

March 2019

A capital campaign update from  
Great Plains Lutheran High School

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## Facility Expansion In the Making

Rev. David Maertz

As I visit with people about our current facility expansion plan, I sometimes mention that we have been talking about this for a long time. By that I mean that our current plan has gradually developed over several years. In 2015 we conducted a multi-faceted evaluation of our program and facility needs. That led to a planning committee, an updated master site plan, a feasibility study, more planning and revisions – ultimately resulting in the project we have before us today. In May of 2018 the Great Plains Lutheran High School Association delegates approved a revised Master Site Plan which includes a multi-purpose/fine arts/chapel addition and an auxiliary gymnasium.

### Digging Deeper

A look at our historical documents, however, reveals that a desire for facility expansion – including many of the elements in our current plan – reaches back long before 2015.

In 1991 the name of the organization working to establish an area Lutheran high school was changed from Dakota-Montana Lutheran High School, Inc. to Great Plains Lutheran High School Association. That same year a site plan was presented which included student housing, classrooms, a gymnasium, an administration building, kitchen, dining, a student center and a chapel.

A revised site plan from 1998 shows a future auditorium (including stage and seating) attached to the school building, as well as a future chapel.

The site plan developed in 2003 includes a chapel/auditorium addition to the west of our current school building.

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## It's My Passion

In an interview with senior Tyler Goens, we hear about his experience with and vision for the fine arts programs at GPLHS.  
*Tell us about yourself.*

I've been at GPL all four years and all four years I've been involved in Oral Interp, the One Act Play and the 3 Act Play in the spring. I've been heavily involved. It's my passion.

*Tell us about scheduling practice for those activities.*

For oral interp, practice isn't as much of an issue because we can practice anywhere. We don't need a stage. With One Act it becomes a really big issue. In the music room there just isn't the space for how we actually need to practice like on a stage. We need the space to do staging and blocking for the show. We end up using the commons when the gym is being used. It's amazing when we can actually use the gym, but that is difficult to get practice times in when there is basketball practice the entire night or when there are home basketball games and we can't even use the commons.

*On days when there are not games, what is the practice schedule?*

Generally after school gets out (when we are in the commons) we need to take down all of the lunch tables and push them aside. We grab all of the staging equipment and move it into the commons to set up a compact staging area, then we practice until 5:30 or 6:00.

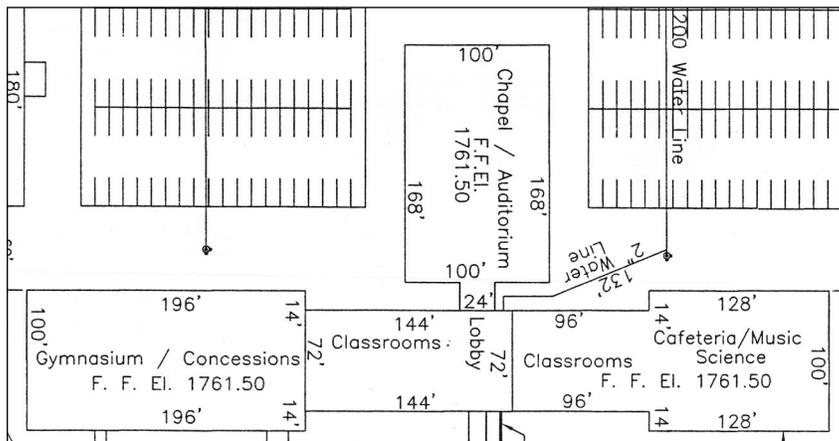
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*(Facility Expansion... cont.)*

Now when I say, "We have been talking about this for a long time," I do so with the understanding that "we" includes many who have gone before us, and "a long time" includes many years before 2015.

From the establishment of Dakota-Montana Lutheran High School, Inc. in 1979, God's people with a heart for Christian education have recognized the benefit of the facilities we are planning today.



GPLHS site plan circa 2003



Architect's rendering - west view of addition (Mills Construction)

## Double Your Gifting?

Did you know that your employer may match dollars you give to Lutheran schools to support our children and youth? Many businesses have matching gift programs to encourage their employees to support non-profit efforts. Thousands of dollars are received each year, including gifts from dozens of companies from AARP to Xcel Energy. Great Plains Lutheran High School is qualified to receive matching gifts.

Questions or not sure about matching gifts for GPL? Please contact Liz Arndt (605-886-0672).

**Matching gifts really do maximize giving. For example:**

*Yearly gift to GPLHS: \$500*

*Employer match: \$500*

*Total: \$1,000 times 3 yrs = \$3,000!*

Most Lutheran schools, including GPLHS, qualify for many matching gift programs. Find out if your employer participates:

Check with your human resources department asking if a matching gift program is offered.

Check out the link on the GPL website: [gplhs.org/unitedsupport](http://gplhs.org/unitedsupport) "Matching Gift Opportunity" to search for your company name.

*(It's My Passion... cont.)*

*Where is all of the staging when it is not in the cafeteria?*

We actually tear apart Mr. Martens' music room to get the staging equipment because it is part of his classroom. Then we store it in the walkway to the locker rooms in the gym. So it is just there in everyone's way. It makes the walkway crowded. It's really not a good situation.

*How would this expansion change fine arts at GPL?*

A stage area in an auditorium would give space backstage to put our sets and props and costumes. We would have a feasible place to store stuff and have the space we would need to practice the way we would perform - on an actual stage.

