



ATLANTA
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CAVALIERS BUILD: THE CAMPAIGN FOR ATLANTA CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated September 2025

What is Cavaliers Build: The Campaign for Atlanta Classical Academy?

ACA seeks to raise \$12 million in philanthropic funding to address the facilities challenges we face in advancing our mission to create knowledgeable, virtuous citizens, and to continue building a culture and community devoted to this mission. ACA has developed plans to address the facilities challenges we face in advancing our mission to create knowledgeable, virtuous citizens, and to continue building a culture and community devoted to this mission. The project is centered on three pillars: Advancing Academics, Elevating Student Experience, and Cultivating Community.

Cavaliers Build: The Campaign for Atlanta Classical Academy will provide \$12 million in philanthropic funding toward the project, which will include a new high school building, a new state-of-the-art gym and much needed improvements to our lower school building, thereby establishing a permanent home for classical education in Atlanta.

Cavaliers Build is a comprehensive campaign that includes two major goals: \$11,250,000 in funds to directly support our capital needs (the Building Fund) and \$750,000 in funds to directly support our Cavalier Fund.

Why now?

ACA has a strategic plan in place to advance our mission and become a nationally recognized leader in excellent public education, but significant improvements to our facilities are needed to achieve this vision. To accommodate the rapid growth of our school from a K-8 to a K-12 institution in 2014-2019, it was necessary to install our high school in temporary modular buildings. These buildings have served their purpose, but as these temporary buildings near the end of their lifespan, it is time we make a permanent home for Atlanta Classical Academy, one that is worthy of the lofty work we have done over the past 11 years and will do in the future.

What is the campaign goal? How was that decided?

In 2023, the Atlanta Classical board commissioned a fundraising feasibility study to help us determine our capacity for a capital campaign. More than 70 parents, board members, past parents, foundation executives, and friends of ACA were interviewed and hundreds of others responded to a school-wide survey. Based on these responses, it was recommended that a campaign goal of \$12 million would be possible, and the ACA Board approved this goal in August 2023.

When do you expect to raise the \$12 million?

In January 2024, we embarked on an ambitious campaign to raise \$12 million in gifts and pledges by December 31, 2025.

How much have you raised so far?

As of October 1, 2025, we have raised over \$10.5M toward our \$12M goal.

What is a comprehensive campaign?

A comprehensive campaign is a sustained fundraising effort for specific projects with a specific goal and timeframe that also includes a focus on annual operating support. The goal of *Cavaliers Build* is two-fold. We aim to fund a new high school building and other campus improvements while also maintaining a strong Cavalier Fund, which provides crucial operating support to contribute to athletics, fine arts, extracurriculars, and other activities that enhance the student, family, and teacher experience at ACA.

What is the difference between the “quiet” phase and the “public” phase of the campaign?

The quiet phase (the early months of the campaign) focused on securing leadership level gifts and pledges using a personalized, peer-to-peer approach. In this phase, we aimed to raise as much as we could to build momentum and get as close as possible to our goal amount (the quiet phase is quiet, but not a secret!). Having raised a significant amount (approximately 85%) from these early lead gifts, we are now in a strong position to broaden our engagement and invite the ACA community to help us raise the remaining funds and bring the campaign home. To date, donors include current ACA parents, board members, community philanthropists, local foundations, ACA alumni families, and ACA grandparents.

I already support the Cavalier Fund. Why should I make a campaign gift too?

Cavaliers Build is a comprehensive campaign that encompasses The Cavalier Fund and The Building Fund. Donations to The Cavalier Fund help meet current operating budget needs, and this will always remain ACA's top priority. Donations to The Building Fund provide necessary funding above and beyond the Cavalier Fund to help us achieve our vision of a permanent campus for ACA.

When you give to Cavaliers Build, you will have the opportunity to designate your gift to either fund or a combination of both. Pledges to the Cavaliers Build capital campaign are payable over two years. When considering your gift, we encourage you to maintain your annual Cavalier Fund support for the duration of your capital campaign gift.

What if I can only give one gift?

First and foremost, we ask that you maintain your support of the Cavalier Fund as it provides essential operating support for ACA. If you're able to make an additional gift, please consider supporting the Building Fund portion of *Cavaliers Build*.

Why is ACA requesting a multi-year pledge instead of a one-time donation?

Pledges payable over time allow ACA to best plan for the coming years and enable some donors to give more than would otherwise be possible. We are encouraging two-year pledges to maximize our community's support and to monitor the resources that will be available to us in the near-term. ACA offers many options for payment schedules and accepts payments in a variety of ways (cash/check, credit card, stock, Donor Advised Fund, wire transfer, etc). We are happy to work with you to answer specific questions about giving options that work best for you.

Are gifts to the campaign tax-deductible?

Yes, gifts to the campaign are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. The application of such laws varies with individual financial circumstances. Individuals with specific questions regarding tax deductibility should contact their attorney or tax professional.

Will I receive a pledge receipt and reminders?

Yes, Liberty Classical School's Advancement team will receive your pledge forms and record them in our fundraising database. Every time ACA receives a pledge form, an acknowledgement letter of the pledge/gift will be sent. With extended payment periods, donors will receive a reminder letter several weeks prior to their scheduled pledge payment date. The donor will also receive annual statements for tax purposes.

When will construction begin and when will it be completed?

In order to break ground, it is necessary to have the project financing in place as well as a temporary solution for the relocation for upper school students. Our plan is to begin construction in spring 2027, and our goal is to complete construction in time for the 2028-29 academic year.

How long will construction take? And when will it be completed?

Currently, our construction team anticipates needing approximately 61 weeks to complete the project (two summers and one school year). We have an expert team of development advisors, designers, and general contractors. While we are confident in our plan and our team’s ability, it is important to understand that there are factors such as weather or materials supply that may cause changes to our schedule.

We anticipate construction to be completed prior to the start of school the 2028-2029 school year.

Who has been hired to oversee this project? Who is the architect? Who is the construction company?

Contracts have been finalized with Ascension Project Management, Smallwood Architects, and Hodges & Hicks General Contractors. The construction project will be overseen by the ACA Board of Directors, Ascension Project Manager Jeff Prine, and Assistant Head of School David Rosenzweig. These teams represent local leaders in their fields and we are confident in their expertise and appreciative of their collaboration on this project.

How much do you need to raise to break ground? How much cash must be secured?

We will break ground when we have received 100% of the total in pledges and 75% of cash secured.

How does ACA plan to finance the full project?

The current preliminary cost estimates the total cost of the project to be \$39,319,119. Fundraising sources include \$11 million owner’s equity, \$16.5 million in bond financing, and \$12 million in private philanthropy raised through *Cavaliers Build*.

How is ACA able to contribute \$11M?

Since its inception over 12 years ago, with the knowledge that this major construction project would eventually occur, ACA has operated with fiscal conservatism. The school has made excellent use of its financial resources - a combination of increasing public funds and private philanthropy - to accumulate cash for this project and for general cash reserves necessary to maintain a sound financial footing.