

HIGHLANDS NEW BUILDING FUNDRAISING CO-CHAIRS

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With your help, we can make the rebuilt Highlands Elementary even better for our children, our teachers and our community.

Highlands Community Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to the foundation are tax-deductible.

BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

A NEW VISION FOR HIGHLANDS ELEMENTARY

Groundbreaking, Spring 2008
Occupancy, Fall 2010



Phase II & III Initiatives – Encompasses our comprehensive vision for Highlands Elementary School. Phase II funding (approximately \$111,000) is due by Spring 2008. Phase III funds (approximately \$110,100) are not needed until September 2010.

Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century

We seek to be highly responsive to the demands of a global society. Other specific enhancements include equipment and materials to prepare our youth with a strong science and math foundation, second language awareness, and a capacity to use these skills to solve problems and work collaboratively.

Natural Lighting and Sustainability

Natural daylight, a key feature of green design, was ranked on a school wide survey among the highest by both parents and staff. Additionally, other sustainable strategies include creating a perennial rain garden to reduce storm water runoff.

Recreational and Community Enhancements

A school is an integral part of its community, both for families with children and area residents who make use of its grounds and public spaces. Specific enhancements include expanding the gym to accommodate seating for bleachers, creating an outdoor amphitheatre and community courtyard and infusing the playground with continuous entry/exit aerobic play equipment.

“It is exciting that we can be in on the ground floor of something that will be so valuable to our children’s education and our community.”

– Highlands’ Parent, May 2007 Survey

**Contact one of our co-chairs
or visit our fundraising site at
www.highlandsfoundation.org.**



DISTRICT BUILDING PLANS

As the result of a 2004 bond, the Shawnee Mission School District has rebuilt five elementary schools. Highlands Elementary will be the sixth. All included new 70,000 sq. ft. buildings at a cost of about \$9 million each.

Each building holds up to 550 students, with three sections per grade level plus a Pre-K room.

The buildings are wireless, infused with state-of-the-art technology and expansive 4,000 sq. ft. libraries.

Each school has an art room with kiln studio and a music room with practice area. A 4,800 sq. ft. gymnasium and a 4,000 sq. ft. multipurpose room are adjoined in the middle by a stage.

We're looking forward to these additions and more as our own school is rebuilt on the same site.

OUR NEW SCHOOL

This brand new facility is great news for Highlands' families, staff and neighboring communities.

Now is the time to enhance our school even further by seeking in-kind support and raising additional funds!

The Highlands PTA New Building Committee, under the leadership and support of our principal, Jennifer Spencer, conducted extensive research,

gathered input from staff and parents, and identified three overall priorities that will require approximately **\$300,000 in additional funds.**

- Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century
- Natural Lighting and Sustainability
- Recreational and Community Enhancements

"The thoughtful involvement of parents and teachers in the design process is another wonderful example of our Highlands' community at work – investing in our children, now and for the future. This teamwork is what has made Highlands School a 'Center of Excellence' in our community for the past 55 years."

– Jennifer Spencer, Principal



2006 Shawnee Mission Teacher of the Year with second grade class.

BENEFITS OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE HIGHLANDS VISION

- A state-of-the-art building will draw more families to our area and help support businesses that serve our community.
- The proposed enhancements are supported by research linked to increased academic achievement.
- Kids will thrive in an environmentally friendly and engaging facility.
- The enhanced school will maintain strong property values.
- The involvement of parents, staff and community will ensure a cohesive fit between current district goals and our community's strengths and interests.

ENHANCEMENTS PROPOSED BY PARENTS AND STAFF

Phase I Initiative – Targets our top three specific enhancements. Total Phase I funds needed: approximately \$80,000 by Fall 2007.

Maximize Classroom Windows

Research has shown that natural light increases student achievement, teacher productivity and is a significant design component of an energy efficient, environmentally friendly facility.

Create Science/Project Lab

Early experience with lab activities and hands-on projects provides a foundation for high demand professions in science, engineering, math and technology.

Install Wood Gym Floor

In place of the district standard carpeted gym floor, an alternate flooring material would be used that is consistent with area recreational facilities and is environmentally friendly.