

FIELD OF DREAMS

EXPANSION PROJECT



Laurence School's academic and enrichment programs have expanded and grown, making Laurence one of the most innovative and cutting-edge elementary schools in the country. Our arts, music and performing arts programs boast seven specialists, plus outside orchestra teachers, offering our students more opportunity for creativity than ever! We continually enhance our STEAM program and the technology that supports it, allowing our kids to code, build, design, and invent. Additionally, we are able to develop strong learners through our low student-to-faculty ratios. *All of this requires space - for small group instruction, for increasing numbers of technology devices, for true 21st-century learning.*



Laurence School has recently been afforded a unique opportunity to expand the school's learning environment and classroom space with a new 2,000-square-foot building to be located on the Field of Dreams. As we looked at how best to utilize this new building to enhance our students' educational experiences, we believe it is important to provide:

- Two state-of-the-art classrooms
- Additional K-6 flexible learning spaces
- Increased opportunities for project-based, hands-on learning
- Flexibility for small group teaching and learning
- Integrated access to outdoor garden and lunch areas, including newly relocated Edible Garden

To develop 21st-century skills, children need learning spaces that enhance a culture of innovation and creativity. This new building will allow Laurence to create additional spaces to develop engaged, passionate, and intellectually curious learners.

The Field of Dreams Expansion Project will include dedicated grade level space for upper division students, additional enrichment classrooms, and small group learning spaces (i.e., Learning Labs as we call them). Additionally, lunch, garden and outdoor learning spaces will provide our students with areas to interact, socialize and explore. This project will open up other areas of campus, to allow for additional STEAM spaces, allowing our teachers to have greater capabilities to design hands-on experiences that will challenge our students in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The additional Learning Lab space will support our commitment to accommodate the various learning levels of our students, allow us to maintain our low student-to-faculty ratio, and provide breakout areas for individual, peer-to-peer, and small group learning.





EDIBLE GARDEN RELOCATION

“How the young respond to nature, and how they raise their own children, will shape the configurations and conditions of our cities, homes--our daily lives.”

~Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods

We are presented with the opportunity to relocate and improve our Edible Garden, as well as expand it to include space for outdoor learning. The Edible Garden is a meaningful feature of our campus, which sets Laurence apart from other independent schools.

The Garden is the hub of our environmental education program, which is an important part of our school-wide science curriculum. If our students are to become the stewards of our environment, they must understand it. And to understand it, they must spend time outdoors. Interaction with nature helps students develop a respect and caring attitude toward the environment that they will carry with them throughout their lives.



The Edible Garden serves as an outdoor science laboratory where students learn about biology, climate, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. As part of this program, our school partners with Farmscape, the largest urban farming venture in California. Parent volunteers also work side-by-side with students to care for our garden and to keep it vibrant. Through gardening our students also learn personal responsibility and patience.

The Garden is also the center of one of our school's most beloved traditions – Planting Day. During this annual event, 6th grade students lead a day of planting and community. Big and little buddies work together to plant the garden, read, and enjoy fall snacks. Parents from each grade also volunteer on this day, making it an important tradition for them as well. In the spring, the Edible Garden becomes the source of the 5th Grade Farmer's Market, an entrepreneurial and economic project, which also benefits our sister schools in Africa.



This magical setting also provides inspiration for art classes and poetry, and offers outdoor learning space for our teachers to expand beyond the classroom. Our faculty uses this outdoor space to create engaging lessons and simulations that spark excitement.

The newly designed Edible Garden will continue to be an oasis for teaching and learning that sparks joy in our students, while creating an opportunity for our programs to grow and flourish.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

\$1,000,000



You are invited to join us in providing our students and faculty with exciting new spaces that will be empowering and transformative.



NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW FIELD OF DREAMS BUILDING

EXPANDED EDIBLE GARDEN

QUAD BENCH OR OTHER HARDSCAPE FEATURE



