

Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences Capital Campaign Case for Support

“SFSAS is one of the gems of the Expeditionary Learning School Network. In a network full of high achieving schools that build strong citizenship and character, SFSAS stands out as one of the most impressive centers for excellence in student work, thinking and contribution.”

Ron Berger, Chief Academic Officer, Expeditionary Learning Schools

A Successful Commitment to Excellent Education

Did you know that our small private school has been named one of the best schools in the country? And that SFSAS is a regional educational leader deeply involved in the greater Santa Fe community?

Started nearly 20 years ago as a place to honor and respect students from all walks of life, our school today is known for academic excellence, creativity, innovation, and our outstanding community afterschool and summer programs. Our achievement is due to our deep connection with Expeditionary Learning, a schoolwide culture of respect, and a passionate focus on creating globally aware students equipped with essential 21st Century skills.

National educational organizations routinely recognize our excellence. TheBestSchools.org currently ranks SFSAS fourteenth in the top 50 private elementary schools in the country, and our teacher Chintan Kess’ work on elementary level physics instruction was recently featured in Harvard University’s Illuminating Standards project.

Expanding our Vision and Reach:

We recognize the urgent need for tomorrow’s leaders to be educated to their full potential today. We interpret this potential to mean globally aware citizens who combine excellence with compassion and service. We stand ready to meet this need by deepening the quality and breadth of our programming, our role in the community and the number of students we serve.

However, we are stymied in meeting this goal because we don’t have enough space! Our teachers often dream of adding new programming and enhanced learning to the curriculum, but the question always comes back to: “But Where?”

With the right expanded facilities, we will be able to:

- Increase our Middle School by X students. We typically have 12-14 open spots for new incoming 7th graders. In November 2018, we received 25 applicants for our Early Admissions Application Cycle. We expect 20-30 additional applicants in our Regular Admissions Cycle in February

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- Reach X more students in our After School and Summer Programs, especially local students may not have access to high-quality programs and support
- Enroll X more students in Reading is Magic, our remarkably successful program that effectively helps 2nd-4th grade students from the Santa Fe Public Schools become confident readers. We currently serve 40 students in our free Reading is Magic summer camp and 15 students in our free after-school Reading is Magic tutoring program. There are many more students on the wait list
- Provide up-to-date classrooms that honor divergent learners, creative thinkers and innovative idea sharing
- Create flexible learning spaces that allow for small group interaction, professional development, and community events
- Encourage and promote interactive and multi-age learning
- Better serve the different needs of 3- and 4-year-old students, honoring the wide spectrum of development during these early childhood years.
- Practice environmental sustainability through our buildings and landscape/playground design
- Ensure the longevity and health of our school, by growing our endowment.

Build and Revitalize Arts and Sciences

Our long-term X-year goal is to build a new facility for the Middle School, repurpose space in the current building and revitalize outdoor spaces.

Because we have a proven track record of success and an enthusiastic, generous community, we have been fortunate enough to receive \$500,000 from an angel donor and a \$50,000 grant to start the process. We are in the pre-campaign planning phase, researching the initial plans and execution for this multi-year campus-wide project.

The Plan:

Build a new Middle School building on the northwest corner of the campus. This structure will provide:

- Four dedicated classrooms – one each for Middle School History, English, Science/Lab and Math
- One large community room for school assemblies and events open to the larger Santa Fe community

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- Office space for the Principal, Middle School Director and teachers to meet with parents and to meet as a Middle School team.

The renovation of the Barcelona Blue and Middle Earth Buildings to create dedicated spaces for special subjects, including:

- A new Science lab
- A dedicated classroom for a Drama and Movement
- A dedicated classroom for a Visual Arts/Art Studio
- A dedicated film studio for our award-winning Moving Images Program
- A new kindergarten classroom adjacent to the Unigazer classrooms to create an Early Childhood Education Center
- Small group learning spaces
- A Creative Writing and Language center
- Technology workspaces
- A History and Civics library
- A new faculty development and teacher training space

Additional vital elements:

- Renovation of Unicorn Preschool/PreK Classroom
- Vital outdoor upgrades including parking, lighting and relocation of the elementary playground

Our Campus as Curriculum Committee, composed of school leaders, teachers and parents, and led by Architecture for Humanity, has already created a master plan for our entire 5.2 acre campus. We have assembled an RFP (Request for Proposal) to develop a process to identify and recommend to the board a design/build firm for this project.