



CHRIST OUR LIGHT
St. Ambrose Academy Building Campaign



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

by Joe Draves, Development Director

Omnia Christus est nobis: "Christ is everything for us!" As our school motto proclaims, God is at the center of the St. Ambrose Academy mission and provides for our needs... in His own timing.

Silver Linings as New Building Occupancy Delayed

The St. Ambrose Academy Board of Directors announces that we will not be able to move to the Fitchburg school site in the 2023-2024 school year as planned. The City of Fitchburg requires all access streets to be constructed before granting occupancy, and our developer has informed us that one of these, Cobbler Road, will not be in place in time. While this is still fresh news, we currently expect a one-year delay to occupancy and a revised opening of fall 2024.

We remain confident in our goals and objectives for the "Christ Our Light" capital campaign, having recently surpassed \$5M in fundraising commitments to date. This delay has a couple silver linings. One, we have more time to raise additional capital. Two, we also expect building material pricing to ease within this timeframe.

Because of the exciting trajectory of growth we're experiencing in enrollment, we are actively working with the property managers at our current location of Three Point Place to acquire more space to accommodate this growth until we can move into our new home.

More updates about the Christ Our Light campaign, including floor plans and images of the current site are also available and can be viewed online at: www.ambroseacademy.org/campaign!



The Class of 2022 is a sign of hope for our society! *St. Ambrose, pray for them!*

New Board Officers

The St. Ambrose Academy Board of Directors is pleased to share the news of a new board President, Rick Mills, and Vice President, Laura Karlen. Rick has three St. Ambrose alumni and works as an engineer. He most recently served as Vice President. Laura has one current St. Ambrose student and four more future Guardians; she is a stay-at-home mom. Read their full biographies here. The Board thanks Ken Ballweg for his wonderful service as President these last 3 years and is excited he will continue to serve as a Director.

"We are in the midst of an exciting time for St. Ambrose Academy as we continue to plan for a permanent home," commented new President Rick Mills. "We are committed to our true mission of combining the riches of the Catholic Faith and classical methods in forming young leaders. The 'Christ Our Light' capital campaign is just another step in the mission of our school and of God's greater plans for us."

In Their Words: Student Witness

There is tremendous hope found in our growing student body. These young students are a sign of great hope and as more parents seek a St. Ambrose education, we have the privilege of equipping some incredible young men and women to lead lives of virtue and holiness in the world.

Here are just a few stories from this past year. *This is the work we continue to do and will be able to do all the more with our new building, once this campaign is brought to a successful conclusion!* To read more student stories, visit www.ambroseacademy.org/students.

"This school is grounding me in how to search for truth and not be misled by good rhetoric alone or bias. This is a great school - like a lighthouse of knowledge, truth, and faith."
- Lars I.

"My success on the field doesn't happen without success in the classroom, that's why I am extremely grateful for my teachers and friends because they have pushed me to get where I am today."

- Juan C.



St. Ambrose has truly changed my life. The one thing that is most importantly changed in me was the sudden desire for a more personal and real spiritual life. In class we would talk about the saints and others who converted and such. While hearing these incredible stories, especially about the martyrs, I would sit there thinking, 'what am I doing?' 'Why am I not more fully and obviously showing God my love for Him?' So, I began to pray with my friends in school who pushed me to be better, to be greater, to be who God made me to be."

- Mary G.



Campaign Leadership Profile

Michael Bowden, Benefactor & Alumnus

As the project continues, we want to introduce you to some of the campaign leaders who are making this project a success. We are grateful for the talented, hard-working, faithful men and women who are building a legacy of life-changing Catholic education!

St. Ambrose Academy alumnus and benefactor Michael Bowden has seen many facets of the school community, growing up alongside the Academy in its earliest years. This impact is why Michael continues to be involved as a benefactor, supporting both the annual mission of the school as well as the Christ Our Light building campaign.

After graduating in 2010, Michael joined the faculty both as a teacher and in the Development Office, seeing more sides of the school than just behind a classroom desk. These roles give him a unique perspective on the impact of St. Ambrose in the community, "I want to see preserved what was so beneficial for me," reflects Michael.

Having first encountered St. Ambrose students when he was homeschooled, Michael eventually enrolled at SAA as a sophomore in the senior high. Looking back on his time as a student, Michael says, "I really cherished my time at St. Ambrose. I felt like I was learning important things, discussing big ideas, and that I was challenged and constantly growing."

Though young, Michael felt empowered by the tools the classical curriculum provided him, saying, "by 18, I had already engaged with some of the most challenging and richest works in our Western civilization. So, I felt like from there I could do anything or read anything."

This confidence in being able to take on new challenges and meet the task at hand head-on carried Michael through college and beyond.

When he was looking for a career change, Michael even found support through the broader St. Ambrose community where he found connections that helped him land in the software technology arena. As a Development Consultant who implements software for a local Middleton-based software company, Michael also finds many lessons from his St. Ambrose days are still relevant:



"My role is very cross-functional, in that I'm working with the deepest of the deep-level programmers who code 24/7 and I also work with C-suite level people who are interested in things like the ROI [return on investment] of a project.

So, I have to be able to talk intelligently about areas like budgets, accounting best practices, software architecture, and design.

While I'm not an expert in any one of them, I'm able to communicate in all of them and to talk to people who are experts in those areas, synthesizing ideas to quickly come up to speed on those topics and manage projects.

I attribute a lot of my ability to do all of that to my St. Ambrose background. Classical education keeps you on your toes because it's very challenging - you get exposed to philosophy and theology early on in a way that stretches your mind to think more abstractly and critically."

Like virtually all individuals who donate and are philanthropically minded, Michael looks for impact in his giving. When thinking about his own involvement as a benefactor of St. Ambrose, Michael sees the fruits borne from the school, saying, "I think St. Ambrose is a mission that creates good people, people who have a solid foundation that you don't see everywhere. In short, St. Ambrose grads are the kind of people I want to work with."
