

# 4500FOREVER FINISHSTRONG

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why this endeavor, and why now? Does this fit into a real plan for the future?

A few years ago, STH developed a new strategic plan, creating its roadmap for the future. The strategic plan priorities can be summarized as follows:

- Meet the immediate facilities needs of the current student population
- Respond to a projected Catholic population increase in Houston by increasing the student body to 1,000 students over the next ten years
- Enhance recognition for our leadership in character development and education
- Ensure outstanding faculty to meet current and anticipated needs
- Safeguard financial solvency during continued growth

### 2. Why did STH purchase the HISD campus next door?

The school's leaders had long been searching for the right solution to meet immediate facility needs, as well as the need to grow for the future. In 2013, HISD announced that it would sell the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, located next door to the STH campus. Presented with an ideal solution to address current and future needs, STH seized this opportunity of a lifetime. The new property, now known as the *Jane and Bill Joplin Campus*, includes a three-story main building, an auditorium, a gym, a natatorium, a cafeteria building, and several other classrooms, library, storage buildings, and a softball field.

### 3. How did STH pay for the property?

Immediately after winning the \$60 million bid to purchase the HISD property, the *4500Forever* Capital Campaign was launched in November 2013. At that time, the campaign's goal was set at \$66 million. During our 14 month fundraising effort, it became clear that a two-phased implementation of our master campus plan would be necessary to achieve our ultimate \$66 million goal.

In *Phase I*, our primary objective was to secure the property within the given timeline offered by HISD. With \$54 million raised, St. Thomas completed Phase I with the purchase of the land and buildings from HISD on December 15, 2014. At the time of the purchase, HISD also entered into an up to five-year lease agreement with STH in order to remain on the Joplin Campus as it completes construction of its new High School for Law and Justice to be located near downtown.

### 4. What will happen in Phase II? How does the new campus support the plan for the future?

*Phase II* will focus on several key objectives, namely the formation and execution of the new Move-In Plan for the combined campuses and the renovations necessary to optimize use of these new facilities.

As in our original campaign budget estimates, the total for the campaign remains at \$66 million. With \$54 million raised in *Phase I*, *Phase II* fundraising goal will be \$12 million. The current plan targets these top three priorities:

- Creation of a much-needed Student Center
- Invest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to ensure cutting-edge education
- Relocation and enhancements to Fr. Wilson Field allowing for greenspace development to facilitate additional playing fields and support intramural programs



Due to the multi-year lease agreement with HISD, the Joplin Campus occupancy target date is 2018. The master plan will continue to focus on the long-term development of campus improvements and advancement areas including these elements:

- Connection of Joplin Campus to Main Campus
- Phased renovation to Joplin Campus buildings
- Instructional space reconfiguration on Main Campus
- Enhanced faculty to student ratios
- Increased counseling and student services
- Prudent enrollment growth

**5. Who is leading Phase II of the 4500Forever Capital Campaign?**

Fr. Kevin Storey, CSB, President of St. Thomas High School, and Mark deTranaltés '83, Vice President for Advancement, are working closely with our **Phase II** Chairs Amy and Bo Huggins, P '18, '17, '19 to lead this campaign. They are joined by Honorary Chairs Dona and Al Clay '61 and Jane and Bill Joplin '54. They are supported by a strong campaign committee of alumni and current parents.

The school is governed by a 17-member Board of Directors chaired by John Rathmell '75, with significant support provided by the St. Thomas Foundation, a separate nonprofit organization chaired by Thad Fuller '76.

**6. How many students does the school serve now and how will enrollment grow?**

Currently, STH serves 680 students. The Joplin Campus will allow enrollment to gradually and prudently expand to 1,000 students over the next 10 years.

**7. What makes the school unique?**

St. Thomas High School is the only all-boys Catholic college preparatory school located inside Houston's 610 Loop, and it is the oldest in the state of Texas. We serve students from five counties and more than 120 zip codes across the greater Houston area. STH has one of the city's most diverse student populations: about 21% of the students are Hispanic, 7% are African American, 6% are Asian, 3% are multiracial, and 63% are Caucasian. 23% are non-Catholic. Approximately one-third of the students currently receive financial assistance to attend the school, with aid exceeding \$1.3 million annually.

*The Basilian commitment to educate any young man who wants to attend STH lays the foundation for a strong sense of community, brotherhood and love. Our unique mix and diversity of students over the past 100 years fuels this spirit and binds us together. Eagle pride and legacy will drive this campaign.*



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