



COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY
ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT

700 N. Walnut Street
Wilmington, DE 19801-3514



INSIDE

COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE
OF OUR COMMUNITY:

CONSTRUCTION and CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN UPDATES

More photos of
the renovations inside!

Below: One of two new
classrooms

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Susan Sherk

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Valerie Noel
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Bellevue Contractors

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ORGANIZATION
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WHAT'S INSIDE

THANK YOU TO
OUR FUNDERS

Insert

POWERING THROUGH TO
FINISH CONSTRUCTION

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HOW YOU CAN HELP

page 3



the school
SCOOP

WINTER 2023-24

St. Michael's School RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT

A \$6.7 million campaign
to increase our physical
and programmatic footprint

Capital Improvements Enter Final Phase

We are excited to share the progress that has been made as St. Michael's continues its first major capital campaign in over 20 years. Renovations began in August 2022 and have been strategically divided into multiple phases to minimize the time that each area of the facility is impacted. This has allowed for effective choreography to keep children and staff together in their class while moving to other rooms. St. Michael's has remained open and operational throughout renovations. Staff, children and families, contractors and subcontractors have been incredibly flexible and accommodating to all of the moving parts associated with such an extensive renovation project within a unique environment and facility. Guided by the goal of keeping St. Michael's open to continue serving families, all those associated with the work have remained strategic and thoughtful. We are so grateful for the collaboration and cooperation of our entire school community.

Committed to the Future of Our Community:

St. Michael's Renovation and Expansion Project will:

- Address critically needed renovations and upgrades to our aging buildings, infrastructure and major systems
- Increase enrollment with 2 new pre-school classrooms
- Expand and formalize services for families and residents of the East Side neighborhood of Wilmington
- Add new admin offices and designated spaces for staff and family meetings, community programming and educational trainings
- Support pathways to early childhood education careers through mentoring and cohort opportunities



The library is temporarily converted into two pre-school classrooms as work continues throughout the facility.



OUR MISSION

St. Michael's is dedicated to building a strong foundations for all children in the first five years of life and to supporting families as their educational journey begins. We foster a safe, nurturing, inclusive environment and seek the highest standards in our practice, curriculum, and professionals.

We are committed to the community we serve and believe a sense of community is a core strength for children, families, and educators.

www.stmichaelsde.org | 302.656.3389
admin@stmichaelde.org



Renovations are scheduled for completion in August 2024. The architectural drawing below shows the finished plan from the front facade.



133
YEARS



6
GENERATIONS



2
PANDEMICS

During this time, St. Michael's has focused on the education and care of the youngest residents of the City of Wilmington, often those with the highest needs. It is the oldest childcare center in Delaware and one of the oldest in the nation. It has consistently responded to the changing needs of families in the City.

Research shows that investing in quality early education programs for birth to age 5 can:

- ▶ Eliminate the achievement gap
- ▶ Reduce crime rates
- ▶ Improve health and education outcomes
- ▶ Yield an ROI of 13%



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TODAY so we can complete the renovations.

Naming opportunities for dedicating rooms, facility areas and outdoor spaces still exist!
Leave a legacy for your family or loved ones. Learn more: (302) 656-3389 or lrross@stmichaelsde.org.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE PROJECT

- 1. GIFTS OF CASH**
Outright gifts or pledges with payments extended over a period of time are encouraged and the easiest way to support the campaign.
- 2. GIFTS OF ASSETS**
Gifts of stock or retirement plan contributions enable you to maximize your support while taking a tax deduction and minimizing your income taxes.
- 3. MATCHING GIFTS**
Many companies have matching gift programs for employee donations and volunteer efforts. Check with your Human Resources department to see if your support for St. Michael's qualifies for a matching gift.
- 4. PLANNED GIFTS**
Bequests and other deferred giving vehicles such as Charitable Remainder Trusts enable you to support the campaign with potential tax benefits now.

Powering Through to Finish the Construction

And then it's December! I am not sure how that happened so quickly - although the beginning of the school year always streams into Halloween into family-teacher conferences into Thanksgiving and then into the scramble of the holiday season at high speed. Then add the choreography of moving classrooms and teachers around the needs and logistics of the construction! The desk sign that a colleague gave me, "Chaos Coordinator", describes the days here at 700 N. Walnut Street rather precisely!

The urgency to finish the construction is undeniable—from burst pipes and malfunctioning HVAC systems to windows held in place with electrical tape to leaking roofs and chipped flooring. This is matched with the sense of urgency to continue serving our children and their families. **These both require the pressing need to meet our fundraising goal to finish the renovations on schedule by summer 2024 so we can continue our work.**

I am thrilled and humbled to share that we have raised \$4 million towards the \$6.7 million needed to complete the project. The wonderful support from local foundations, government entities, current and past Board members and a core group of donors with a history of service to St. Michael's have been instrumental in helping to launch the campaign. **Now, we need YOUR help to reach our goal and complete the renovations.**

St. Michael's has stayed open during con-

struction and our families have stayed with us. They understand that while safety is the first priority, the quality of the early education and care we offer must continue at a high level.

At this phase of the project, our motto has become "*we not only power through; we consistently raise the bar*". Our 30,000 sq.ft. facility has always been pristine and well-equipped; the construction rebuilds and strengthens the infrastructure to deepen the integrity of the facility itself. Our outdoor space, also almost 30,000 sq.ft., not

only offers our children places to run, jump, swing, and slide, but also now has an outdoor classroom and is a certified outdoor learning space. Outdoor curriculum coordinators work with every class weekly, introducing children to the wonders and science of nature so our children have the opportunity to experience nature at its urban best.

St. Michael's continues to attract educators who are lifelong learners. Even during the pandemic, members of our staff achieved their Child Development Associate (CDA) certification, an internationally recognized credential soon to be the baseline in Delaware. Presently, we have 10 staff in that pipeline. We also have two trained and certified CDA coaches on staff to guide and support the process.

I am very proud of all that our staff have

accomplished over the last few years. The pandemic challenged us in historic fashion, but we consistently answered those challenges with the practice of holding the highest standards of best practice for our profession. We have welcomed the addition of Head Start and other state-funded programs. These programs commit us to a significant increase in the supports and guidance we offer our families.

AT THIS PHASE OF THE PROJECT, OUR MOTTO HAS BECOME "WE NOT ONLY POWER THROUGH, WE CONSISTENTLY RAISE THE BAR".

Building a foundation for learning requires many things—safety, trust, and a mutual feeling of hope for the futures of these children and families. I cannot stress enough the importance of your support of this campaign to continue building this foundation.

Your investment will help us finish the renovations, sustain high quality early care and education for the next generation and expand supports for our families and the city we have served for over a century.

Thank you for your trust and support. Come visit us for a tour to see the latest construction. It really is all starting to come together!

Wishing you and yours a happy, warm, and healthy holiday season.

Gratefully,

Lucinda Ross, M.Ed.
Executive Director

THANK YOU

FOR HELPING TO LAUNCH OUR CAMPAIGN*

FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Crystal Trust
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Welfare Foundation
Jessie Ball du Pont Fund
Middle Run Foundation
Energize Delaware
Laffey-McHugh Foundation
Chichester duPont Foundation

WSFS Cares Foundation
Crestlea Foundation
Borkee-Hagley Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation
Delaware Community Foundation
Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation
Fair Play Foundation
Wilmington Garden Day
VanDemark & Lynch

GOVERNMENT

City of Wilmington
Congressionally Directed Spending
from U.S. Senator Chris Coons' Office
State of Delaware
Wilmington City Council

EVENTS

Nine Holes Anywhere

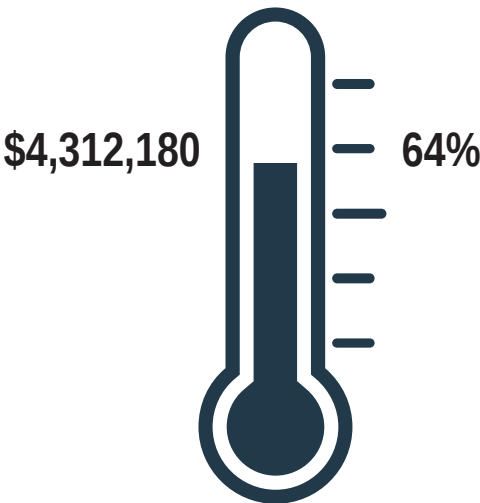
GOAL: \$6,700,000

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Every member of the
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the Steering Committee and
the Cornerstone Committee,
plus the following friends:

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COMPLETED RENOVATIONS

Replaced electrical panels in lower level

Upgraded all HVAC to energy efficient
systems

Renovations to infant wing classrooms
and motor playroom, including adding
more natural lighting

Reconfigured ED's office to create more
stroller storage and multi-purpose space

CURRENT AND FINAL PHASES

Renovations to lobby and cafeteria

New windows, doors, casework and LED
lighting in all classrooms

Plumbing replacement

Addition of two new classrooms on 2nd floor

New meeting areas, staff lounge,
storage spaces and admin offices

Masonry repair

Library renovations

Improvements to security and parking

*Gifts as of 12/15/23

**deceased