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# Celebrating a Campaign Milestone: Groundbreaking Ceremony for Guardian Catholic School



(L-R) Ron Townsend, Bob Shircliff, Alexander Hice, Bishop Felipe Estévez and Greg Roth

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016, a groundbreaking ceremony for Guardian Catholic School was held on the campus of Holy Rosary — the new school's location. Hundreds attended the event, including members of the Board of Directors, donors, community supporters, and students and staff from both St. Pius V and Holy Rosary Catholic Schools.

Paul Kerins, Chairman of The Guardian Catholic Schools Board served as emcee for the event where Bishop Felipe Estévez of the Diocese of St. Augustine presided over a blessing of the school, its future



Bishop Felipe Estévez offers a special blessing for Guardian Catholic School during the ceremony

students and the construction teams who are building the school and campus. Both Bob Shircliff, honorary campaign chair, and Ron Townsend, campaign chair, spoke during the event, offering special thanks to the donors and supporters who have helped achieve this exciting milestone to *Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy*.

To date, more than \$9 million has been raised toward the \$10 million campaign goal. Construction is already underway with the demolition of the Parish Hall and the Advancement Office outpost.

## Double Your Impact to Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy!

An anonymous donor has committed to a challenge grant to **match all donations to the capital campaign up to \$500,000**. This is a fantastic opportunity to double your gift and double your impact. Please consider a pledge to our *Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy* campaign — it will be **doubly appreciated**!

The mission of the Guardian Catholic Schools is to participate in God's work by providing advocacy, resources and governance to St. Pius V and Holy Rosary Catholic Schools. These resources enable the schools to provide educational and spiritual opportunities to children and families regardless of financial situation or religious preference.

# Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy: \$10 Million Capital Campaign to Construct Guardian Catholic School Off to a Quick Start



Architectural rendering of Guardian Catholic School campus. Coming August 2017.

# When the 2017-2018 school year begins in August, students at Guardian Catholic School will walk onto a brand new campus on Brentwood Avenue.

Guardian Catholic School will be the newest school in the Diocese of St. Augustine's school system and is the result of merging St. Pius V and Holy Rosary Catholic Schools on Jacksonville's Northside.

The decision to merge the two schools came about as the result of an assessment conducted by the Board of Directors of The Guardian Catholic Schools — the non-profit group founded more than 20 years ago to support the two schools.

The school buildings of St. Pius V, founded in 1921, and Holy Rosary, founded in 1958, have been in disrepair in recent years, requiring more and more expensive maintenance. The Board concluded that building one new school campus would be the best long-term solution to ensure financial stability and maintain access to a quality Catholic education for students and families who attend the two schools.

The Guardian typically raises \$1 million annually to support the schools as well as offer tuition

assistance for students. Earlier this year, The Guardian launched its first-ever capital campaign with a \$10 million goal to *"Build the Dream, Guard the Legacy."* 

Support for the campaign has been overwhelming. In just nine short months, donors have helped to raise approximately \$9.3 million to build the school — a testament to the value the community places on access to quality education.

Guardian Catholic School will continue to serve students from Pre-K3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. At close to 60,000 SF, the new campus will be able to serve a maximum of 500 students (combined, the current capacity of Holy Rosary and St. Pius is approximately 400 students).

## The new Guardian Catholic School will feature:

- modern classroom design and technology
- the Guardian Angel courtyard
- a main lobby
- a Learning Center with library, computer labs and shared flex-space for groups
- fine arts center (music and art)
- science labs
- media center



"When you look at the notion of breaking the cycle of poverty, there's no better way to do it than through education. You can direct the course of a person's life with education. A quality Catholic education nurtures students' faith-life and teaches them to be productive citizens. That is a lifelong gift." – Sr. Dianne Rumschlag, Executive Director of Education, Guardian Catholic Schools



Aerial view, Guardian Catholic School campus.

- cafetorium
- outdoor playing field, early childhood playground and elementary school playground

The new campus will also have something that neither school has now — a gymnasium! The gym will have basketball and volleyball courts, bleachers and concessions.

Ebert, Norman & Brady are the architects for the campus and Auld & White Constructors are the builders for the project. The construction will be completed in phases, with major work done over the coming summer.

If you have questions or would like to make a donation, contact Mervin Denny, Executive Director of Advancement, at (904)707-7298 or mdenny@guardiancatholicschools.org.

## Guardian Catholic School Fast Facts & Features

Total Square Feet	
(including Gym)	59,545 SF

Administration Building 3,358 SF Pre-K thru 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 6,469 SF (Existing) + 5,848 SF (New Addition)

Cafeteria & Classroom Building		
(excluding Gym)	19,616 SF	
	(1 <sup>st</sup> Floor)	
	13,651 SF	
	(2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)	

Gymnasium

10,603 SF

## **New Features:**

- Learning Center, including Library, Computer Lab and Group Projects Shared-Flex Space
- Dedicated Music Room
- Dedicated Science Lab for STEM Program
- Gymnasium

**Volleyball Flex Court** 

- **2 Practice Basketball Courts**
- 1 Junior High Basketball Court

Bleachers: telescopic gym seating system

**Concession Stand** 



The Guardian Catholic Schools

Protecting potential.

Our special thanks to those who have given generously in 2015 and 2016. Thank you for designating your giving to The Guardian Catholic Schools!

Sr. Beverly DiStefano

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