

“Bridging the Gap”

DCHS CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Delmarva Christian High School opened its doors in 2004 as the only Sussex County private Christian high school alternative for families who wish to provide their children with a safe, high-quality, wholesome, values-oriented education. We serve students in grades 9-12, regardless of religious affiliation.

Since its inception, the school has grown steadily, with annual increases in enrollment of 15-20%. This has created an urgent need to build-out additional space within the facility to serve at least another 200 students over the next few years.

Today, DCHS is launching a \$650,000 “Bridging the Gap” campaign to launch its longer-term \$2.7 million capital needs project.

This campaign will set the stage for future fund raising efforts by providing access to the center section of the school building which, until now, has been unoccupied.

Case Statement for the Campaign

Although the entire DCHS facility was constructed during 2002-03, only 40% of the internal space was built-out. In order to save costs and prepare for the future, the entire center section of our school was left unfinished.

Now, to meet increased needs, we have launched a \$650,000 capital campaign to link both sides of the building and provide more classroom space. This will involve building-out two enclosed connecting hallways, two additional classrooms, the school library, most of the administrative area, the nurse’s station and a new entrance lobby.

As of this date, \$195,000 has been raised through private foundation and individual grants. This leaves \$455,000 to complete the “Bridging the Gap” campaign.

Our objective is to build-out enough space to serve 275 students within the next 24 months. There will be numerous benefits to doing this:

- Creating new space and joining both sides of our building will free up existing classrooms that are now being used for lunch room, library and administrative office purposes.

- Students and staff will have access to a complete, professional school Library.
- Visitors will be able to access the school through a main entrance area.
- The spacious new lobby can be used for events and assemblies.
- Students will benefit from a private and secure nurse’s station.
- Students will no longer need to walk outside in order to travel from one side of the building to the other.
- A large entrance hall outside the DCHS gymnasium can be set up each day as a cafeteria where all of our students can eat together at the same time.

Most importantly, an enrollment of 275 students will help DCHS become operationally self-sufficient. Therefore, this expansion will allow us to serve more students while ensuring the financial stability of the school.

Questions & Answers about “Bridging the Gap”

Q. Who is leading the Campaign?

A. “Bridging the Gap” is being led by campaign chair Rusty Dukes, whose son recently graduated from DCHS. Other campaign leaders include past Secretary of State Harriett Smith Windsor and Marlene Elliott Brown, the former director of USDA for Delaware and Maryland. A complete list of campaign leaders can be found in this kit.

Q. How long will the campaign take and when will construction begin?

A. We expect the campaign to require at least six months, with construction to begin by summer of 2010 and conclude by early 2011.

Q. What are the benefits to donors?

A. A variety of attractive naming opportunities exist within the expanded facility, including classrooms, the entrance lobby and the new Library. These can be used to pay tribute or memorialize friends, family members and loved ones.

In addition, all donations to the campaign are fully tax-deductible, and they may be pledged over as many as three years.

Q. What else remains to be done in terms of school construction?

A. Beyond this campaign there are another \$2 million of capital projects, including a professional performing arts center, a large kitchen and cafeteria, more classrooms and athletic room lockers. These improvements will allow the school to expand, in time, to serve up to 500 students.

Q. Is DCHS the only Christian high school in Sussex County?

A. Yes, we are the only stand-alone Christian high school, serving a population of more than 312,000 in both Kent and Sussex Counties. Our students come each day from as far away as Easton, Maryland, Ocean View and Dover, Delaware.

Q. How do the costs of building-out this new section compare with typical building costs?

A. We will be able to build-out approximately 103,000 new square feet of school space for about \$50 per sf, compared to between \$300-500 per sf cost required to construct new public schools in Kent and Sussex Counties.

When DCHS was first built in 2004, total construction costs were only \$150 per sf – so even with build-out expenses added to that, DCHS represents quite a bargain when compared to other education alternatives.

Q. Are the students at DCHS successful?

A. More than 98% of our graduating seniors go on to college after completing some of the most challenging academic coursework required in Delaware. Our school’s teachers, labs, technology and programs are of the highest quality. Your investment in DCHS will allow us to continue this record of excellence.

Q. How can I learn more and support “Bridging the Gap?”

A. Please contact any of the individuals listed below to schedule a site visit to DCHS and discuss a contribution. All types of gifts are accepted including cash, securities, land and appreciated assets. Thank you for considering a tax-deductible donation to our school.

Scott Kemerling, Principal	302-856-4040
Rusty Dukes, Campaign Chair	302-875-7551 (w)
Christy Pennington, Campaign Coordinator	302-598-8696 (c)

Thank you!