

EDUCATION

Small but mighty: Jupiter Christian plans major school expansion

Jupiter Christian's president said the school is trying to meet demand from new families that moved to the area, as well as interest in Florida's expanded school voucher program.

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Palm Beach Post

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In another sign of Palm Beach County's [explosive growth](#), [Jupiter Christian School](#) plans to build a large new campus featuring "world-class" student amenities at the gateway to Jupiter along Indiantown Road.

The campus, if approved by Jupiter town leaders and built, would dramatically boost the profile of this small, private Christian school, as well as meet demand from families in northern Palm Beach County.

In an Aug. 6 interview, Jupiter Christian President Jay Boggess confirmed the school's pending purchase of nearly 80 acres at the southeast corner of Interstate 95 and Indiantown Road.

The property for the new school campus is being purchased in partnership with Eastwind Development, which will build apartments featuring some workforce housing on another portion of the site, Boggess said.

The longtime vacant site is owned by Hawkeye Jupiter LLC, an affiliate of real estate developer Ron Pertnoy. Neil Merin, a real estate broker for Pertnoy, confirmed Jupiter Christian's pending purchase.

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What amenities will new \$68 million Jupiter Christian school boast?

About 29 acres of the land will be devoted to a new, consolidated campus for the non-denominational Christian school. This campus will feature

<https://archive.ph/bW33h>

150,000 square feet of educational space for middle and high school students.

The campus also will allow the school to consolidate two of three existing locations, now spread across Jupiter, into one site.

The new education facilities are expected to cost about \$68 million to build, said Boggess, a longtime education leader who previously served as chief of staff for the School District of Palm Beach County.

In addition to classrooms, the new campus also will feature a performing arts center and full athletic facilities, including football and baseball stadiums.

"This will give us the ability to have our Friday night lights," Boggess said.

More: [Wealth migration to Florida brought private school surge. The result? Years-long waitlists](#)



Rendering of proposed new Jupiter Christian School campus. *Rendering Provided By Jupiter Christian School.*

Jupiter Christian's growth through the decades

Jupiter Christian is a 1,100-student private, non-denominational Christian school founded in 1963. The school offers classes for children from Pre-K2 to 12th grade.

Until recently, Jupiter Christian's growth has been gradual, spreading to three separate campuses across the town.

Since the 2020 COVID pandemic, however, [enrollment demand has surged](#). Jupiter Christian offers classes for students starting in Pre-K 2, costing about \$16,000 annually, to the upper grades, where tuition stands at about \$20,000 per year.

Boggess attributed the increased demand to a combination of factors, including families that moved to northern Palm Beach County from the Northeast, as well as parents making use of Florida's school voucher program.

The voucher program provides about \$8,000 in taxpayer money per child for education in a setting outside of a traditional public school, such as a charter school, a home school or a parochial school.

The program previously was limited to lower-income families, but in early 2023, the state allowed families of all incomes to tap into the program.

Demand for space at Jupiter Christian now is so great, Boggess said the school has a 700-person waitlist.

"We're seeing an exponential demand for school choice, and this is part of that choice," Boggess said. "We are absolutely bursting at the seams."

The new Indiantown Road campus will help the school accommodate more students, up to 1,200, in 150,000 square feet of educational space. This part of the campus alone is estimated to cost nearly \$68 million, he said.



Jupiter Christian School President Jay Boggess.
Photo Provided By Jupiter Christian School.

The new campus will take the place of Jupiter Christian's east and north campuses. The school's west campus on Delaware Blvd. will remain and be devoted to Pre-K through elementary school, Boggess said.

Boggess said Jupiter Christian also plan to build an aquatic center, a tennis center, fields for lacrosse and soccer, as well as football and baseball stadiums.



Rendering of Jupiter Christian School's new planned campus along Indiantown Road in Jupiter. *Rendering Provided By Jupiter Christian School.*

New Jupiter Christian campus could open in three years

Although Jupiter Christian is a small school, it frequently punches above its weight. In 2024, Jupiter Christian [won the Sunshine State Athletic Association](#) (SSAA) Class 5A state football championship.

If the town of Jupiter approves Jupiter Christian's plans, the new campus could be open in time for the 2028-29 school year, Boggess said.

Boggess said the planned apartment complex would be built at the same time as the school. He said the land purchase features an apartment component because the seller didn't want to split the property just for the school.

Eastwind, the apartment's planned developer, is led by John "Jack" Weir, immediate past chairman of the Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County.

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