

# BUILDING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN

Giving New Opportunities  
and Ideas Space to Grow

A young child with blonde hair, wearing a red and white striped long-sleeved shirt, dark blue jeans, and pink sneakers, is climbing a green metal arch on a playground. The child is hanging from the top of the arch with both hands, and their legs are extended downwards. The background is a blurred brick wall and a wooden fence. The ground is covered in dark mulch.

THE WOODS  
ACADEMY









# WE ARE THE WOODS

From its founding days, The Woods Academy is a place that celebrates the individuality of every child in a nurturing community with a well-rounded program. From our preschool through the 8th grade, our students are challenged and supported by a caring group of educators, friends, and parents. Students at The Woods discover who they are through a program of excellence, integrated curriculum, personalized attention, and a faith that guides us to serve others along the way.

In 2018, the Board of Trustees and school leadership developed the strategic plan *Building to Lead*, a vision for the next five years. Built upon our tradition of excellence, this bold vision places our well-rounded students, passionate faculty, and supportive parents at the forefront – where they belong.

As we enter a new decade, the strategic plan calls for an ambitious campaign to advance the academic strength of The Woods by focusing on people and programs and modernizing learning spaces to better equip the 21st century student while also addressing long-needed updates to the facility.

This innovative work will allow The Woods to continue to grow and thrive in the years ahead. *Building to Lead* will raise funds to support an academic environment that inspires enthusiasm for learning, instills the joy of accomplishment, allows The Woods to adapt with the ever-changing world, and personifies our commitment to community.

This is the first time in more than a decade that The Woods has embarked on a fundraising opportunity of this magnitude. **Now is the time to undertake this transformative and visionary work.** This is your invitation to join us, with all of your passion and generosity, to prepare The Woods to meet the future.









# ENHANCED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Woods faculty and staff strive to lay a sound foundation in academic excellence, strong values, and physical health that will guide and support Woods graduates throughout their lives. Class sizes are intentionally small so teachers can offer rigorous instruction with care and encouragement. We carefully cultivate an environment where each child is loved.

With the enthusiastic support of the community, *Building to Lead* will promote academic excellence by assessing and enhancing the core academic programs with a concentrated effort on expanding innovation, entrepreneurship, honors coursework, and learning support.

The campaign will provide teachers and students with the resources they need to develop initiative, flexibility, and independence. Building superior programs for our students will ensure the most well-rounded academic experience, coherence, and continuity from preschool through Grade 8.

## WE WILL:

- Retain and recruit dynamic educators to lead new academic initiatives.
- Meet the needs of students by offering honors coursework and supporting students through a variety of learning strategies.
- Provide a comprehensive guidance and wellness curriculum that includes the development of social-emotional skills for students.
- Further develop and incorporate a diverse curriculum with multicultural pedagogy.
- Enhance the STEAM program by leveraging technology tools.
- Incorporate interdisciplinary opportunities, collaborative studies, leadership, and real-world applications.
- Advance signature programs such as STEAM, entrepreneurship, world language immersion experiences, and RISE Scholars.
- Merge foundational curriculum with cutting-edge experiential learning.





**LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT



**UPPER SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT





# MODERNIZED LEARNING SPACES AND ENHANCED FACILITIES

As The Woods is committed to staying in our current location long term, it is imperative that we modernize our building to meet the future needs of the school, and to reflect the joy and innovative approach of The Woods educational experience.

The campaign will provide the resources to significantly update, improve, and modernize a learning and teaching environment that will foster creativity and confidence. These innovative, flexible, and safe spaces will align with the dynamic people and curriculum that are at the heart of The Woods.

## WE WILL:

- Reimagine our classrooms to create flexible learning spaces with enhanced layouts, new furniture, and updated hands-on, open-space design to align with the dynamic programming for current and future use.
- Transform the library into a signature and central space for all ages – modern and flexible.
- Establish a green building initiative by updating our operating systems, undertake structural improvements, and update safety and security measures.
- Improve the exterior space to reflect the modern and innovative teaching taking place inside the building.
- Renovate the kitchen to provide space to prepare meals, teach, and serve the wider community.



“Two of our children have graduated from The Woods and one is still here. At graduation, Mr. Powers shares vignettes about the graduates. Listening to him speak about each 8th grader’s contributions to this wonderful community, it is clear how much the teachers care for our children and how much they see each child’s individuality and are ready to support them with their strengths and needs. We know that who our children became at The Woods will stay in their hearts and will help them grow into who they will be in the future. And for this we are most grateful.”

Ines Vega and Alejandro Villegas



**LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT









**INNOVATION LAB**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT









**WORLD LANGUAGES CLASSROOM**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT



**4TH GRADE CLASSROOM**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT





**“The foundation of our children’s educational experience was made possible due to the generosity of those who provided financial support before us and we are ever so grateful. Our family would like to leave our footprint at The Woods by supporting this campaign not only for our children, but also for future Woods students. This is our opportunity to give back. This is the time!”**

Marc Ferrell and Vinka Pasos-Ferrell  
*Building to Lead Campaign Chairs*





**UPPER SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT





**MONTESSORI CLASSROOM**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT







**MAIN HALLWAY**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT





**MAIN ENTRYWAY**  
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT



**“The Woods is not just a school, but a community that values one another and the unique gifts we each possess. This campaign brings us together further allowing us to advance our mission and remain focused on what matters the most – our students.”**

Joe Powers  
Head of School













## **KITCHEN RENOVATION**

### **ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT**

*for preparing meals, teaching, and serving the community*



“The Woods has been a blessing to our family over the years – we have one graduate (2011) and one in the Upper School. The *Building to Lead* Campaign is the perfect opportunity to express our gratitude for all The Woods has given us in the past, in the present, and all the extraordinary things The Woods will do for our children in the future.”

Robin Clark and John Ridenour  
*Building to Lead* Campaign Chairs







# PLEASE JOIN US

The improvements proposed by *Building to Lead* are rooted in The Woods' proud history with an eye to our exciting future. The campaign will require the entire Woods community to come together to support the school by making exceptional gifts. It will require a level of generosity and commitment far higher than in the past.

**Your help and generosity are essential for the future of The Woods. We are truly grateful for all you do.**

We take on this challenge, as we do with all our work, with joy, creativity, determination, intention, hard work, and love.



**We Are The Woods. And so are you.**  
**Together, we can build a bright future for our students.**







# The Woods Academy Mission

The Woods Academy is an inclusive Catholic community preparing boys and girls to lead lives of significance.



SCAN HERE  
TO LEARN MORE





# THE WOODS ACADEMY

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[woodsacademy.org](http://woodsacademy.org)

ALL GIFTS TO THE BUILDING TO LEAD CAMPAIGN WILL BE APPLIED AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BY THE DONOR.