

FAQ – Catlin Gabel Property Expansion

updated 7/30/19

What type of property has Catlin Gabel purchased?

Catlin Gabel purchased an 8.6-acre property at 8245 Barnes Road, about 200 yards from our main campus. The property has for many years been the site of the Oregon College of Art and Craft (OCAC). It comprises 14 buildings and approximately 60,000 square feet of facilities in a natural setting. Catlin Gabel assumed ownership of the property on April 29, 2019. Purchase price was 6.5M for the full campus and all facilities. Catlin Gabel does not assume any OCAC debt.

How will Catlin Gabel finance this property purchase?

For the initial costs of the property purchase, the school's goal is to fund those costs through philanthropy, using a line of credit temporarily until fundraising goals are met. We used this approach to finance construction of the Creative Arts Center, and it worked well. Catlin Gabel is in the process of securing long-term debt for the Campus Master Plan, and OCAC renovations are part of that plan.

How will fundraising efforts for the property affect current fundraising at the school?

We are in touch with many donors who are uniquely interested in supporting this opportunity. It's largely a different donor base than what we cultivate for the annual fund and will cultivate for an eventual capital campaign. Early conversations indicate there is a great deal of promise for fundraising success for this purchase and for ongoing initiatives and goals at the school.

How will this purchase affect Catlin Gabel's tuition?

Campus Master Plan projects in the years ahead will be funded by philanthropy and by long-term debt. The latter will have some impact on tuition expenses. The Board Finance committee and the school administration are developing a long-term financial plan that will allow us to predict and manage tuition increases to minimize impact.

Why did Catlin Gabel buy this property?

As we consider ways to realize our long term strategic, enrollment, and campus goals, the addition of nearby educational space and structures provides us with options and flexibility. With this expansion, we will model a 21st century approach to education with innovative learning spaces; expand upper grades enrollment through an intentional, gradual process; and provide students with more opportunities in academics, social life, athletics, and the arts.

Will increased enrollment mean larger class sizes?

Any enrollment growth will be accompanied by additional full-time employees and resources to ensure we sustain small class sizes and strong relationships, core elements of our mission and program.



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How will this affect the school's recently-completed Master Plan?

The property purchase will complement the school's significant first steps in making improvements to the main Catlin Gabel campus. With community input, we will thoughtfully plan for how the expansion fits into the Master Plan goals.

How will students benefit from this expansion?

Our primary purpose at Catlin Gabel is to provide students with a unique and powerful experience that prepares them for success in school and life. The addition to our campus of 8.6 acres, 14 buildings, and state-of-the-art resources will allow us to expand both the size of our student body and our academic offerings. We will maintain a relevant, future-focused school, and improve the educational experience for every student. Catlin Gabel, regarded as one of the finest schools in the nation, will take excellence in education to an even higher level.

Who made the decision to buy?

The Catlin Gabel Board of Trustees identified the opportunity, engaged OCAC leadership, and negotiated the purchase. OCAC made it clear to us that Catlin Gabel was their preferred buyer because of our commitment to education and arts.

Who is making the decision about what to do with the property?

The Catlin Gabel Board of Trustees and Head of School Tim Bazemore, with input from the Catlin Gabel leadership team and the greater Catlin Gabel community, will determine how the new property can have the most positive impact on the Catlin Gabel student experience. The plan they produce may include a combination of classes and extracurricular activities or relocation of departments or a division.

Will the Catlin Gabel community have input into how the new property will be used?

Yes. Catlin Gabel families had an opportunity to ask questions and offer input in several meetings this past spring. Over the summer, the Board of Trustees, Tim, and the school's leadership team will consider possibilities, and in the fall will update the community on our plans. Input from Catlin Gabel constituents, including parents and guardians, employees, students, and alumni, will inform the school's decision-making process.

When will Catlin Gabel begin to have classes or student activities on the new property?

Improvements to the property and renovations will take place over a two or three-year period, perhaps longer. In the near term, school activities, events, meetings, and project work may be possible, but other educational purposes will be limited. Catlin Gabel classes and programs could more fully occupy the new space in the 2022-23 school year.

How will this expenditure affect the experience for students currently enrolled in Catlin Gabel?

While the new property is being renovated, students will not experience any change in the quality of education and resources they currently have at Catlin Gabel. In the future, the



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addition of this campus will affect students in a positive way; they will benefit from an expansion of facilities and programs.

What is the relationship between Catlin Gabel and OCAC?

Catlin Gabel's connection with OCAC goes back decades. We have been neighbors for over 40 years, with many common students, faculty, administrators, trustees, and friends.

Will Catlin Gabel continue OCAC in some capacity?

The OCAC board voted in January to close the college in May 2019, and there are no plans to re-open OCAC, grant degrees, or provide specific programming. As we plan for the future of this property, our primary focus is on Catlin Gabel students and the experience we provide for them. We are, however, exploring ways we can make the campus available as a community resource, potentially by sustaining some arts and camp programming.

How will this campus purchase change Catlin Gabel?

It is a significant change, and one that is iterative—we will learn as we go. And change and evolution have always been part of the Catlin Gabel experience. From the time the school purchased Honey Hollow Farm in the 1950s, 20 buildings have been built; several have been removed as well. The campus experience has been different for every generation. The next generation will experience the most creative and innovative learning environment—and the most extensive campus—in the history of the school.

