

bshs

Bishop Shanahan High School
People of God; People for Others

Soaring
TO NEW HEIGHTS





FROM ITS BEGINNINGS in West Chester, to the opening of the doors of the Downingtown campus in 1998, through the challenges encountered during the pandemic, Bishop Shanahan High School has been unwavering in its commitment to best serve the needs of students and school families. At Bishop Shanahan, we are constantly investing in the values that inspire our students to become *People of God; People for Others*. To that end, we are always striving to provide students with an unsurpassed academic experience, rich extracurricular activities, and a community that radiates the Christ-centered values of love, respect, and responsibility.

These goals are achieved by continuously embracing new strategies so that our students are prepared academically and spiritually for the challenges of tomorrow. Consequently, in 2018, Bishop Shanahan embarked on a process of taking a critical look at our school's functions and prioritizing needs that will best position students for future success in a rapidly evolving world. This endeavor included intensive research, analysis, and input from Board members, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends. The outcome of this planning process was a strategic plan that would help guide the way for our future. We now move forward in our work to provide Shanahan students with new and innovative resources to inspire their brilliance and create a future that radiates creativity, collaboration, and intellect.

I ask you to join us as we strengthen the foundation of our school by supporting the pillars of faith, academics, athletics, arts, community, and scholarship. Your investment in this campaign will allow us not merely to continue our great educational and formation programs; it will help us to continue the great legacy of forming *People of God; People for Others* in a world that badly needs leaders who know the meaning of community, understand the value of service, and possess the creativity to solve tomorrow's challenges.

Bishop Shanahan is Soaring to New Heights!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. John E. Donia

Reverend John E. Donia
President





Mission Statement

Bishop Shanahan High School, a Catholic co-educational secondary school of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, committed to sustaining excellence, provides a strong spiritual life, along with challenging academic and rich extracurricular programs. A strong witness to Christian values and commitment to academic rigor and integrity prepare all students to be critical thinkers and moral stewards in a rapidly evolving global environment.



HIGH SCHOOL IS A PIVOTAL PERIOD which can determine a young person's academic, professional, and personal trajectory. It is a time when students are preparing for college, establishing life-long relationships, and growing their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. For over 65 years, Bishop Shanahan High School has nurtured students during this crucial time.

Bishop Shanahan High School provides an unequalled educational setting where the focus is on each student finding and developing his or her truest gifts and talents. With this goal in mind, Bishop Shanahan provides a wide variety of educational, co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences to help all students develop their potential as persons made in the image and likeness of God. Thousands of young people have benefited from the unique educational experience at Shanahan.

Students are supported by dedicated and committed faculty and staff who provide an ethical and moral education which reaches beyond the walls of the classroom. The whole school is united by the conviction that all members of the Bishop Shanahan community are called to be *People of God; People for Others*.

Shanahan Keystone Principles



Forming Leaders for Life through Academic Excellence

Since 1958, Bishop Shanahan High School has educated young men and women to emerge as confident scholars and able leaders. This is achieved by a well-designed academic program of rigorous courses that promote critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation.



Robust Student Life

Shanahan students are encouraged to explore a wide variety of interests and extracurricular activities. Athletics, fine arts, robotics, forensics, and student government are just a few of the many opportunities that make the high school experience unique for every student. This is a community that has something for everyone!



Community through Faith

Shanahan students are socially responsive, ethical Christian people, who embrace a commitment to serving others as a result of their formation as **People of God; People for Others**. Christ-centered values unify the school community and empower Shanahan students to meet with confidence the challenges of a rapidly evolving world.



17:1

STUDENT: FACULTY

13,107

NUMBER OF ALUMNI

100%

UNIVERSITY
ACCEPTANCE RATE

2

COLLEGE
PARTNERSHIPS

\$49 Million

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED BY
THE MOST RECENT GRADUATING CLASS

21

AP COURSES

Over 30

EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES OFFERED

\$1.6 Million

AMOUNT PROVIDED IN SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL
AID FOR CURRENT SHANAHAN STUDENTS

A Legacy of Faith and Growth



"Alumni are the history of Shanahan, and they are integral to its future success".

— Al Yudes '65

- 1909 - 1956** ● Bishop Shanahan's rich legacy can be traced to the Christian values and academic excellence first nurtured in Saint Agnes Parish High School in West Chester, PA.
- The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (I.H.M.) administered and staffed the high school until it became necessary to secure a larger property to accommodate the growing Catholic enrollment.
- 1956 - 1996** ● A new piece of land for the high school, at Gay and Everhart Streets, was donated by the West Chester Council of the Knights of Columbus. Ground was broken in the Fall of 1956, and Bishop Shanahan High School opened on September 4, 1957.
- 1996 - 1998** ● The continuing growth of the Catholic community in Chester County called for new and expanded facilities. The new 246,000 square foot educational facility opened in Downingtown in September 1998. The facility includes a 1,200-seat auditorium, a spacious library, and state-of-the-art computer and science labs. It also comprises modern athletic facilities, including a 1,000-seat gymnasium with an auxiliary gym, a 400-meter track and various sports fields.

- 2005 - 2015** ● In 2005, a beautiful football stadium with capacity for 2000 fans was added to the Shanahan campus to the delight of the school community. In 2015, this stadium was updated through a \$2 million project which added a multi-purpose synthetic turf field, stadium lighting, and a resurfaced track. The surrounding 80 acres of rich Chester County land provide a beautiful, natural setting for a peaceful, rich, and safe learning environment.

- Into the Future** ● Bishop Shanahan High School, with God's help and the support of faculty, parents, alumni and students, has become an example of achievement; encouraging the spiritual, academic, artistic and athletic growth of its students.
- High caliber Catholic education requires investment of our collective talents, energy, intellect and the funds to facilitate our purpose. Continued success is not guaranteed without the preparations we can and must make now. We must be bold and ambitious in our planning and execution to maintain Shanahan's position as a leader in academic excellence and meaningful student life.

Strategic Plan

IN 2018, AFTER EXTENSIVE INPUT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, Bishop Shanahan High School created a strategic plan to guide the way for our future. Already we are seeing the impact of these efforts, as new courses were introduced to provide students with diverse options in many core classes and elective areas, including online courses. These options expand student opportunities as they make more informed decisions about college and life beyond high school.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Shanahan launched two programs, STEM Pathways and The Eagle Business Academy. Each program offers innovative and collaborative courses over a four-year curriculum that concludes with a senior capstone project and special accreditations for students.



STEM Pathways

Answering the call of national leaders in both the public and private sectors, The Bishop Shanahan STEM Program seeks to inspire the next generation of innovators by empowering students to be creative, collaborative and critical-thinking problem solvers. This program takes an interdisciplinary approach to learning, where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world applications. The program ensures all Bishop Shanahan students graduate with fluency in STEM literacy and provides a pathway to success in college, career and beyond.



Eagle Business Academy

The Eagle Business Academy provides students with a broad range of specialized coursework that will best prepare them for post-secondary success in business. The Academy culminates in a capstone project that will allow students to apply the learned skills and knowledge to strategically and effectively implement change and solve real-world problems through ethical business practices and entrepreneurship.



Student Story

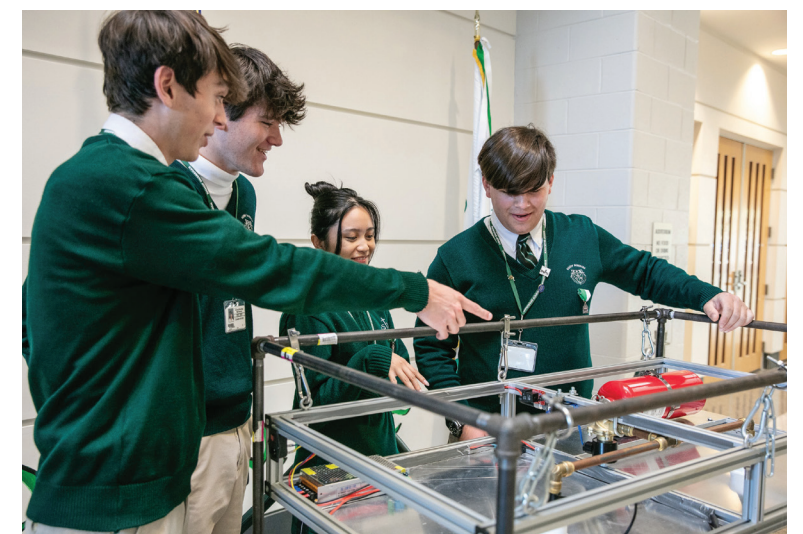
"Establishing a path to basic STEM literacy for everyone is vital to preparing a diverse workforce needed for the United States to lead and prosper in an increasingly competitive world driven by advanced technology."

— President's Committee on STEM Education and the National Science and Technology Council

THE SHANAHAN STEM TEAM swept away the competition at the 2022 PA Governor's STEM Regional Competition, claiming victory as Grand Champions. The theme for the 2022 STEM competition, which challenges teams to answer the needs of Pennsylvanians, was "Improving Pennsylvania Through STEM." The official Shanahan presentation team was composed of a group of seniors: Brendan Pappas, James Spaulding, Evelyn Snyder, Gabriel Nichols and Catherine Flick, and faculty advisor John P. Janasik, Ph.D.

The team's winning project was the creation of CASS: Computerized Autonomous Suppressant System. CASS can be used to replace existing means of fire suppression, which typically cause more damage than the fire itself, through the utilization of a safe, chemical powder suppressant.

Students in the STEM class prepare their project, CASS, for future competitions by doing a live demonstration with their peers.



6 Strategic Plan Goals

GROUNDING IN OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND KEYSTONE PRINCIPLES, the strategic plan has served as our blueprint for the future of Bishop Shanahan. In 2022, the strategic plan was revised to support the rapidly evolving educational goals of current and future students, including an increasing focus on extracurricular programs that make for a rich high school experience. To achieve this, Bishop Shanahan must improve the existing spaces and invest in resources that will inspire innovation, creativity, teamwork and leadership.



Student Story

"Student interest and participation in Shanahan's STEM programs and Business Academy gains momentum every year and it is important to raise the bar to maximize student success."

— Teresa Dellicompagni, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs



DECA, AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HELPS PREPARE emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in the fields of marketing, finance, hospitality and management, has become a popular experience for Shanahan students. DECA provides its members with an abundance of skills, knowledge, real-world experience, connections, and exciting opportunities. It enables Shanahan members to network, investigate the business world, and consider next steps, especially for those who plan to pursue business majors and careers.

Every year, more Bishop Shanahan students participate and have success in DECA competitions. In 2023, Shanahan's DECA team celebrated 33 students who qualified for States. As the Eagle Business Academy continues to grow and gain momentum, so will the strength of the DECA team and the foundation of entrepreneurship at Bishop Shanahan High School.



DECA (business club) competed among 650 students in the District Career Development Conference held at West Chester University (WCU). The students participated in role-play scenarios and workshops presented by local business professionals and WCU. Thirty-three of Shanahan's competitors qualified for States.

- 92% of DECA members report that DECA experiences empowered them to become an effective leader.
- 98% of DECA members report they gained skills in problem solving.
- 86% of DECA members report they learned how to work as part of a team.
- 91% of DECA members report that participation in DECA prepared them academically for college and a career.
- 66% of DECA members have an increased desire to own a business.
- 82% of DECA members recognized the benefit and responsibility of community service.

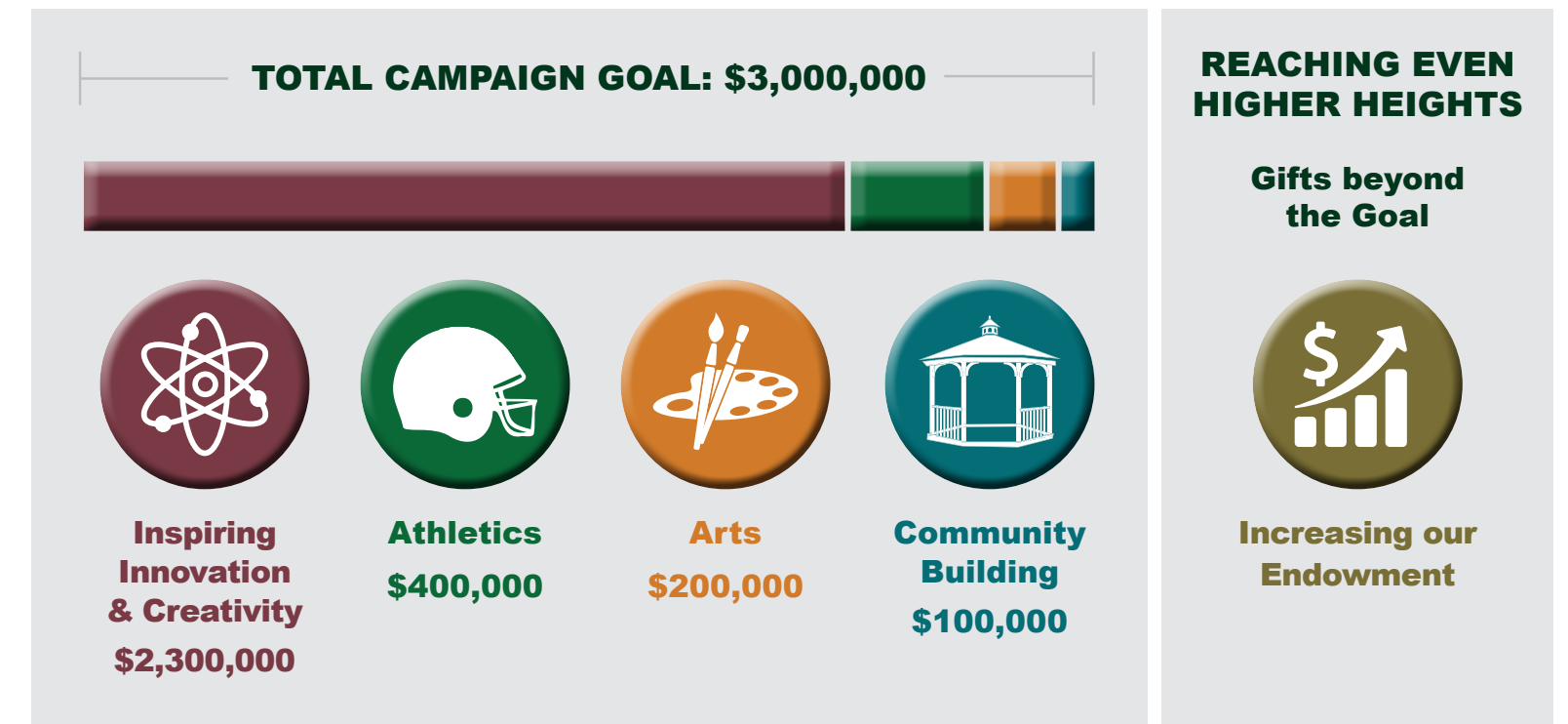


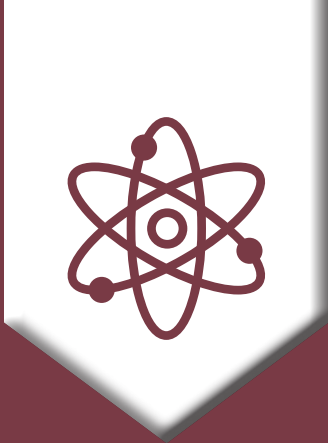
Fulfilling Our Promise

The time has come for Bishop Shanahan to provide the resources and tools for students to unlock their potential and empower students by Soaring to New Heights!

This exciting initiative will launch the school into a new era of enhancements, supporting students now and into the future.

While the competition for charitable contributions is intense, Bishop Shanahan is worthy of the transformational philanthropic gifts this campaign will attract. We must respond now to the rapidly evolving educational environment by enhancing the academic experience for all students. Together, we can give our students and faculty the resources and spaces that are as exceptional and innovative as they are. By Soaring to New Heights, we will empower our students to succeed.





Inspiring Innovation & Creativity

\$2,300,000

GOAL: Renovate underutilized space to better serve the needs of current students and reopen as the *IHM Center for Innovation and Creativity*.

The campaign will support the creation of a new space—the IHM Center for Innovation and Creativity and a STEM Makerspace—by repurposing the existing Media Center, Computer Resource Lab, and a portion of the academic wing.

The Center will further enhance the school curriculum and support students in solving problems strategically, thinking critically and creatively, communicating and collaborating with others, discovering positive group dynamics and leadership strategies.

Students will experience exciting courses which include engineering, immersion technology, robotics, and other STEM-related areas of study. Technology-rich labs, presentation spaces, and collaboration areas will also support the traditional sciences to give Shanahan students the very best environment for a robust, rigorous and relevant learning experience.

The IHM Center for Innovation and Creativity is fittingly named in honor of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who have been the backbone of the Bishop Shanahan educational experience since the beginning. This new space will serve as a central hub for collaboration across a wide range of activities, including STEM, business, community service planning, clubs and various other groups. We envision that all students will find a space in The IHM Center that will inspire bold thinking and the formation of new ideas.



“The creation of vibrant and innovative new learning spaces and upgrades to our facilities is essential to maintaining Bishop Shanahan’s legacy of providing an exceptional and holistic Catholic education to the young people of Chester County.”
— Father Donia

Necessary Skills for Tomorrow

According to McKinsey & Company

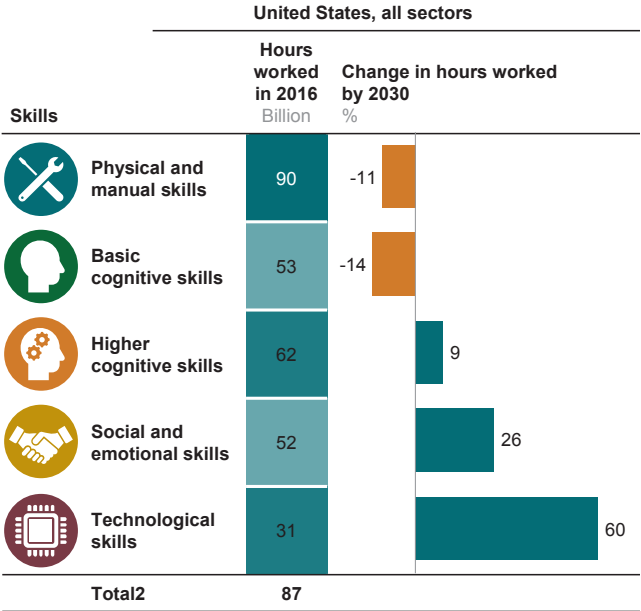
A research report from McKinsey Global Institute has highlighted the skill sets workers will need to secure the best careers for the future. These are:

Technological: this embraces everything from basic to advanced IT skills, data analysis, engineering and research.

Higher cognitive: these skills include advanced literacy and writing, quantitative and statistical skills, critical thinking and complex information processing.

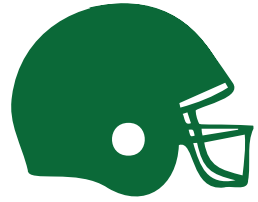
Social and emotional, or so-called “soft skills”: these include advanced communication and negotiation, empathy, the ability to learn continuously, to manage others and to be adaptable.

Source: Full Report: [mgi-skill-shift-automation-and-future-of-the-workforce-may-2018.pdf](#) (mckinsey.com); WEF Write-up: [The 3 key skill sets for the workers of 2030](#) | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)



THE CENTER WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH

- **Learning Zones** to maximize student potential by offering work spaces suitable for different learning styles. These zones will feature private spaces for solitary study, collaborative zones to better enable group work and flexible seating where teachers can instruct their students as a collective whole.
- **Collaborative Workspaces** that will provide the opportunity for four to six students and/or teachers a space to work on projects utilizing technology and have the ability to access external learning resources.
- **Design Center** that would include dedicated computers, video-making equipment and design software for the execution and implementation of projects imagined and designed in the Innovation Center. In addition, the Center will host classes in digital publications and in tech resources.
- **Resource Center and Academic Lab** to empower students to be their very best. Acting as a one-stop shop for all the resources students need to thrive and achieve their goal, including tutoring, quiet space for tests, academic support, online and virtual classes, and other services.
- **STEM Lab and Makerspace** will enable faculty and students to work together on hands-on projects that cross disciplines—creating deeper learning experiences and encouraging interests in fields such as physics, engineering, math, graphic design, robotics and art.



Athletics | \$400,000

GOAL: Renovate gymnasium, expand tennis courts, and maintenance of stadium turf to provide student athletes safety upgrades and facility improvements.

Each year, approximately 75% of students compete in at least one sport or athletic club.

Much needed upgrades to our facilities are needed to support current student experiences and to keep Shanahan competitive in recruiting new students with athletic interests.

After 25 years of wear and tear, the gymnasium needs renovation, the turf field requires regular maintenance to extend its life and the tennis courts must be expanded and improved to meet regulation for tournament play. Shanahan has experienced tremendous success in athletics, attracting talented student athletes from Chester County and surrounding areas. Investments in aging and outdated facilities are necessary so athletes can maintain their competitive advantage and reach their full potential.

ATHLETIC ENHANCEMENTS WOULD INCLUDE

- Upgrade lighting in the gymnasium to LED's
- Renovate the existing tennis courts while adding two more to allow for tournament play
- Replace the current and aging gymnasium floor
- Maintenance of the stadium turf to extend its life
- Upgrade the basketball hoops with electronic controls



"The Athletic Department is more than sports. It's the heart of Eagle Pride and home to many school spirit activities such as dances, intramurals, pep rallies, and social experiences that make high school special."

— Coach Paul Meyers

"If you want to be great at something, make it EVERYTHING."

— Roger Federer
Professional Tennis Player





Arts | \$200,000

GOAL: Upgrade the Fine Arts rooms, including the creation of a ceramics space, and renovation of choral rooms to inspire and support the creative talents of Shanahan artists. Additional investments are needed equipment to enhance auditorium performance space.

The performing arts, visual arts and music all play an essential role in the complete development of a student's education.

According to the NGA Center for Best Practices, an arts education imparts valuable skills that will serve students in their lives and careers: observation, problem-solving, innovation, and critical thinking. Moreover, specific skills covered through arts education directly affect a broad swath of careers outside the core arts careers. From the interior designer relying on color theory to the architect who uses 3D software to the engineer who incorporates elements of design, the skills embodied in arts education have wide application. At Shanahan, we know first-hand the transformative effect experience in the arts has on our students and we have planned to fulfill key enhancements for this very purpose.

ARTS ENHANCEMENTS WOULD INCLUDE

- Create a new space dedicated for ceramics
- Update the Choral and Instrumental Spaces
- Update stage lighting



"Shanahan's commitment to the arts brings beauty and balance to the academic rigors and stresses that impact the lives of young adults. From standing on the Shanahan stage, to now performing on Broadway, I continue to appreciate the richness of my Bishop Shanahan High School experience."

— Mary Kate Morrissey '07,
Broadway





Supporting Community \$100,000

GOAL: The Eagles Nest Community Pavilion

The Community Pavilion will serve as an inviting setting for alumni, parents, and friends to gather for Shanahan special events, such as team banquets, senior nights, donor events, and other social or school gatherings.

Spaces that allow for large and small group gatherings are essential to fostering a sense of unity and belonging among all members of our community.

An inverse complement to the IHM Center, the Eagles Nest Pavilion will enable students to unplug and enjoy in person, face-to-face interactions. All members of the community will receive the physical and mental health benefits that an outdoor space can provide. Adjacent to the school cafeteria and overlooking the Shanahan playing fields, the pavilion space will offer a space to slow down, recharge, and be with friends in a safe and healthy environment.



Boost your mental health by
spending time outside.



"Space for meaningful in-person interaction is essential for students' social development and mental health. The community pavilion will give students and all members of our school community somewhere to unplug, connect with one another, and take in the beauty of our campus."

— Dr. Robert Moran, Principal

"The ability to recover from stress is better in natural settings, because that's where we are meant to be. Just the idea of getting out, being in nature, looking at a tree—the theory is that this helps you to recover from stress, improves your mental health, and improves cognition. It's just a direct pathway."

—Peter James (2022)

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health





Increasing our Endowment — Gifts Beyond the Goal

GOAL: Increase the BSHS Endowment principle to generate more funds on an annual basis to support tuition assistance.

A strong endowment is essential in supporting tuition assistance for deserving families and providing long-term sustainability for the school.

Currently 1 in 3 students require financial assistance to attend Shanahan. The Bishop Shanahan Endowment, which currently stands at approximately \$1.7 million, generates approximately \$85,000 (5%) annually in dividends and provides funding to support the financial aid for families in need. Growing the endowment is essential in supporting tuition assistance for families from every corner of the socioeconomic landscape.

A primary source of funding of the Bishop Shanahan Endowment is planned gifts designated by loyal members of the school community. A pledge of a planned gift is viewed as membership to the Shanahan Legacy Society. No funds are received at this time, but when realized, the contributions would be directed towards the endowment and leave an everlasting legacy for future generations of Shanahan students.

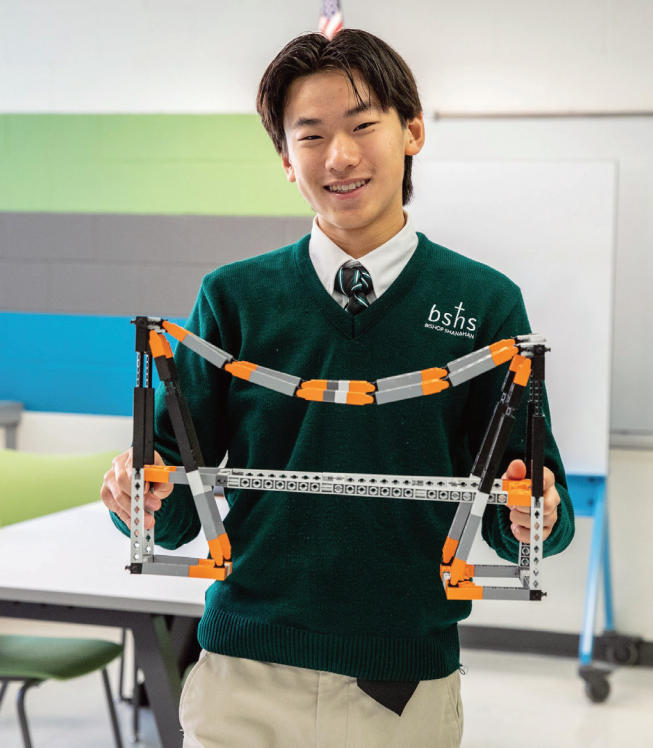
Growing the endowment will increase the number of talented and deserving students receiving tuition assistance and ensure the school's financial sustainability for years to come.



"Now more than ever, families are exploring learning environments best suited for their children to thrive. For decades, BSHS has prepared young adults academically and spiritually. A strong endowment provides a guaranteed annual source of income dedicated to financial aid, and opens the door of opportunity for future students regardless of financial status."

— Beth Harper Briglia, P'12,'17
Chair, BSHS Board of Directors





Help Us Make a Difference

Since 1958, thousands have benefited from the thriving community of Bishop Shanahan.

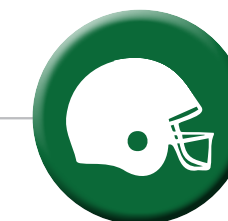
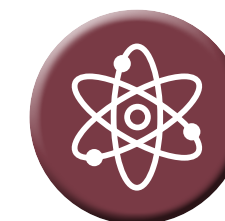
In order to keep pace and stay competitive in our educational environment, Shanahan must evolve in order to continue our legacy of educational excellence while preparing our students to be moral leaders in a global environment.

Blessed by the Holy Spirit and the ongoing generosity of our supporters, we have cultivated a thriving school community.



To build on the successes of the past and achieve even more as we move into the future, we require the support of our entire community.

Soaring TO NEW HEIGHTS



Your participation is pivotal in achieving our mission of providing youth an opportunity to create dynamic futures centered on a strong spiritual connection, stellar academics and well rounded extracurricular activities. Together, we will ensure that Bishop Shanahan students for generations to come receive the finest Catholic education possible.



bshs

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