

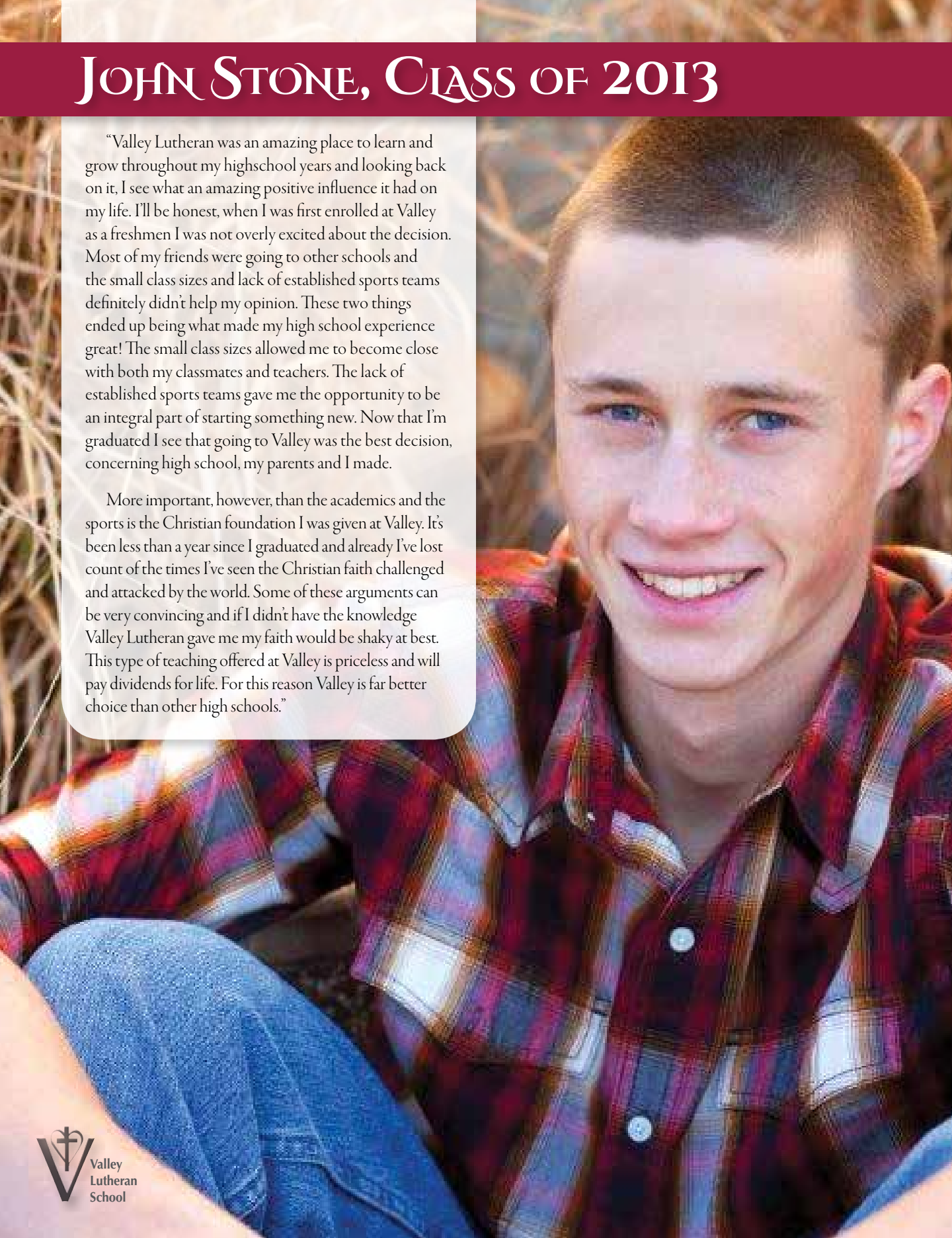
BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

Valley Lutheran School

"Where faith and knowledge grow as one!"

The Difference God Can Make in Education

John Stone, Class of 2013



"Valley Lutheran was an amazing place to learn and grow throughout my highschool years and looking back on it, I see what an amazing positive influence it had on my life. I'll be honest, when I was first enrolled at Valley as a freshmen I was not overly excited about the decision. Most of my friends were going to other schools and the small class sizes and lack of established sports teams definitely didn't help my opinion. These two things ended up being what made my high school experience great! The small class sizes allowed me to become close with both my classmates and teachers. The lack of established sports teams gave me the opportunity to be an integral part of starting something new. Now that I'm graduated I see that going to Valley was the best decision, concerning high school, my parents and I made.

More important, however, than the academics and the sports is the Christian foundation I was given at Valley. It's been less than a year since I graduated and already I've lost count of the times I've seen the Christian faith challenged and attacked by the world. Some of these arguments can be very convincing and if I didn't have the knowledge Valley Lutheran gave me my faith would be shaky at best. This type of teaching offered at Valley is priceless and will pay dividends for life. For this reason Valley is far better choice than other high schools."

Valley Lutheran School

Dear Friend of Valley Lutheran School



Glenn Rollins

As Valley Lutheran moves to the next phase of its expansion and development as a uniquely Lutheran, Christian educational ministry, I would like to invite you to join with us as we build upon the substantial foundation that has already been laid through ten years of work by the people of the churches, interested families, committed parents and teachers/workers here in the Cedar Valley.

Throughout those ten years of growth at Valley Lutheran School, certain key elements of our community have remained constant. First and foremost, the board, administration, faculty and staff at Valley Lutheran have always been driven by a commitment focused on the mission of bringing the hope of the Gospel to students, their families and to our greater community. We are determined to meet or exceed state and national academic standards. Our goal is to work tirelessly to model servant leadership to insure that those who we serve grow as caring young people and that they become more likely themselves to become servant leaders. And we have recognized the importance of student participation in co-curricular activities so as to facilitate the growth of students through sports, drama, speech and other activities.

In truth, Valley Lutheran School has only expanded and grown because our Lord Jesus Christ has been the Master Builder since the school was first talked about almost twenty years ago. Today, I am asking you to pick up your tools to work alongside of our Lord and alongside of us as we look at the blessings that we currently share and dream about how the Lord wants our school to continue its growth. We must continue to share that most important message of God's redeeming grace with students, their families and our community.

Thank you for your prayers and support in this effort.

In His Service,
Glenn Rollins
Executive Director/HS Principal

BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

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A CASE FOR SUPPORT

Valley Lutheran School 2014

Twenty years ago the founding visionaries of Valley Lutheran High School (VLS) were committed to beginning a Christ-centered high school with a vision of eventually adding more grades. Ten years ago, VLS opened its doors for the 2003 – 2004 academic year with 15 students. Within a few years, the

focus of the school expanded when the middle school (grades 6-8) was added. When Immanuel Lutheran Church decided to relocate and close their 135 year old K-8 elementary school, the elementary grades (K-5) were added in the fall of 2012. Therefore, what started out as a high school is today a thriving K-12 Lutheran school serving families throughout the Cedar Valley area.

As VLS celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, it serves nearly 200 students who receive a Christ-centered learning experience. Such humble beginnings established the foundation for Christian education at VLS. Through prayer we believe it is time to solidify our foundation with a need based growth plan alongside a debt reduction plan to more fully develop the potential of our students and our service to the community.

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VLS is a fully accredited school both through the state of Iowa and also through National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). The NLSA evaluates the academics and programs of Lutheran schools but most importantly focuses on the spiritual dimension of the school. A few of the standards required of NLSA, and met by VLS, are:

- Christian teachers who facilitate student learning to achieve planned outcomes
- Maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment
- Evaluation standards to define success
- Plans for continued school improvement

With the initiation of a capital campaign we want to add yet another standard

- Having a sustainable financial plan that allows us to accomplish our mission.

In celebration of our first ten years of growth, and in fulfillment of all our accreditation goals, we want to expand on what God has begun here. In 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 the apostle Paul acknowledges, *"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."* Thankful for our solid foundation with which we

Valley Lutheran School

began, we want to continue to advance the ministry of VLS by "building on the foundation" through the following initiatives:

Annual Operating Needs

Currently VLS has 194 students. Annual tuition per year for elementary students is $3,875, middle school is $4,275, and high school is $4,675 per year. However, the average cost to educate a student at VLS is $7,500. Research shows the average cost to educate one student in Iowa public schools in 2011-2012 was $10,094. While VLS has attempted to keep tuition expenses at an affordable rate, additional income is needed to meet annual operating expenses.

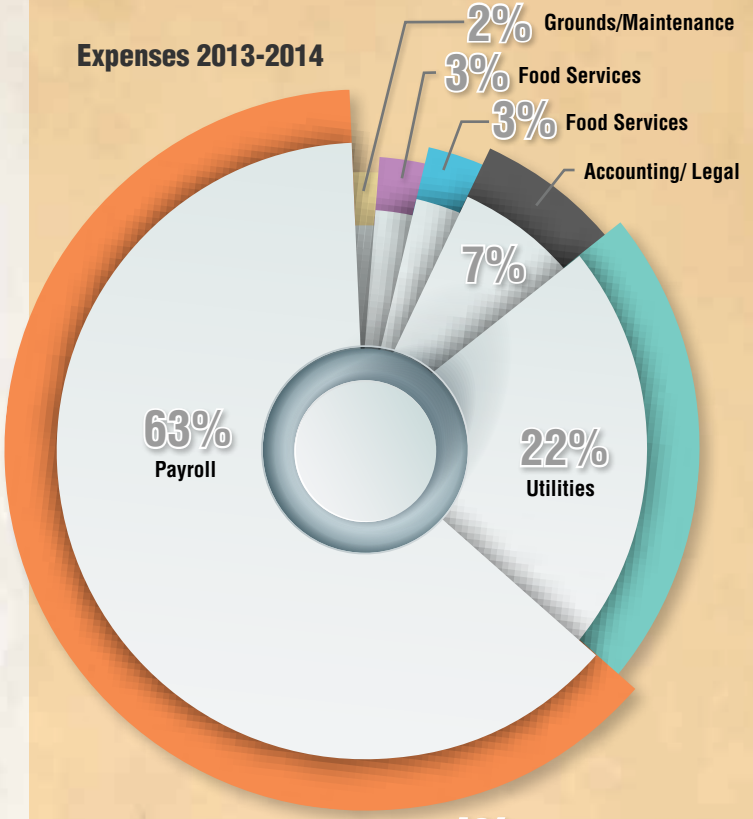
- During the past 10 years of startup growth VLS has kept actual tuition paid below the per student operational cost with generous donor gifts. These gifts contributed 82% of the revenue 10 years ago vs. 34% today. However the total dollar amount has not significantly changed. Tuition/STO dollars today cover approximately 50% of the annual expenses vs. only 7% 10 years ago. We have made tremendous progress but we need to strive for tuition/STO revenue to reach 85% of annual expenses so that our donor gifts can be utilized for capital improvements or facility enrichments.
- As we continue this transitional period of funding annual expenses it is vitally important we maintain this level of annual gifts while we continue to raise tuition. Increasing educational values to students and parents continues so that tuition can more truly reflect the cost. Also, as enrollment grows, classroom capacities will be maximized helping to achieve the 85% tuition/STO revenue of expenses.

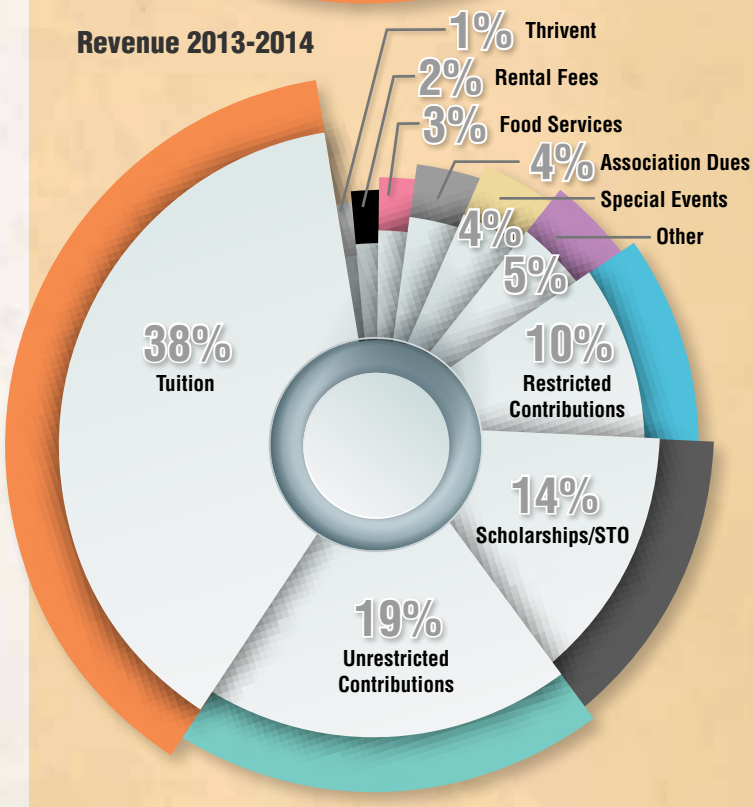
Debt Retirement/Financial Sustainability

At VLS we unashamedly use the Word of God to help form the hearts, minds, values and behaviors of the young people entrusted to us so that they

Annual Operating Budget

$450,000 per year ($1,350,000 total)





BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

can be "salt and light" in the world in which they live. As we reflect on the ten year history of VLS it is important to once again ask the question, "Why a Lutheran education?" That question is even more valid today than it was when the school began a decade ago. The simple answer to that question is because of the necessity to integrate the truth of God's Word into the entire educational experience of our children. Martin Luther believed that the truth of God's Word forms a child's life whether they are engaged in worship, academic study, athletics, interpersonal relationships, etc.

Because of the demonstrated need for quality Christian (Lutheran) education in our community, we are better serving our children and their future when we as an educational institution become financially secure. We are grateful for the partnership we have held over the years with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) that has provided long term loans for our school. We have reduced our indebtedness by nearly 20% over the past 6 years. However, our annual debt servicing expense (mortgage payment and interest) of $300,000 on an approximately $4 million mortgage limits further ministry and education expansion. We believe that what we can offer to the families of the Cedar Valley area could be greatly enhanced by eliminating or significantly reducing our debt.

Debt Retirement/Financial Sustainability Goal: $1,000,000

Kitchen Remodel

The original kitchen was designed and completed as a warming kitchen. In order for VLS to cook and serve hot lunch meals to students, the current kitchen needs to be converted into a commercial kitchen.

Media Center Expansion & Wireless Infrastructure Update

A larger permanent room will allow for additional resources needed for staff and students.



WHERE THE MONEY IS NEEDED

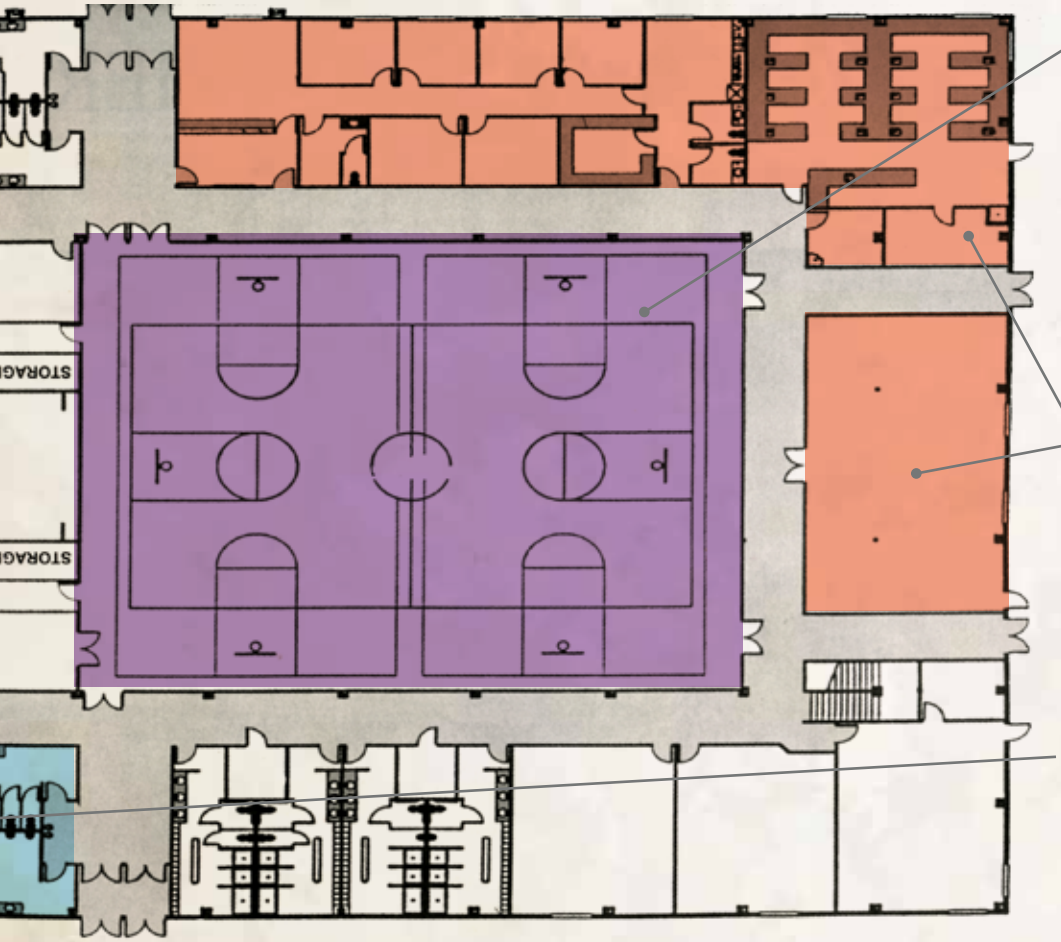
Valley Lutheran School

Facility Enrichment – Additional Classrooms

Beyond the financial sustainability needed to meet regular operating expenses and mortgage obligations, VLS is poised to experience significant growth.

- Parental and student inquiries at Valley Lutheran have significantly increased over the past two years. To efficiently handle this exciting activity an admissions and recruitment specialist has been added to the staff. The benefits are just beginning to be realized as we prepare for enrollment growth over the next ten years. More and more parents and students are seeking the faith-based academic and extracurricular opportunities VLS offers.
- Our fall 2014 enrollment projections will demand a second kindergarten class. This additional kindergarten class in 2014 will necessitate additional classrooms in the coming years. The elementary grades will ultimately be the foundation for an ever expanding high school. Enrollment projections suggest that K-8 grades could exceed over 200 students in the next 5 years and a 10 year projection exceeding 300 students. During this same period the high school enrollment is expected to increase proportionately.

Valley Lutheran is committed to keeping class



Gymnasium Floor and Bleachers

Growing the athletic opportunities for our students is an essential component to their overall development.

Additional Classrooms

The benefits are just beginning to be realized as we prepare for enrollment growth over the next ten years.

Office Expansion and Relocation

The reception area needs to have clear view of the front entrance. In the current setting, many times guests enter the building but do not realize they are expected to sign in at the office.
















sizes low. Current class sizes in Waterloo and Cedar Falls Public Schools average from twenty-two up to twenty-seven students. Research shows there are many benefits to keeping class sizes under twenty students especially in the elementary grades and these benefits help them even into middle and high school. Smaller classes allow students to have more individualized attention from their teacher and keeps teacher morale high.

While the current school facility has the capacity to add an additional 15 classrooms and 2 more sets of restrooms, the immediate need for this next year is to complete a classroom to accommodate an additional kindergarten class. We will need to complete an additional classroom for the next three years to accommodate this second kindergarten section.

Cost per classroom:
$50,000 ($150,000 total)

Media Center Expansion & Wireless Infrastructure Update

A growing elementary requires more space for library resources beyond what the current library can accommodate. A larger permanent room will allow for additional resources needed for staff and students. Digital enhancements would also allow students to utilize information that is not available currently by accessing research materials available in journals, newspapers, and other electronic sources. This proposed library relocation and enhancements would provide:

- A more centrally located library that is placed more strategically for all students and staff.
- A larger area allowing teachers to use the library as an additional learning space for their students.
- Additional resources available to assist with student learning and academic achievement.

With the addition of the elementary grades a few years ago, the wireless infrastructure

has become inadequate and outdated. The infrastructure in place to service the middle school and high school needs is no longer robust enough to also support the added demands placed on it with the increased population of the elementary school. Upgrading the wireless technology is needed to enhance student learning and increase efficiency.

Media Center Expansion & Wireless Infrastructure Update: $75,000

Office Expansion and Relocation

It is a high value at VLS that everyone on our campus – students, faculty, staff, visitors – are in a safe and secure environment. With that in mind, it is critical to relocate the current office area. This relocation will facilitate the following:

- The reception area needs to have clear view of the front entrance. In the current setting, many times guests enter the building but do not realize they are expected to sign in at the office. By expanding the school office into the current library area, guests will walk immediately into the office area upon entering the building. All guests will seek permission from school personnel before being allowed elsewhere in the building. Furthermore, cameras and additional security systems can be added and relocated to enhance security for all.
- The current reception area is a very busy place during the day and sometimes not always conducive to a productive work environment. Additional space will allow parents and volunteers to have designated space to perform their tasks as well as provide adequate work areas for our staff.

In making these improvements to the office area this will provide a greater opportunity to showcase the mural currently located in the library. The proposed reorganization of this space will provide greater visibility of the mural thereby















Linsay Hall Teacher



"I was hired to teach at Valley Lutheran in the spring of 2007, only a month after my husband was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 24. In the past seven years, he has continued to battle cancer and through all the chemotherapy, surgeries, stem cell transplant, and clinical studies, I have felt blessed to work at a place that has provided such compassionate understanding and prayerful support. From administration and staff members to the families and friends of the Valley community, I know that my husband and I are being prayed for. I feel so grateful that God put me at Valley Lutheran during this time in my life. Not only am I proud of the academic level at which we challenge our students, but I am also proud to work in a place where God's love is so evident."

honoring the message it conveys "Our quest for knowledge begins and ends in Christ."

Office expansion and relocation: $50,000

Kitchen Remodel

The original kitchen was designed and completed as a warming kitchen. In order for VLS to cook and serve hot lunch meals to students, the current kitchen needs to be converted into a commercial kitchen. Significant electrical and plumbing modifications and equipment enhancements are needed to bring it to commercial level. Equipment upgrades include a commercial size dishwasher, stove, oven, and refrigerator. Stainless steel countertops are also needed.

Kitchen Remodel: $135,000

Gymnasium Floor and Bleachers

Since our boys and girls sport teams have seen steady growth; VLS has become part of the Iowa Star Athletic Conference. Students can now play soccer, basketball, volleyball and participate in track and cross country. VLS also has agreements with local schools that allow our students to participate in football, baseball, softball, soccer and additional sports. Growing the athletic opportunities for our students is an essential component to their overall development.

In addition to a more rigorous sports program, there are growing demands for the gym space. The gym is also used for chapel services each week, graduation ceremonies, school assemblies, and other events throughout the year. Because of the increased use of the gym it is necessary to install permanent bleachers around a new gymnasium floor.

Gymnasium floor and bleachers: $200,000

TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL
$2,960,000

Valley Lutheran School

"Building on the Foundation." We are thankful for your past involvement with the ministry of VLS. As we celebrate God's blessings on our school these past ten years, we boldly move forward believing it is time to build on our past – our foundation – by expanding the vision for the future of VLS in addressing these critical areas of need. A successful capital campaign will allow VLS to meet ongoing financial obligations reduce our mortgage debt and make necessary improvements and upgrades to our school building. However, the heart of this campaign is about affirming the life-changing impact that a Christ centered educational experience makes in the lives of our children.

When the apostle Paul wrote the words of our campaign theme verse from 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 *("...I laid a foundation as an expert builder... For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ"),* he acknowledged those who came before him. Likewise, we give thanks for the founding visionaries of VLS who had the wisdom and faith to recognize how critical it is for a child's life to be founded on God's Word.

The investment in VLS's next decade and beyond is an investment in our church's and community's greatest asset – the next generation. It's an investment that will reap dividends for generations to come. VLS needs the financial support of many friends, parents, alumni, churches, businesses and other funding sources to move forward with these proposed enrichments. This case statement is provided for you to educate all our friends with the opportunities that are before us.

We ask that you give prayerful and thoughtful consideration to this opportunity for your gifts to continue to build on the foundation already established of God and His Word. Our children's future depends on your partnership.

What will your contribution today grow into over the next 10 years?

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Wait... Mr. Woolery doesn't teach dance?





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BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:10-11