

SPACE FOR *Grace*



A CAMPAIGN FOR ST. BERNARD ACADEMY





*Everyone talks about high academics,
but at St. Bernard, we deliver on that.*

Our students go on to attend ten different high schools.

*They perform very well academically while remaining grounded
in values, service and a commitment to serve their communities.*

CHUCK SABO, HEAD OF SCHOOL

St. Bernard Academy

HAS A LONG AND STORIED HISTORY—

from the six Sisters of Mercy who opened the original academy for girls in 1866, to the parents who ushered in our new era as an independent, Catholic, co-educational elementary school in 1988.

At St. Bernard, we proudly nurture

THE *whole* CHILD.

Our mission is to provide an excellent Catholic academic education built on a foundation of **SELF-DISCIPLINE**, **COMPASSION**, and a sense of responsibility for **SOCIAL JUSTICE** in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy.

As a result, our students are prepared academically, emotionally, and spiritually for their next level of education.



THEY THRIVE IN WHATEVER
PATHS THEY CHOOSE.



I'm hard pressed to think there is any child whose life would not be better if they had a place like SBA—athletic children, academic children, musical children. SBA provides a supportive environment that gives children the skills they need when they leave the nest. It's a shame that every child doesn't get to grow up with that experience.

MINDY HAWS, PAST PARENT

St. Bernard was an amazing place to spend nine formative years of my life, and it shaped the person I have become in so many ways. What keeps me going is my belief that a life well-spent is one that strives to make the world a better place, a belief I developed at SBA.

KEILA FRANKS, '06



how

WE LIVE IT OUT



We provide a rigorous curriculum which prepares students to think critically and become problem-solvers.



We teach the tenets of the Catholic faith and embrace the charism of the Sisters of Mercy.



We maintain a low student/teacher ratio.



We recruit and retain motivated, talented, and caring faculty.



We offer a variety of extracurricular and athletic activities to complement classroom learning.



We ensure a financially secure school and a well-maintained facility with appropriate resources for all.



We are accessible to students from all walks of life and embrace children from diverse religious, economic, and ethnic backgrounds.

GROWING, GROWING

Outgrown

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS BUYING
HOT LUNCH HAS DOUBLED FROM **130** TO **270** PER DAY.

2018



VS.



TODAY

The needs of our dining hall and nutrition program have completely changed. Because of limited space, our culinary team prepares meals in batches causing our lunch block to begin at 10:45 AM and conclude at 1:20 PM.

- This elongated lunch period disrupts the school schedule.
- Our students are forced to eat earlier or later, not at optimal times.
- The size of our preparation space limits the variety of food we can safely and efficiently store, refrigerate, prepare, cook, and serve.

THE BOTTOM LINE?

This is the single space on our entire campus that each student passes through every day. When our students' health and wellness isn't a top priority, we fall short on our promise to truly nurture the whole child.



A NEW
Dining Facility:

IMPACTING EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY

Just as we challenge each of our students to grow and reach their greatest potential, so must our school itself strive for continual improvement. It is our responsibility—to our students, to our families, and to our community. That's why we are proud to launch the **SPACE FOR GRACE** Campaign.



Through this campaign, we will add over 2,200 square feet to our dining facility—nearly doubling its size and doubling our seating capacity.



Expanding St. Bernard's dining facility is an opportunity for the school to take our health, wellness, and sustainability efforts to a whole new level.

TRINA EWALD, PARENT

Mr. Sabo has created a community where faculty, staff, and families support one another and our children. At the same time, SBA provides a highly individualized education so that each student is challenged on the level they need to be. SBA's ability to nurture both—an authentic community and personal growth—makes it a remarkable place to go to school.

CHRIS CRANE, CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

The pandemic taught us the importance of using space wisely. For SBA, creating opportunities for flexibility is key. We have a limited amount of square feet to work with. Making our spaces adaptable means we can better serve the needs of our community from the moment we open in the morning until the last activities and athletic events finish every night.

CHUCK SABO

BY EXPANDING THE DINING HALL AND
DESIGNING IT TO BE A MORE FLEXIBLE SPACE,
we will promote:



1

Health and Wellness

We know that what our students eat makes a difference in how they learn, how they play, and how they perform in their extracurricular activities. With a larger commercial kitchen and prep area, we can expand our offerings; utilize more fresh, local, in-season ingredients; and provide our children with right balance of nutrients to fuel their bodies and minds all day long. Moreover, because we will double our seating capacity, your children will be able to eat when their bodies need it most.

2

Environmental Sustainability

By re-envisioning the entire dining facility—from food storage to preparation, cooking, and cleaning—we can advance SBA's health, wellness, and sustainability efforts. This improved design can eliminate the need for most single-use paper and plastics. It will also allow us to continue our commitment to reducing food waste through composting. These efforts bolster our goal of becoming an environmentally sustainable campus and teaching our students how to be good stewards of our Earth. Together we will be able to lighten SBA's overall environmental footprint.

3

Efficiency

Fewer lunch periods means fewer scheduling conflicts with academic classes, enrichment activities and special events, and parent and community groups who also need places to gather as they work to support our student and school community.

SPACE FOR *Grace*



4

Community

SBA's strength lies in our community. There is no better, or simpler, way to strengthen ties among our student body than to give children of all ages an opportunity to come together around a meal. By doubling our seating capacity, we will be able to do this every day. Moreover, lunch is often the least structured part of our students' day. It is a great time for them to get to know each other, and for parents to come in, share a meal with their children, and get to know their friends.

Our focus on community also comes into play when it comes to aesthetics. By creating a beautiful, light-filled space, we will ensure your children look forward to spending time here. This is especially important because many of our students come here after school as part of Aftercare. Designing the space with eating, studying, gathering, and playing in mind will make it a much better fit for the full range of activities that are part of this program.

5

Flexibility

Because the boundaries of our campus are finite, we continue to be intentional about its best use. By incorporating elements of flexible design—such as partitions—the dining facility can serve multiple purposes all day and all year long—from Aftercare and scouting to band rehearsals, parent association meetings, and baccalaureate exercises.

By making a gift to expand our cafeteria, you will impact the health of our students and our entire community.

YOU WILL HELP US NURTURE THE GROWTH OF EVERY CHILD.

A FITTING TRIBUTE: The Sabo Center

ST. BERNARD IS A THRIVING, SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

Over the last 15 years, much of that success is due to our Head of School, Mr. Carl J. (Chuck) Sabo. When Mr. Sabo arrived at SBA in 2006, he stepped in to lead with constant positivity, hard work, bold ideas, plus a dash of fun.

During his tenure, St. Bernard Academy:

- Increased enrollment by 70%, from 225 students in 2006 to 383 students today
- Earned 2017 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Education
- Completed a \$1.4 million fundraising campaign to add an 18,000 square foot expansion including a new entrance on Bernard Ave, new offices, 7 new classrooms, and a new multipurpose space
- Increased Annual Fund giving from \$25,000 in 2006 to over \$200,000 in 2021
- Re-energized SBA's Athletics, Drama, Music, Reading and Science programs
- Ensured SBA's financial stability by increasing revenues from \$1.3 million in 2006 to just under \$6 million in 2021
- Added two Bus Service routes and a Junior Kindergarten program to add more value for families
- Continues to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, with an emphasis on keeping kids safe and in school

We are proud to honor Mr. Sabo—and all that he has done for the school—by naming this proposed new gathering space after him.

After all, this space is much more than just a dining hall. It's a place where students of all ages gather together for a meal. Where parent groups meet and mingle. Where students learn and play outside the classroom. Where we hold our most special events. It's the very center of our SBA community, much like Mr. Sabo himself.

In July 2022, Mr. Sabo will retire as SBA's Head of School. Though his tenure is coming to an end, the Sabo Center will cement his legacy at SBA. By making a gift to the **SPACE FOR GRACE** Campaign in honor of Mr. Sabo, you will be a crucial part of that legacy.



Expanding the dining hall is one of our most critical needs at SBA at this time. In my last year as Head of School at SBA, it is my greatest wish to transform this space into the best dining experience possible.

Our students deserve it.

CHUCK SABO

The **SPACE FOR GRACE** Campaign is an opportunity to come together and make a lasting impact on the campus and every student who graces its classrooms.



YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE

every day
better

FOR EVERY STUDENT
AT ST. BERNARD
ACADEMY.

Our new dining facilities will do more than make it easier to serve 400 students a day. It will provide us with new opportunities to **BUILD OUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY**. Including the right equipment and design will **HEIGHTEN OUR SUSTAINABILITY**, lighten our environmental footprint, and allow us to **EXPAND OUR OFFERINGS** so that your children get the nutrition they need all day long. And by building the space to suit multiple group sizes and activities, SBA will **GAIN THE FLEXIBILITY NEEDED** to host the wide range of events that are essential to a vibrant, healthy school day on our historic campus.

SPACE FOR Grace

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**Steering Committee
Co-Chair*

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