



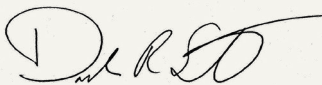
STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-27

DC DELAWARE COUNTY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

As we look through the rich history of Delaware County Christian School over the past seventy-five years, it isn't difficult to see God's abundant blessing upon this school decade after decade. The 1950s were marked by the purchase of our Newtown Square property on Malin Road, a gymnasium was added in the 1960s, the Middle and Upper School buildings were constructed in the 1970s, the Bishop Hollow campus was purchased in the 1980s, the Fine Arts building was added in the 1990s and the DeMoss Center for Worship and The Arts in 2000, and finally the Lower Campus in Devon was purchased in 2009. From its inception in 1949 until today, God has faithfully provided the tools, personnel, and facilities needed to prepare generations of students for a life of impact for the glory of Christ, the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom, and the delight and restoration of His creation. DC is coming off the heels of five exciting years of growth, revitalization, and answered prayer.

The Lord has not only grown enrollment to over 900, up from 580 back in 2019, but the 2021-22 school year marked the completion of a tremendously successful endowment campaign and the addition of exciting new facilities. Even so, as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, much remains to be done to position DC in strength for the future. For this reason, the DC Board of Trustees has devised a strategic and capital plan for 2030 and beyond. These plans include strategic initiatives and capital improvements so DC can effectively live out its mission to provide exemplary education and life-changing and eternal life-giving discipleship to the next generations of students. Now more than ever, DC's mission is needed to prepare students for a life of redemptive impact in their families, vocations, and communities.



Daniel Steinfield
Head of School



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*Strategic
Initiative*

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION



Create a culture of adaptability, continuous learning, and applied and innovative learning which inspires deeper learning, risk taking, and community engagement. All we do, teach, and learn is rooted in Christ; not only preparing students for the next level of education, but for life.

1.1 Core Agility: DC will deliver a Liberal Arts, college prep core curriculum (PK-12) while providing opportunities for creative freedom and integration of engaging educational experiences.

- Ongoing training and implementation of Teaching for Transformation (TFT) and instructional best practices in the classroom
- Formational Learning Experiences (FLEX) are established in each grade across all divisions (PK2-12)
- Further development of the Center for Innovation (upper campus) and The Hive (lower campus)
- Outdoor Learning programs established as an integral part of how DC helps students learn and grow spiritually, relationally, and academically

1.2 Expanded Academic Programming and Support for Diverse Student Learners which increases access to Student Support Services and effective differentiated instruction for advanced learners.

1.3 Educational Technology: Improved communication, accessibility, and productivity through the implementation of new learning management and student information system, upgrades in classroom technology, upgrades in student and faculty devices, and faculty and staff training.

1.4 Co-curricular excellence in Athletics and The Arts resulting in effective recruitment and retention of highly qualified coaches and Fine Arts faculty who spiritually mentor students, modern facilities, and championship teams and award winning Arts, and feeder clubs and youth leagues.



ARTS DEPARTMENT

“Although Delaware County Christian School has a rich history of supporting the arts, there are many areas in which we can continue to grow and develop in order to better serve our students at an exemplary level. Over the next three years, this plan will allow Delaware County Christian School to align the arts department with best practices in education. It will provide all students at DC with an exemplary and innovative education in the arts at DC.”

Elizabeth Steele Coats, Art Department Chair



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ATHLETICS



“As I look at the future of athletics at DC, I see the opportunity to further enhance our offerings of sports and develop our athletics staff and current facilities into a place that gives our students the best possibility to succeed. Over the next three years, this plan will allow Delaware County Christian School to enhance our athletics department to a place where we can reach more students and connect them to Christ in our pursuit of athletic excellence.”

Kevin Wallace, Athletic Director

TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION (TFT)



“We will continue to deepen DC’s Teaching for Transformation implementation, inviting, nurturing, and empowering students to discover their unique role in God’s story. This includes designing formational learning experiences that integrate curriculum with real-world opportunities that engage learners and foster their ability to impact the world through biblical thought and action.”

Stacey Hicklin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction



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OUTDOOR EDUCATION



“DC Outdoor Learning seeks to provide the spaces, training, and experiences necessary to enhance our students’ educational experiences through observation, interaction, and active participation in learning opportunities, partnerships, and programs that encourage encounters with the creator in His creation.”

Kevin McIntyre, Outdoor Education



CENTER FOR INNOVATION

“The Center for Innovation prepares students for a life of impact by inspiring a culture of innovation. We focus on connecting our students with real-world stakeholders and supporting them as they use their education to make an impact.

Matthew DeFranza, Director of the Center for Innovation



CENTER FOR INNOVATION STATISTICS:

120 Upper School students involved in the Center for Innovation

50 Middle School students involved in the Center for Innovation

12 students graduated with academic distinctions through the Center for Innovation in 2023

ALL PK4-5th grade involved in HIVE (Hub of Innovation & Exploration)

STUDENT-RUN BUSINESSES:

- The Grounds (coffee shop)
- The Armory (school store)
- Spectral Video Production
- The Firm Foundation Fund
- Cornerstone Engineering and Design
- Majestic Aura Drop Shipping
- SK Social Media
- Pink Sheep 3D Printing
- DC Ink Screen Printing
- Repurposed Second-Hand Apparel

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Strategic Initiative



MISSION SUSTAINABILITY

Develop a long-term plan designed to ensure the school's mission continues into the future and for cultivating a flourishing Christian school. The creation of multiple revenue sources will provide the financial resources to operate the ministry effectively and position it for future years. Strategic resource planning will include: increased faculty and staff salaries, resources and materials for teaching, capital funding for ongoing campus renewal, a strategic financial plan and master facilities plan, and board financial planning.

2.1 Long term financial planning for sustainability and resilience

2.2 Environmental Sustainability: Effective stewardship of resources and commitment to sustainable resources contributes positively to the annual operating budget and long term sustainability

2.3 DC Ecosystem: Mission Advancement, Accessibility to Christian Education, and Alternative Revenue Sources to fund our Future

- Delaware County Christian School (DC) educates students to serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action. This mission is delivered through our distinctives of innovative and exemplary education rooted in Christ. For almost 75 years DC has been a national leader in Christian education. DC is uniquely positioned to establish an “ecosystem” to support Christian education in the Greater Philadelphia area and position DC for sustainability and resilience in 2030 and beyond.
- The DC Ecosystem is **Mission Centered:** DC is a Christian school grounded on the word of God and rooted in Christ. As a covenant Christian school, we partner with Christian parents to provide a Christian education. We desire to have the bandwidth in programming and resources to provide access to families seeking a Christian education for their children.
- The DC Ecosystem is **Sustainability:** With a strategic focus on sustainability into 2030 and beyond, we recognize the importance of expanded programming, networks, and locations to deliver a DC education. We recognize the importance of collaboration among other Christian K-12 schools, universities, and faith-based organizations to enhance our mission and to further build God's Kingdom. We recognize the value of creating alternative revenue streams that further support the sustainability of the DC mission. We believe Christian education should be marked by excellence and Christian schools should be industry leaders in providing families the highest quality educational experience with alternative revenue streams to supplement operations and capital expenditures.



2.4 Master Planning: Equipping our campuses for 2030 and beyond

The board and administration have developed a master plan for our campuses to position DC for mission delivery for decades to come. These projects have been developed to specifically equip and facilitate our faculty to deliver the DC mission and will enable them to disciple and shepherd our students with excellence for many decades to come.

In the coming year, the board and administration will explore options to fund and execute on these projects. This master capital plan proposal will transform the spaces used by every single student, faculty, and staff of Delaware County Christian School. It will assist DC's leadership to realize its strategic vision and school goals, and provide state of the art classrooms, workspaces, and facilities for our students and faculty to learn, worship, fellowship, and build community.

UPPER SCHOOL PHASE I: CENTER FOR INNOVATION & ART ROOMS

As DC's Center for Innovation programming grows, the proposed redesign of the current library and adjacent classrooms will transform it into a light-filled space that encourages innovation, imagination, creativity, and collaboration. This wing of the Upper School will house a "Maker Space" for our new Center for Innovation Programs that will be equipped with state of the art engineering equipment and a recording/ video studio. Above will be two spacious light-filled art rooms for our Upper and Middle School students, and a welcoming resource room. A new elevator and connecting staircase will make the whole space accessible.



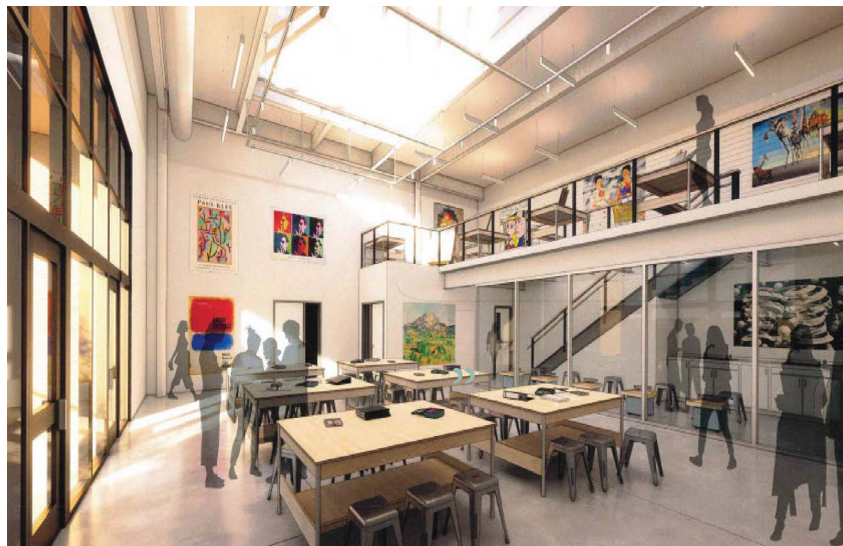
The proposed new middle school and upper school art rooms will be housed on a second floor to be constructed above the current library. Both art rooms will be light-filled and expansive.

UPPER SCHOOL PHASE II: NEW CLASSROOMS

As DC's growing Middle School student population graduates into the Upper School division, this proposed addition will provide much-needed classroom space to meet that growth.

LOWRIE HALL AND ANNEX RENOVATIONS

Lowrie Hall will be completely transformed to house a library, classrooms, and offices. An elevator will be added to bring the building up to ADA standards. The current Art Annex will be repurposed to become a welcome reception for visitors, advancement and admissions office spaces, and a conference room. The new entryway will be visible from the parking lot thus making it easier for visitors to find their way, and improving security on campus.





“DC’s campuses have served generations of students, including my father, myself, and my two brothers, by providing us with a beautiful environment to learn, build lifelong friendships, and grow in our faith. These improvements will ensure that my children and hopefully their children will not only experience the same but will enhance their formative years above and beyond what we’ve experienced.”

Tim Hussar '02, Board of Trustees

UPPER CAMPUS ATHLETIC IMPROVEMENTS

This proposed project seeks to improve and renovate the athletic facilities on the Upper Campus. The focus of the renovations will be to update the outdoor track, additional multi-sport turf fields, and create other additional exterior improvements. In addition, renovations will be made to the locker and training rooms adjacent to the Upper Campus gym.

DEMOSS CENTER FOR WORSHIP AND THE ARTS

Since its construction in 2000, the well-loved DeMoss Center has housed innumerable events and performances. Many DC alumni will remember with fondness the site of chapel talks that have deepened their faith, the Christmas pageants, concerts, musicals, plays, and assemblies. The memories have stood the test of time, but the space is in need of renovation.

The DeMoss will be outfitted with new flooring, curtain, and seating. Up-to-date sound and lighting equipment will allow DC to better showcase the talent of its students. Upgrades to the lobby will provide unique and beautiful space for art shows, and will seamlessly connect the Student Union to the DeMoss Center for Worship and the Arts. A renovated DeMoss Center will allow DC to host concerts, church services, symposiums, performances, and events as it will become a premier rental performance space and an important potential source of revenue for the school.

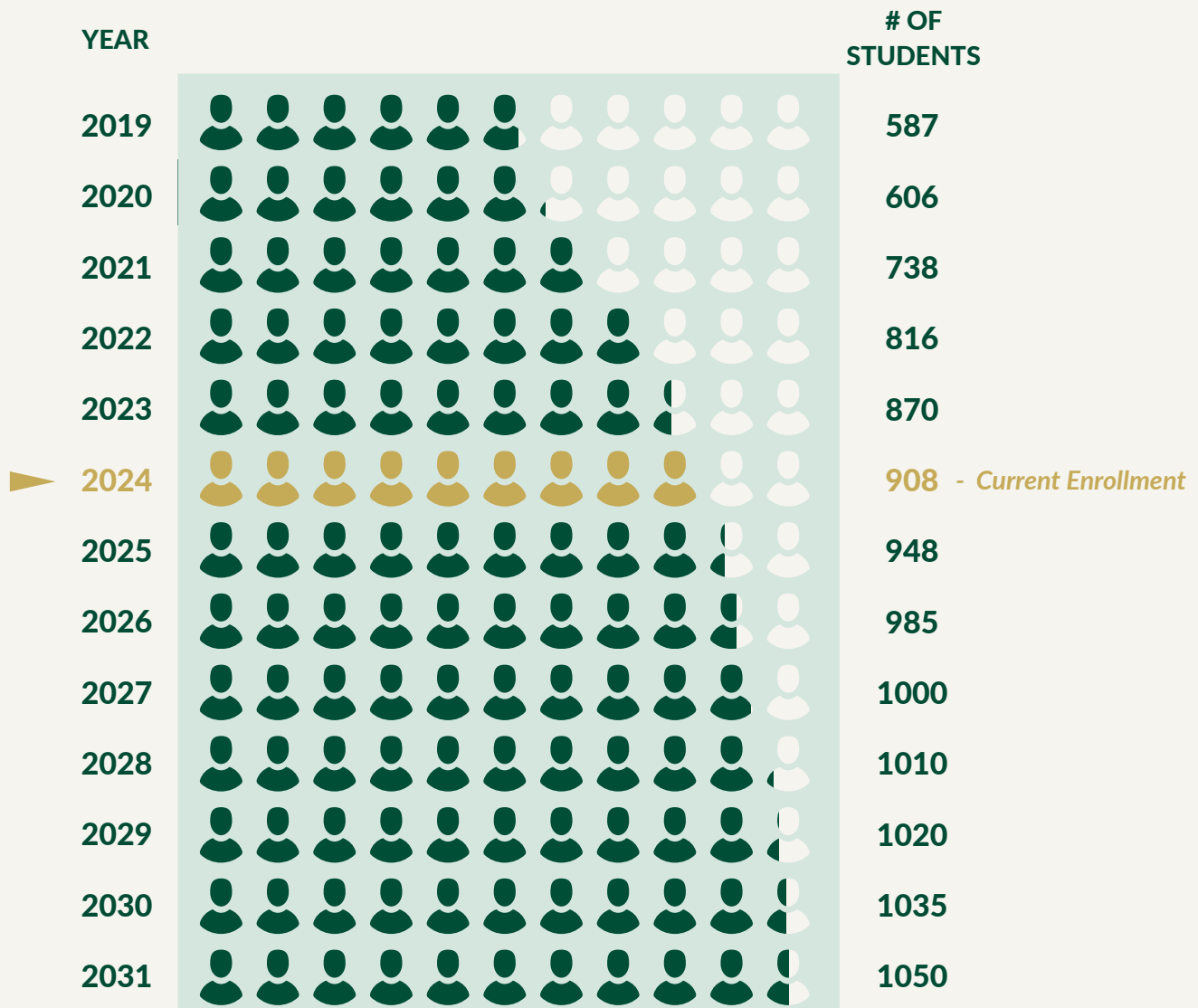


Proposed enhancements to Demoss Center for Worship and The Arts

LOWER CAMPUS GYMNASIUM RENOVATIONS AND LUNCH PAVILION

Physical education is an integral part of the Lower School and ECC experience. It is important for students to learn the love of exercise, and the foundations of athletic competition. The Lower Campus Gym will be expanded and renovated with new flooring, a stage, a separator wall, and will be installed with an HVAC system in order to provide heat in the winter and AC in the summer. This will not only serve DC students during the regular school year, but will transform the way in which our Lower Campus can be used during DC Summer Camp. A new sound system will transform the gymnasium into a highly effective multi-purpose athletic and gathering space that will serve the needs of our Lower Campus divisions and our athletic program, host assemblies, chapels, and other community gatherings. Like the renovated DeMoss Center, this space will become a source of rental revenue for the school. The lunch pavilion will provide a shaded space for students to enjoy lunch together while getting fresh air six to seven months out of the year.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS



3

*Strategic
Initiative*



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



DC will cultivate community engagement reflected in awareness and action that results in engagement both within and beyond the DC community. DC will cultivate a grace-filled community: by grace we are saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), transformed by renewing our minds (Romans 12:2) to the will and work of God.

3.1 Culture and Connectedness: DC will cultivate a community of student, parent, and alumni engagement and generosity

3.2 Community Partnerships: Resource sharing, networking, and partnering for Kingdom impact in the Greater Philadelphia area and beyond.

- DC will develop ministry partners who will have a presence on our DC campus as we similarly have a presence serving in their communities. DC will engage with the local community and access community resources, including networking and resource sharing with other schools

- Church partnerships - DC will define its relationship/role with local churches. DC will explore the balance of providing ministry opportunities without jeopardizing our students' involvement in local church activities. DC will seek to avoid competition with local church and community ministry opportunities.

3.3 Spiritual Formation: DC will cultivate a culture where teachers demonstrate Christ's love and care to students and guide students to find their place in God's story

3.4 Culture and Belonging: DC will become a more inclusive and inviting place for all our students and families, being Gospel-centric with reconciliation and restoration and kingdom unity as its aim.



CULTURE & BELONGING

“Understand, embrace and celebrate God’s plan for diversity and Kingdom Unity by completing a Belonging Assessment, providing high quality Faculty Professional Development, effectively recruiting and retaining minority faculty and staff, creating, and implementing student initiatives that provide support and give voice to DC’s minority students.”

Renee Bussey, Culture and Belonging