

Notre Dame Prep aims high with growth plan

By Alex Bloom
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Notre Dame Preparatory is making plans for a \$76 million campus expansion — including a new stadium and a fine arts center — on the north Scottsdale campus over the next 25 years.

The plan includes a deal with Scottsdale to use city wash land for excess parking and sports fields.

Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, Notre Dame has grown in seven years, from 250 students in 2002 to 925 this year. Every one of Notre Dame's students went on to college last year, and the school is quickly cementing a reputation as one of the Valley's top high schools.

"We want to be better than we were yesterday, but not as good as we're going to be tomorrow," Principal David Gonzales said. "We're not even talking the Valley. We want to be nationally recognized in every facet of the school."

The expansion would increase the school's capacity to about 1,200 students

and is a part of the school's strategic plan. Notre Dame, which sits on 36 acres at 98th Street and Bell Road, would build a variety of facilities: classrooms, an administration building, a gym, a football field, and a performing arts center. The expansion would replace many buildings, leaving only the chapel, a classroom building and the gym.

Most of the buildings at the school were built in 1998, when the Tesseract Group opened the school. The Phoenix Diocese bought the school in 2001 and spent \$10 million on renovations. The school now uses multiple modular classrooms to accommodate enrollment.

Expansion plans are spread over many years to accommodate construction based on the availability of funds. Notre Dame intends to start a capital campaign.

"This is not something that we're going to expand tomorrow," said attorney John Berry, of Berry & Damore, LLC.

Berry has been working with Notre Dame on zoning negotiations with Scottsdale. Notre Dame struck a compro-

mise with the city to develop wash lands immediately west of the campus. Notre Dame will add about 600 parking spaces on the land, which the city will use as excess parking for WestWorld. Some ballfields could also be jointly used by community sports programs.

Notre Dame plans to file zoning applications by the end of September.

Future construction and development, though, hinges on fundraising. The

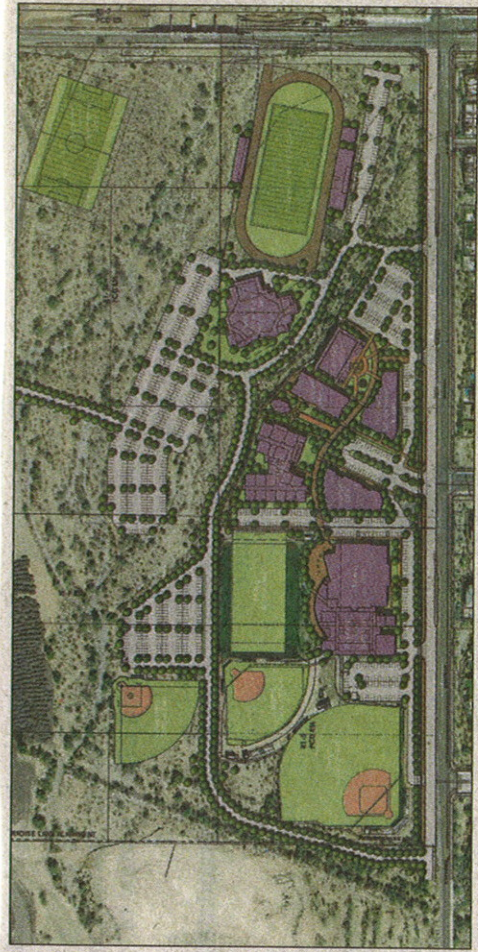
school has a history of strong support, having raised \$14.6 million in its initial four-year capital campaign.

"We wouldn't be talking about future plans or anything else without our past parents and benefactors," said Carolyn Rock, director of development, adding, "Our success for this program will depend upon not only our existing parents, but those future parents who will attend this school."

Notre Dame expansion

Notre Dame, at Bell Road and 98th Street, would expand to include:

FACILITY	COST	DETAILS
Performing arts center	\$14 million	
Football field and track	\$4 million	Home games now played at Scottsdale Community College.
New gym	\$6.5 million	Designed to seat 2,000 people.
Expanded cafeteria	\$5.9 million	
Administration building	\$9.5 million	
Two new buildings	\$21.2 million	Would increase classroom and science lab space.
Parking lot and field space	\$1.4 million	To be shared with Scottsdale.



NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY

Notre Dame Preparatory is developing plans for a \$76 million expansion project.



NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY

The current Notre Dame Preparatory campus sits on 36 acres in north Scottsdale.