

# OPPORUNITY OF A LIFETIME

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CAMPAIGN FOR

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# ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

"We get to participate in the opportunity of a lifetime for this school and an opportunity for the lifetime of this school. We are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us; we are thinking toward the future and can only imagine where those who come after us will take this magnificent school."

— ANN BARNETT STERN '75  
Chairman of the Board



# A BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**A**t St. John's School, a bold vision for the future has been part of the mindset since the School was established in 1946 when founding families envisioned an institution on par with the best schools in the nation for their children and for the future of Houston. Such bold vision has contributed to St. John's rapid ascent as one of the premier day schools in the country.

An unwavering dedication to academic excellence and to development of the whole child has been a hallmark of St. John's School. 'Faith and Virtue' is more than a motto and permeates the School's culture throughout. High levels of voluntary community service and traditionally robust extracurricular involvement reinforce leadership development in our students.

The bold vision of St. John's is to produce graduates who will go out in the world and make a difference. It has taken the outstanding leadership and proactive initiative of the St. John's community to create and sustain an institution with such lofty aspirations.

Visionary leaders have provided the foresight, determination, and generosity to move forward with a number of rare opportunities that will continue to shape the future of St. John's and Houston for the next 50 years and beyond.

St. John's School is taking big steps for the future. The most ambitious campaign in the history of the School is underway. The mission is clear. The aspirations are well defined. Together, let us go forth and fulfill the Opportunity of a Lifetime.

"This is a real opportunity for the entire community to get behind this campaign, from the parents to the grandparents to the alums, to get involved and support St. John's School."

— ISABEL '83 & RANSOM LUMMIS  
Campaign Co-Chairs





# OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

We are called upon to uphold the mission and values of St. John's School by embracing the tradition of enlightened action and unflagging forward motion. This campaign and its transformational outcome will be fundamental to future advancement of the School, advancement aligned with the mission and open to all that is possible. We remain as determined and vigilant as our founders were as we look to an even brighter future.

CAPITAL	\$70 MILLION
ENDOWMENT	\$13 MILLION
ANNUAL FUND	\$17 MILLION
CAMPAIGN GOAL	\$100 MILLION



Flores Hall and Campus Center



Interior view of Flores Hall

## BUILDING COMMUNITY, BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE – FLORES HALL AND CAMPUS CENTER

Winston Hall and Arnold Student Center served the St. John's School community well for nearly 50 years. Memories and relationships were forged there. Accommodation of current and future growth, however, requires a much larger facility.

In the spring of 2014, Winston Hall was demolished and construction began on a new facility that has immediately

and forever impacted the life of the School and the community. Architecture and facilities directly impact the building of community. The extended school family comes together in the new Flores Hall and Campus Center just as families gather and bond, it is said, in their kitchens.

The centerpiece of the building is the 10,000 square-foot grand dining hall, a facility complemented by the Fondren outdoor dining areas and a café. College Counseling and Admission offices and additional fine arts instructional space are part of the facility as well. Heritage Hall and a

spirit store are part of the entry area and celebrate the spirit and history of St. John's. A large green space adds charm, and underground parking adds convenience. The Chao Family Assembly Hall, Conference Room, and Frankel Balcony also provide important meeting and gathering spaces.

In addition to serving students, faculty, and visitors daily, this facility is a focal gathering point for alumni, grandparents, current and past parents, and others in the community. It will host major community events and be a place in which people come together, interact, and build and sustain relationships.

## LAND ACQUISITION

In December 2012, St. John's School acquired the 13 acres of land bordered by Buffalo Speedway, Westheimer, and West Alabama, property St. John's had hoped for decades to include in the campus. This land increased the footprint of the campus by 46% for a total of 41 acres.

The Taub family of Houston had owned the property since the 1940s and was leasing much of it to the School for parking and playing fields. Learning of the availability of the property and urged by a strategic conversation regarding long-term vision, the Board of Trustees seized the chance to acquire the land and claim it for the School in perpetuity.

While St. John's has grown consistently over most of its history, school size has remained the same during the most recent ten-year period. During that time, the number of St. John's alumni has grown, Houston has grown, and pressures on admissions have increased further.

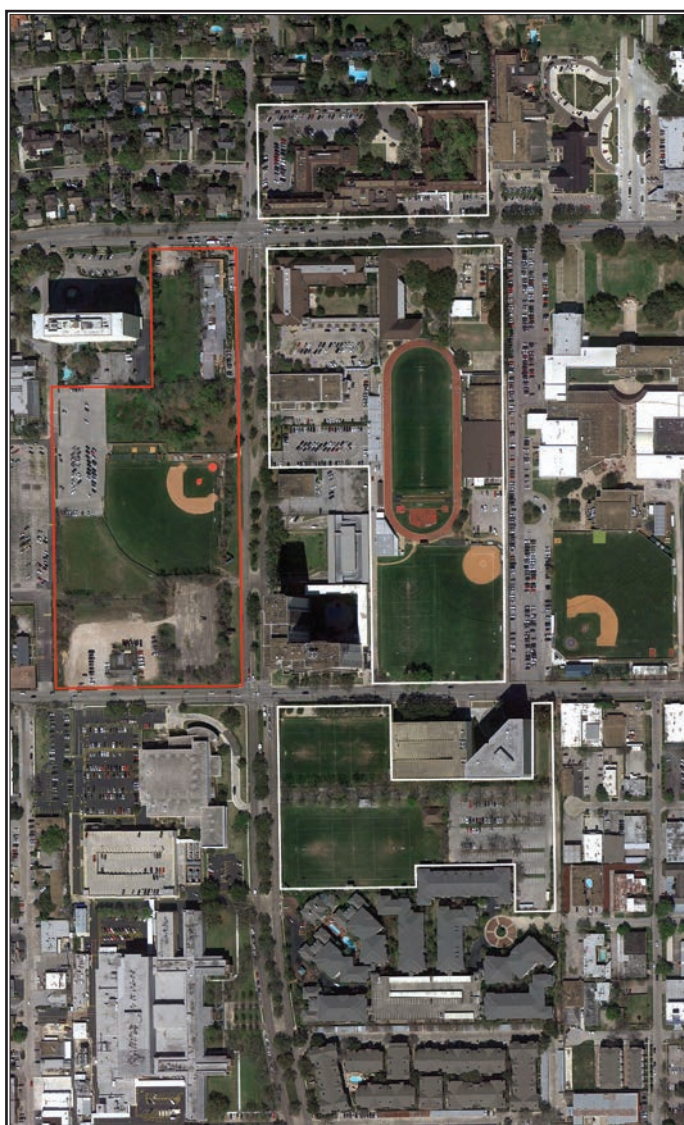
Leaders among the St. John's family strongly encouraged and supported decisive and bold action. With the promise of pace-setting support, the Board took action and St. John's School seized the Opportunity of a Lifetime. The strategic implications of the acquisition of the Taub property will span generations.

"We have a unique opportunity with the Taub land to step back to ask, 'Whom do we want to be 30 years from now?'"

— MARK DESJARDINS  
Headmaster

## CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

St. John's School has recently gone through a rigorous and thorough strategic planning process during which the community identified clear priorities, among them the immediate need for safe passage between various parts of the campus. In response, plans are underway for enhanced pedestrian safety as well as field development on Taub Campus that would mitigate the volume of foot traffic crossing West Alabama in order to address this priority. Field development plans call for the creation of multi-purpose practice fields on Taub Campus, the relocation of the baseball field to the Southwest corner of the property, and the turfing of Finnegan Field.



SJS campus outlined in white with land acquisition outlined in red

The results of the strategic plan also indicated a desire to be responsive to the growth of Houston and to increase the St. John's enrollment incrementally and thoughtfully. The plan calls for vigilant adherence to "non-negotiables" such as academic excellence and current faculty-student ratios.

Putting the strategic plan in motion required immediate use of the newly acquired property. Business and Advancement offices have been moved from the Quadrangle to a modular building on the new holding in order to accommodate growth in the Upper School with the renovation of the space into six innovative classrooms. A new paved lot provides much needed parking. Perimeter fencing, landscaping, lighting, sidewalks, and other improvements were put in place as well. St. John's School is working with St. Luke's Church on a proposed shared parking structure on the Taub Campus that would be funded primarily by St. Luke's Church with limited funding assistance from St. John's School. This facility will provide important parking capacity in the near and long term.

## **ENDOWMENT – SECURING THE FUTURE IN PERPETUITY**

Endowment gifts are often referred to as "ultimate gifts" because their impact is permanent in nature. These gifts because they support St. John's in perpetuity often have profound meaning in the lives of the donors. Endowment gifts can be directed in a number of different ways.

### **Accessibility – Financial Aid and the Headmaster's Student Assistance Fund**

Rice University's Dr. Stephen Klineberg has documented Houston's growth and rapidly changing socio-economic demographics. A growing number of highly talented students are unable to afford a St. John's education. St. John's has a long history of being able to support all financial aid needs while using a need-blind admission process. In order to continue to meet the growing need, we hope to increase the financial-aid endowment.

In addition to tuition, numerous costs associated with a St. John's education go beyond the reach of financial aid students and families. Field trips, SAT prep classes, extra-curricular activities, and other costs not covered by financial aid can be prohibitive. The Headmaster's Student Assistance Fund was created in order to allow the School to be responsive to the needs of financial aid students and be able to provide a full student experience.

### **Supporting the Faculty and Strengthening Programs**

Attraction and retention of the best faculty, fine arts instructors, and coaches are crucial because of the faculty's impact upon programs and, thus, the student experience. A strong professional development program attracts talented prospective faculty and helps our current faculty develop further.

For more details on named endowment funds, named and restricted endowment funds, fully endowed scholarship funds, master teacher endowments, endowed chairs, and endowed department chairs, please contact the Office of Advancement at 713.850.4120.

## **SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE**

(FY 2011-2012 through FY 2015-2016)

Unrestricted annual support continues to be the ongoing philanthropic priority essential to ensuring the quality of a St. John's education. It is the measure of difference that helps sustain the level of excellence that has been the hallmark of St. John's School. This quality would not be possible without these funds, which represent 8% of the operating budget. That budget's largest component is an investment in people through salaries and benefits.

Student safety, campus security, current technology, and financial aid are significant recurring operating expenses met in large degree by the St. John's Annual Fund. The Annual Fund also enhances accessibility to a St. John's education by helping fund financial aid and by mitigating pressures on tuition. Philanthropy funds 15% of the annual operating budget through the Annual Fund and the Endowment.

We strongly encourage all members of the community to continue their level of Annual Fund support and consider capital and endowment pledges that are above and beyond annual support. This comprehensive campaign includes support for capital, endowment, and Annual Fund. Thus, donor giving levels for the Opportunity of a Lifetime Campaign will include the cumulative giving of these categories.







## MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's is an independent, co-educational day school presenting a 13-year sequence of college preparatory training. A non-profit institution, it was founded in 1946 to provide the community with a school of exacting standards in the development of individual, spiritual, ethical, intellectual, social, and physical growth. While the means to achieve that purpose may change, it remains the basic mission of the School.

The School seeks to develop the whole person in preparation for a lifetime of personal fulfillment and contribution to society. In particular, it is dedicated to the enhancement and the expansion of future leadership for Houston and the country. The School offers talented, motivated, and energetic students a genuine challenge for academic accomplishment and for development of a sense of self-worth and of personal responsibility. The School in turn holds itself responsible for providing that challenge.