin this project as freshman and continue through senior year.
  - Portfolio is refined by 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Portfolio accompanies college applications

# College Research



- To date we have visited colleges, established relationships with college admissions leaders, and high school college advisors
- School board member Dr. Rick Gay, also Director of Education at Davidson College ,is working with us to assure our program will meet and exceed preferences required by the best colleges.
- The college admissions officer at Davidson College is advising CSD and will help us develop a competitive and impressive school profile that is submitted with all college applications



# College Counseling and Admissions

- Letters of recommendation will be of quality and depth and will reflect the DEEP knowledge we have of our students' individual strengths, gifts, and talents
- A developmental college counseling program begins in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade – students create an “image” of themselves as learners and begin to develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP)
- Process intensifies by end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Portfolio (PA) & Plan(ILP) is well defined
  - SAT and ACT preparation is part of the curriculum
- College counseling program assists in targeting 10-15 colleges for each student to explore further
  - Application process includes the student, parents, CSD counselor and advisor
  - Collaboration – The college exploration and application process will be an integral part of our program in grade 11
  - Relationships with college admissions deans a top priority

# Graduation Requirements & Scholarships

- Student “Vitae”
  - Contains a resume of core academic, arts, and service...and an elaborate autobiography
  
- Student Learning Exhibitions
  - All elements of portfolio including honors projects and research
  - Provide concrete evidence of achievement & success
  
- Scholarships
  - Published works such as Biosphere research make CSD graduates stand out, gain admissions interviews, increase chances for scholarships
  
- Our K-12 model will have students well prepared for college and job interviews. Student learning exhibitions, performances, and advisory have made our students articulate and reflective already! Imagine how they will “sell” themselves with 4 more years of experience.

# Grades, Honors, & AP

- Grades
  - Traditional grading system superimposed on a “Mastery Grid”
  - A’s correspond to expertise and additional advanced coursework; B’s to course curriculum mastery; failure is not an option at CSD!
- Honors
  - Expanded and advanced curriculum. For example, an integrated or specialized project pathway such as publishing in biosphere research within the biology track
- Advanced Placement (AP Courses)
  - Introduce AP courses in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and increase the # of AP courses available in each succeeding grade

## Curriculum & Instruction

- Language Arts, The Sciences, Mathematics, Social Studies/Humanities, Foreign Language
- Technology – Woven throughout all subjects with opportunities for specific technical learning such as programming, robotics, electronics, media production, etc. We anticipate high computer usage and every student will need a laptop
- Arts – Continued opportunities in music, dance, fine art, graphic design, and industrial arts – Students have been exposed to many different art forms but in High School they are expected to select a minimum of one to master
- Continued adherence to the North Carolina standards with a CSD spin.
- Students will take all applicable EOC exams

# Curriculum & Instruction Beyond the typical "Classroom"

- Advisory program
  - Continued emphasis on small group relationships and community
  - Advisory projects and programs
  - Advisory curriculum is developmental and varies for freshman/sophomore, juniors/seniors
- Learning intercessions – Typical schedule changes to allow students and staff to dive into a project based learning opportunity that is cross-curricular
- Meaningful real world learning opportunities through internships and service. Opportunities for course content to come to life in a way that will ignite a student's passions

# Core Curriculum

- Humanities – Integrated social studies and language arts with a focus on literature, the craft of writing, research, and formal writing
- The Sciences - Real application and instruction with meaning and purpose. Students will develop critical scientific thinking and reasoning skills along with a passion for the sciences.
- Mathematics – Deep instruction through application. Advanced course offerings including calculus and statistics
- Foreign Language – Exposure to language and culture with the goal of fluency

# Language Arts

- Students continually scaffold research skills & techniques, with each year incorporating more intellectually challenging skills that are imbedded in advanced projects. For example, an I-Search paper in ninth grade evolves into a formal research or multi-genre research publishable paper.
- Students who attempt publication in other subjects, such as Biosphere research in science or windmill design in applied mathematics may be integrated in LA for honors projects.
- Portfolios & autobiographies as part of a culminating senior project will contain stellar pieces of work from all four years.
- The skill of writing is a top priority. Writing across the curriculum(multi disciplinary) may originate in LA, but will also be carried across all subject areas.
- Inquiry-based learning projects will be integrated throughout all courses

# Language Arts

## ➤ FRESHMAN/ GRADE NINE

### ➤ **Foundations of Literature & Writing** (year long course)

- Literature: nonfiction & fiction genres, literary devices, elements, fact & opinion
- Content: *ancient beginnings-myths, archetypes, oral traditions*
- Develop skills in writing, reading & thinking → refine argumentative, analytical and evaluation techniques
- Possible Publication: Autobiography, Myths, Memoirs & Bios

### ➤ **Writing: the writing process and writing to learn**

- Writing for audience with purpose (Documentary)
- Multi-genre writing
- Possible Publication: “This I Believe”-Statements of Purpose -- posting & recording for radio (NPR and internet casting)

### ➤ **Speaking:**

- Seminars & discussion
- Speaking to learn
- Speaking to audiences with purpose
- Possible Publication: Poetry Out Loud – posting poetry online

# Language Arts - Continued

## **Research:**

- Intro to inquiry
- Approaches to research
- Discovery → Publication

## ➤ **Language Use:**

- Grammar & language usage
- Mechanics
- Vocabulary: classical roots

# Proposed MATHEMATICS Curriculum Components

## ➤ Course Sequence

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Algebra 1

Geometry

Algebra II/Trig

PreCalculus

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L  
E  
C  
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I  
V  
E

Advanced Function

Discrete Math

Advanced Statistics

Calculus

## ➤ Course Components

- Exploration and discovery
- Project-based learning
- Differentiation
- Real-world connections/applications
- Integration with other core content/arts
- Skills development/practice, EOG and SAT prep
- Connections to science curriculum (Biosphere and Windmills)

# Mathematics Curricular Progression



<b>Course</b>	<b>Possible Math &amp; Science Applications/ Projects</b>
Algebra I fit/scatterplots)	Research and graph trends in male/female salaries in various careers of interest (graphing equations/line of fit/scatterplots), Biosphere & Windmill configuration
Geometry I	Advanced Industrial Design labs: Students design pop-up greeting cards, windshield wipers, and swing sets as they apply the Pythagorean Theorem, Law of Sines and Cosines, etc. Biosphere & Windmill calculations and construction
Algebra II/Trig	Create a business plan for local Davidson businesses relating cost and income functions (quadratic functions)
PreCalculus	Students explore the question, "How many eggs should a bird lay in order to maximize the chance of its offspring surviving?" (polynomial and rational functions)

best

# Science Curriculum

(A)  
Start Young



(B)  
Learn to re-create  
components of nature



(C)  
Become  
experts in  
specific  
outdoor earth  
science topics  
or biological  
species



# Biology I

- Scaffold science content & process in an outdoor classroom:
  - *Topics become high interest*
  - *ALL science content is relevant*
  - *Student motivation drives curricula*



# Proposed Science Curricula & Instruments of Instruction

## Required Science Courses

- **Biology I**
  - **Unifying Topics**
    - Biochemistry, Genetics, Ecology, Cellular Biology...
  - **CSD Campus Applications**
    - World in a Bottle, NASA-style Biosphere, Outdoor Classroom Areas Of Expertise
  - **Davidson College Research Applications**
    - Genomics, Critical Ecosystem Species, Mosquitoes & West Nile Fever, Water Quality of Catawba River watershed.....

# Davidson College Professors Research A Planned Component of Each Science Course



Davidson College  
Professor  
Dr. Chris Paradise  
involves students in  
publishable work on  
Mosquitoes and  
West Nile Fever in  
the woods of  
Davidson, NC



Students Conduct Mutagenic Substances Research at Davidson College, a "Compacting" Pathway Begun in High School Biology I Course with Specialization in Bio II

Motivated Middle-Schoolers Begin Early



CSD Student Scientists are part of a Research Hierarchy from Middle School  
→ High School with guidance from Davidson College Professors



# Science & Math Curricula Driven By Innovative On-Campus Permanent Learning Pathways: Biosphere & Windmill Projects

Biosphere 2, the fascinating atmosphere glass-enclosed mesocosm in the Arizona desert, explores the bounds and frontiers of the new field of ecological engineering.



NAWRTC at Mesalands Community College provides instruction in wind turbine technology, turbine maintenance, tower safety, and wind economics.



# Science Curricular Progression

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## Course

Biology I

Chemistry I

Physics I

Environmental/  
Earth Science

## Curricula

Living Science

Matter → Thermodynamics

Motion → Relativity

Energy, Geology, Ecology...

## Publishable Research

Genomics, Biosphere Res.

Forensics Crime Invest.

Sustainable Energy Mechan.

Lean Green Machine

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Biology II

Chemistry II

Physics II

Environ II

Advanced Biology Topics

Applications of Chem I

Applications of Physics I

Advanced EES

Mutagenic Screening

Forensics

Engineering

EPA Topics

# Sports and Physical Fitness

- Continued focus on health and physical fitness through cardio, weight, and strength training. Exploring non-traditional partnerships with fitness, yoga, and strength training professionals and businesses
- Our goal with sports and fitness mirrors our educational approach to build “lifetime learners”. Fitness needs to be a habit students take into adulthood. Development of a 4 year “personal fitness” nutrition & exercise program
- Full sports program in High School that includes membership in an appropriate league leading to college athletic recruiting opportunities
- Students who may be eligible for college scholarships will work with the athletic director and coaches on a individualized sports plan which might include summer and AAU league play
- Continue to build the CSD Boosters (Booster membership in 2009/2010)
- Our high school gym will be world-class and as large as a typical “big” (2000+ student) school – it will accommodate cross court play of volleyball and basketball for both high school and middle school sports

# Sports Philosophy

- Competitive sports program which will allow students to reach their athletic potential
- “Coaching the Total Kid” – an “out-of-the-box holistic approach to coaching
- Personalized – focusing on physical, mental, and emotional development
- Building character over winning at all costs
- Coordinated, integrated with academic process and classroom teachers
- Communication with parents, teachers, student athletes and coaches
- Core Values – Sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, leadership, and respect

# What's Next?

## Finances and Fundraising



- Building the first phase of a new high school will cost \$5,000,000. We must be creative financially to make this happen
- Charter Schools do not receive capital funds to acquire buildings or land
- The NC “Education Lottery” will not benefit Charter School and may reduce Charter School funding
- For this dream to become reality, we all need to help and support fundraising activities

# Facility

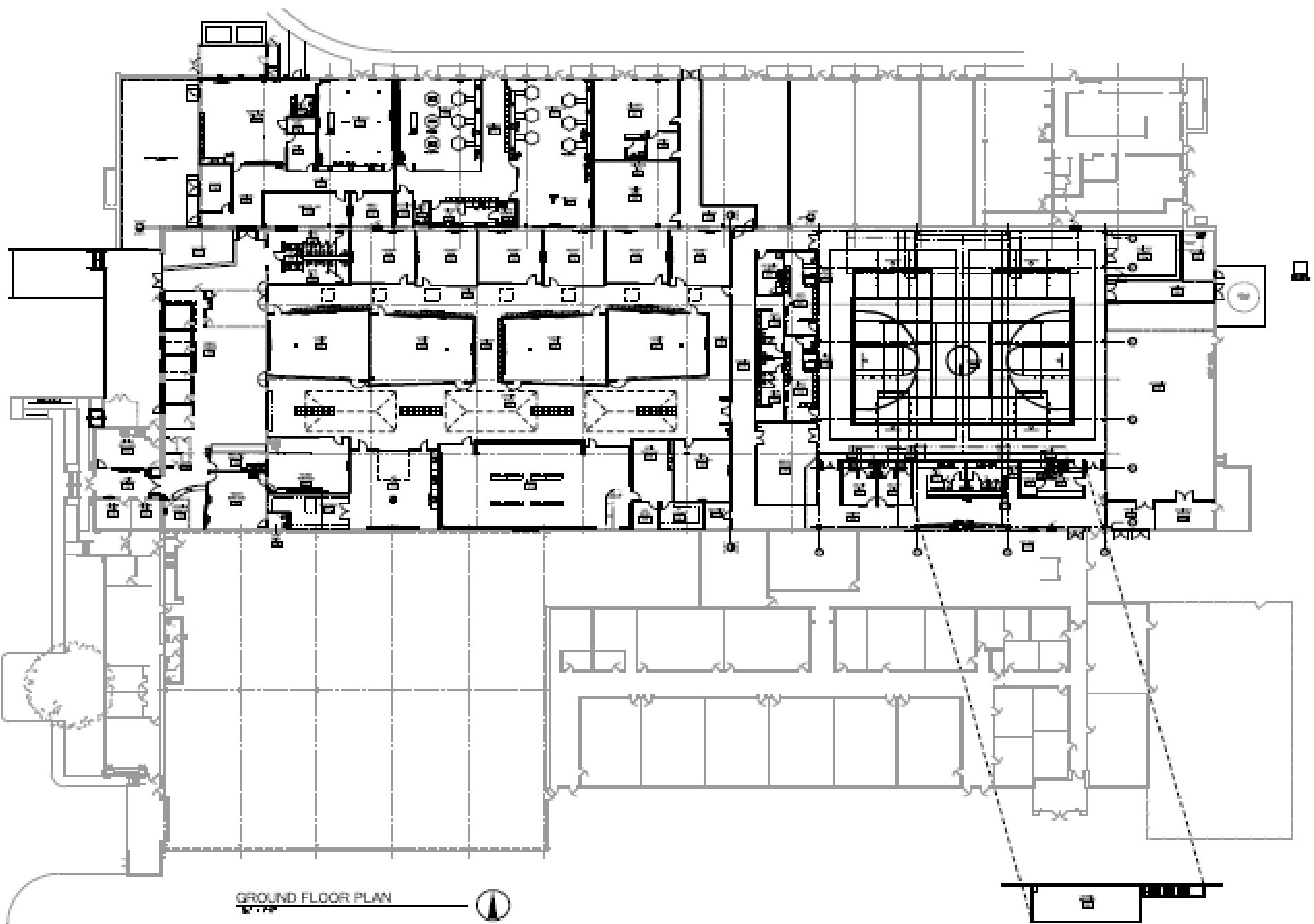
- Existing manufacturing facility in Davidson
- The building was formerly home to Dance Davidson and Davidson Day and now is home to McKinney Academy ,Davidson Parks and Rec, and River's Edge Church
- We will renovate 60,000 +/- SF that is currently the home of Liburdi Turbine and Diametrics
- We have leased nearly 90,000 SF but financially we can only renovate 60,000. (Phase 1) For comparison, our elementary and middle school is approximately 65,000 SF
- Insight Architects designed the space and Connor Company will be the general contractor



GROUND FLOOR

FLOOR PLAN  
**SK-5 Community High School of Davidson**

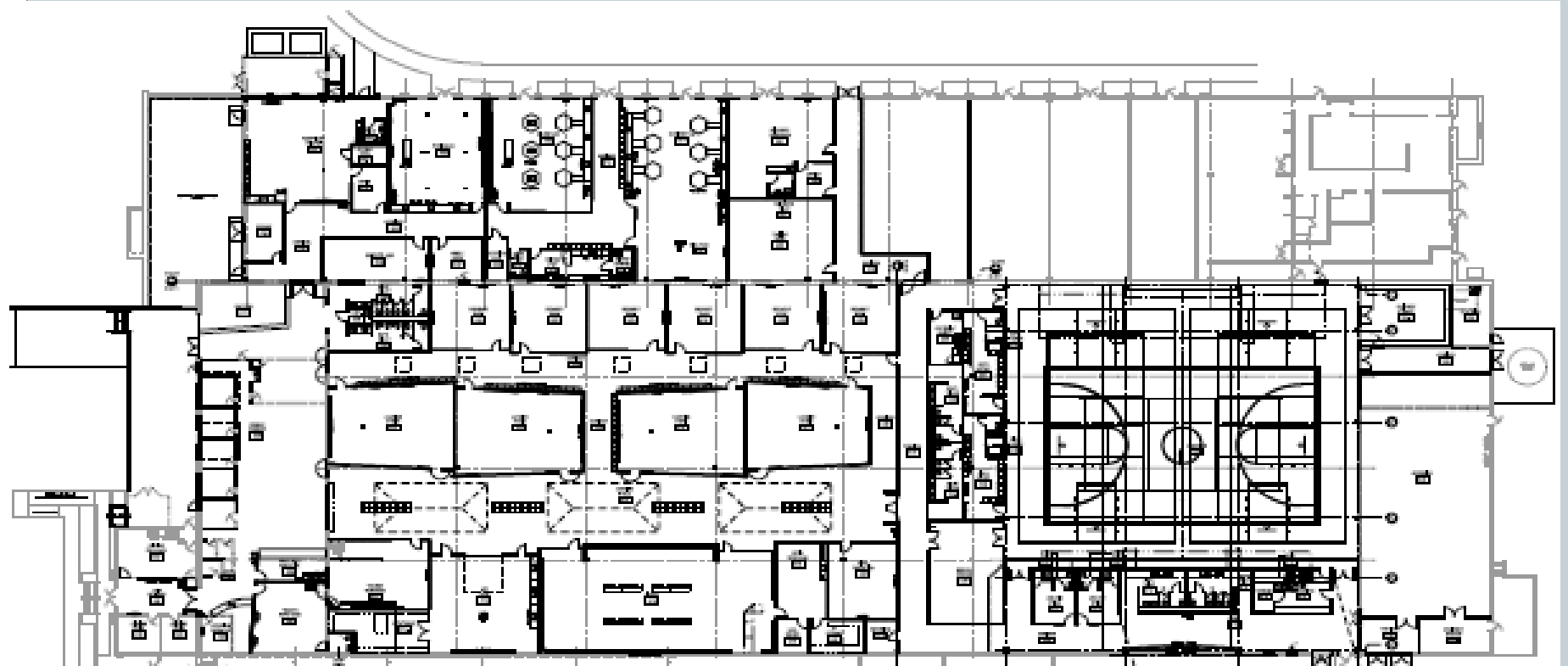




GROUND FLOOR PLAN

MEZZANINE PLAN

# Phase 1



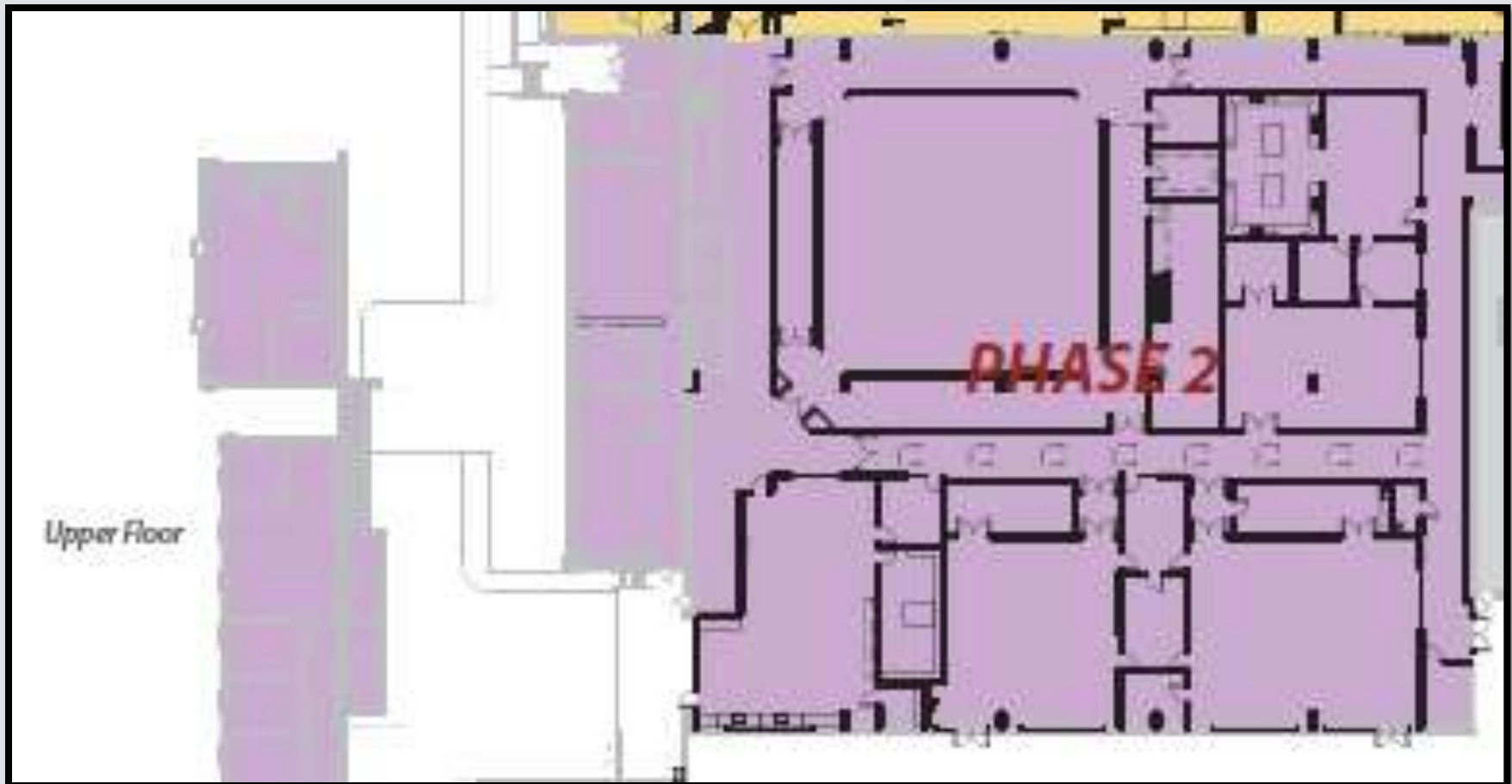
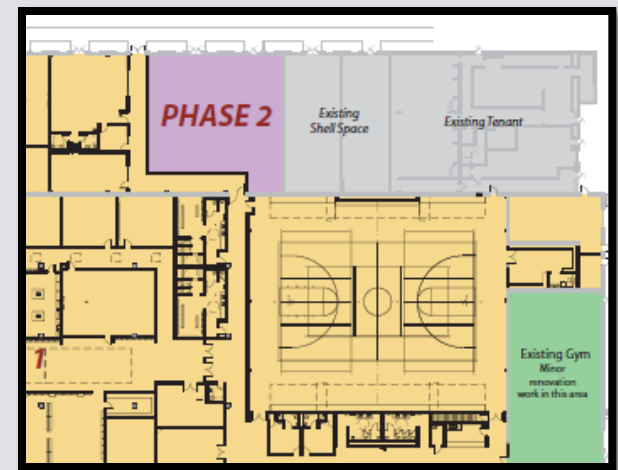




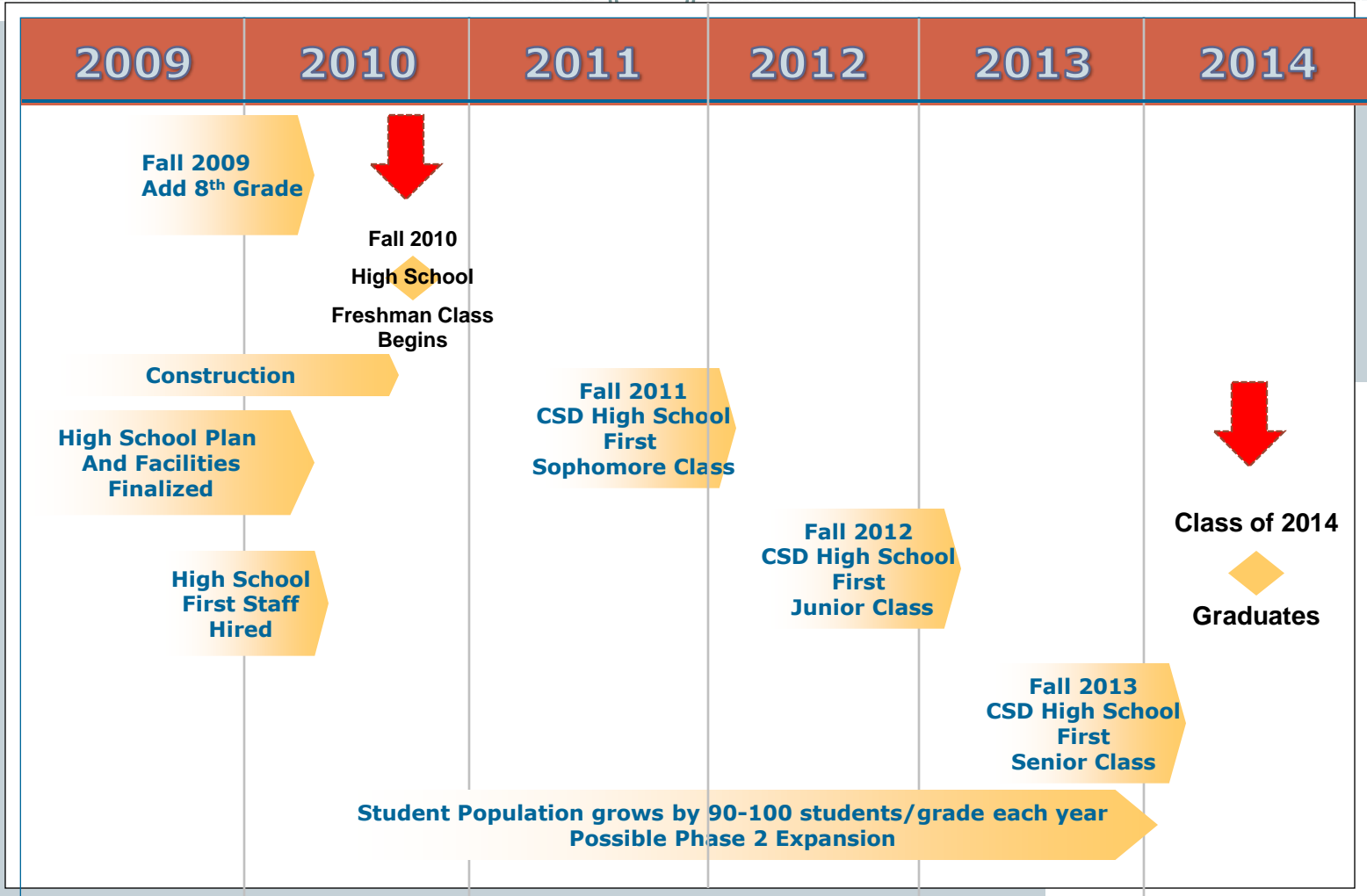
Coach K's  
Court

SAIS

# Phase 2



# Projected Timeline



# Fundraising – 2008/2009 recap

## Fundraising Goal 2008-2009

\$350,000

### Campaigns

#### Lead the Way - Year Long

Lead the Way Total Donations Received \$254,345

Lead the Way Outstanding Pledges (as of 5/13/09) **\$4,943**

#### BBQ Auction - November 8th, 2008

\$65,000

#### Rewards Program Total (as of 4/26/09)

\$4,600

#### Golf Tournament - April 17th, 2009

\$34,300

#### Unplanned, Parent and Student Driven Fundraisers

1000 Cranes - Change Drive \$4,317

Seussical Performance \$1,400

# Total funds raised: \$363,962

## Last year we exceeded our goal by \$13,962!



# CSD Finances and Budget

- CSD has committed our savings of \$1,000,000 to the construction of the High School. The past generosity of parents, staff, and families made this happen!
- The state of the economy has squeezed us further – state and local funding has been reduced
- In addition to donating to our fundraising campaigns each year, CSD staff has taken a mandatory pay cut this year and has waived appropriate pay increases over the past 5 years to help us finance our program and growth into Middle and High School

# Fundraising and – Pave the Way and beyond

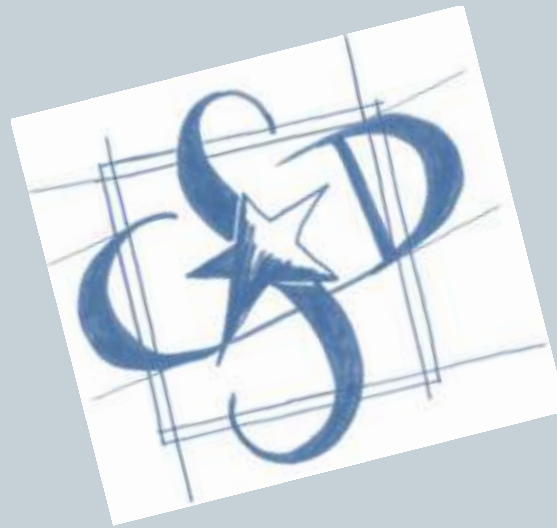
- Grow into High School in a way that ensures quality and does not compromise our K-8 program, we need to fundraise \$350,000/year for the foreseeable future. We now have 450 families to help fundraise
- Fundraising will allow us to continue to fund our K-8 facility and build a great high school facility without compromising our slow growth model (one grade per year) and great teacher to student ratios. Charter Schools often use temporary spaces or trailers for years and we've avoided this option thanks to our fundraising efforts
- Given our economy, we must make giving to CSD a priority and cast a wider net to extended family and businesses
- Donors may consider donations of stocks or annuities



# Pave the Way



- Fundraising Campaign for 2009/2010
- This year's campaign – PAVE THE WAY – will be crucial as we take this next leap of faith in our journey



# What can you do to help?

- Continue to volunteer and support CSD. We ask that parents volunteer at least an hour per week. There are jobs that can be done at home for those who can't come to school during the school day.
- Support the CSD fundraising effort – spread the word to extended families
- We realize that not all are able to give financially but volunteering is a gift to the school. Those who are fiscally able to give can help offset for families hit harder by the economic times
- Many families would choose a private education if CSD was not an option – please consider the tuition of alternative private schools (often \$15,000 + per year/student)
- Read *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business* by Dennis Littky, and *Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for Leading High School Reform* by the National Association of Secondary Schools
- Check out middle/high school links at [www.csd.org](http://www.csd.org)



# What's next?

- The philosophical and program framework is complete. We are now working on the details of each component including scheduling, curriculum writing, course offerings, school hours, internships, sports leagues, etc.
- Given the reputation of our school and Ralph's contacts & abilities, staffing and curriculum writing are well underway. As with all staffing at CSD, the hiring and vetting process is crucial
- College admission marketing, PR including many college visits across the nation
- Complete the accreditation process with Southern Association
- Complete the design and renovation of the facility



# Questions?

