

June 22, 2020

Dear Community of Assumption,

One of the many blessings of being part of a school community is the gift of beginnings and endings. Each school year begins with excitement and the chance to set new goals, and each one ends with the satisfaction that comes from achievement and the hope of an even brighter future.

Even though the 2019-2020 school year brought challenges due to the pandemic that we could never have anticipated, we can all be proud of Assumption's commitment to providing an outstanding education for our students and celebrating them and their milestone moments in new and creative ways.

While planning is underway for our next academic year and our building safely re-opening in the fall, I wanted to share some exciting and hopeful news regarding the future of Assumption High School. For the past five years, we have been quietly working towards a vision of our future which will transform our school in profound ways.

In line with our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, Assumption is embarking on an expansion of our campus to improve our facilities so that we can address critical space needs, enhance our educational experience, expand our curriculum, and advance 21st century learning.

As you may know, key parts of our school building remain unchanged since Assumption first opened its doors in 1955. This includes our kitchen, cafeteria, main entrance, and school lobby. As the largest all girls' Catholic school with an enrollment of nearly 950 students, these spaces present significant challenges and are woefully inadequate, especially in this day and age.

Moreover, as education changes and evolves, we need new and different kinds of educational facilities, particularly additional classrooms, to continue to provide the outstanding education that is synonymous with Assumption. This paves the way for more STEM-based classes, additional project based learning, and greater opportunities for students to collaborate in teams all while maintaining small class sizes, which is a hallmark of an Assumption education.

Next week, AHS will break ground on an expansion project that will add nearly 35,000 square feet of space, including a new main entrance, lobby, cafeteria, kitchen, administrative offices, chapel, and 10 additional classrooms. This, in turn, will pave the way for significant renovations in our current school building, including a new and expanded Learning Differences Center as well as more science classrooms and labs, a new center for visual arts, and designated space to accommodate our growing engineering curriculum and aviation program. This expansion and additional renovations are slated to be completed in the fall of 2021.

Most exciting is the fact that this vision isn't about enhancing a specific program or serving a select group of students. This undertaking will touch every aspect of our school and will impact every student that walks through our doors.

To fund this project, Assumption has been in the quiet phase of an \$8 million capital campaign - *Launching the Future of Assumption High School*, led by campaign co-chairs Beth McAuliffe Mullins '76 and Hank Robinson. The larger portion of the campaign, \$6 million, is devoted to the campus expansion, and \$2 million is dedicated for growth in our endowment specifically directed to offering more financial aid in the future. Currently, we have raised close to \$5.5 million towards this transformational project, but we still have work to do to complete our vision and we *hope you will join us*.

This fall, when it is safe to do so, we plan to host a groundbreaking celebration for our entire community and will be sharing more details soon. In the meantime, to keep informed about our progress, we encourage you to visit our campaign website for more information and time-lapse videos or email us at campaign@ahsrockets.org.

At Assumption we are grateful for both beginnings and endings. The ending of the last school year called us to grow in courage and creativity. And now, this new beginning which we are embarking upon, calls us to even greater levels of service and stewardship. We look forward to celebrating this monumental achievement with you and the day our community can be together again in person. Until then, we thank you for your trust, continued support, and prayers during this time.

Sincerely,

Mary Lang
President