



OAK HILL
ACADEMY



OAK HILL ACADEMY

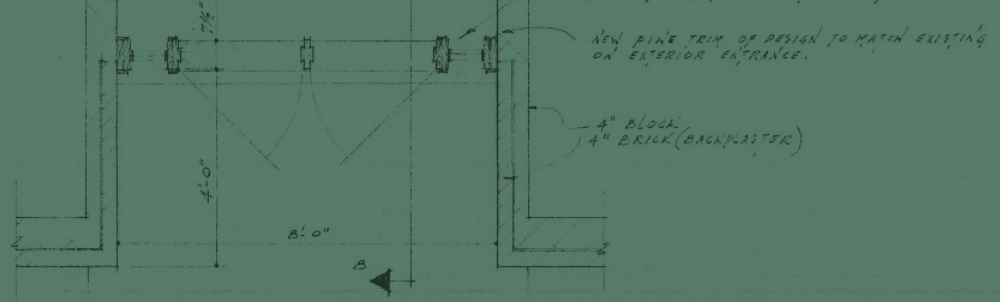
Classical Christian Education

FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAKE. FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.

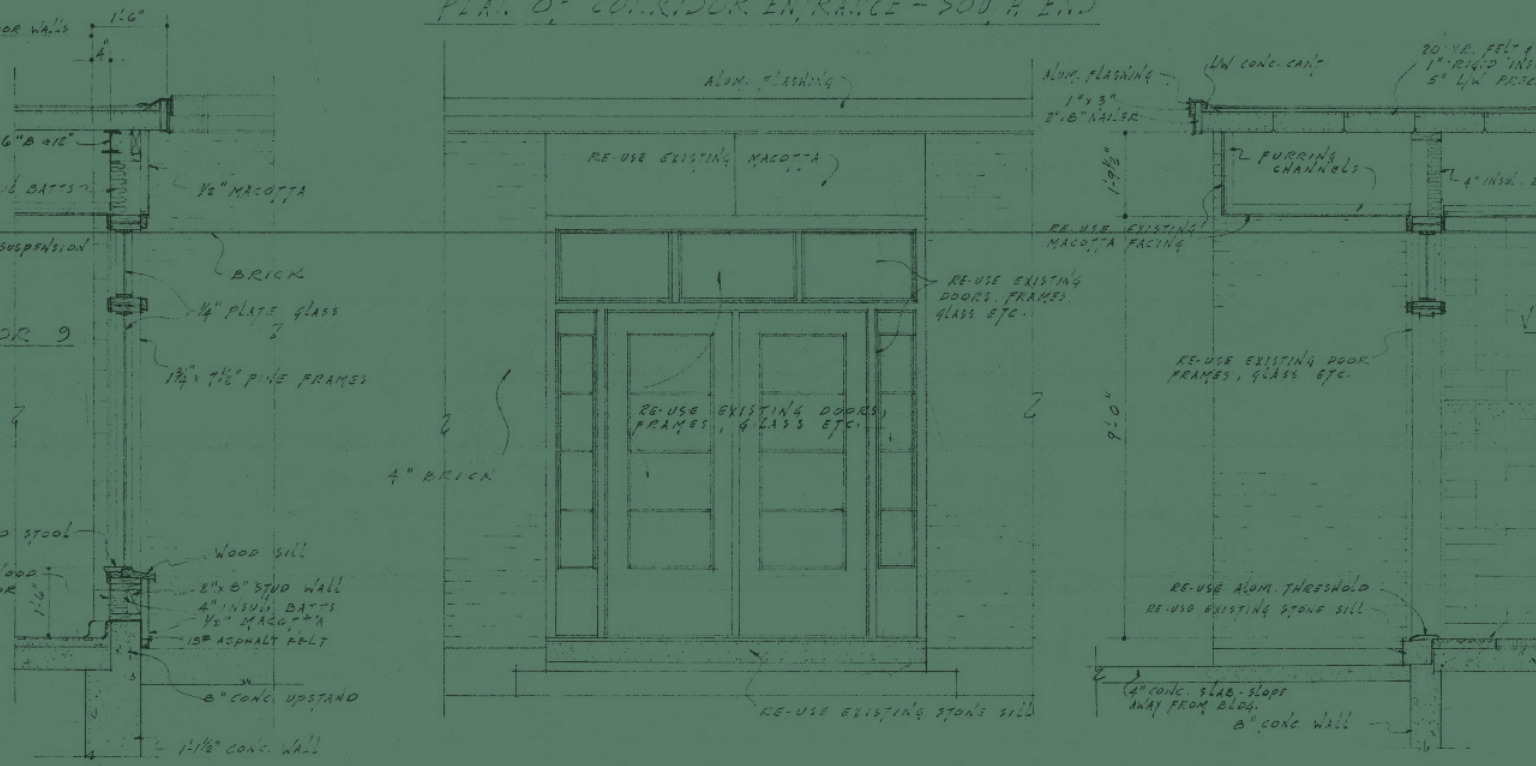
FROM EXISTING ENTRANCE

PLAYROOM

1/2" = 1'-0"



PLAN OF CORRIDOR ENTRANCE - SOUTH END



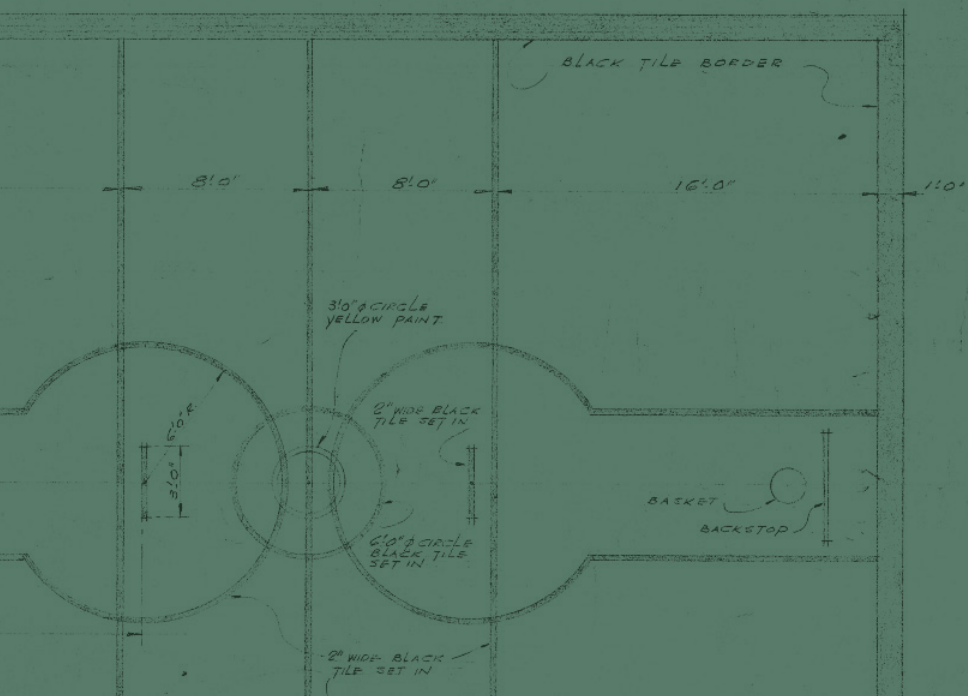
ELEVATION OF CORRIDOR ENTRANCE

SECTION B

SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

ELEVATION OF ENTRANCE AT SOUTH END OF PLAYROOM SIMILAR

WEST WALL OPPOSITE EAST ENTRANCE - SEE PLAN



The landscape is rich

Fauns and frogs, knights and knaves,
sorcerers and scientists, pharaohs and
philosophers, and the underestimated
carpenter, peasant, and hobbit.

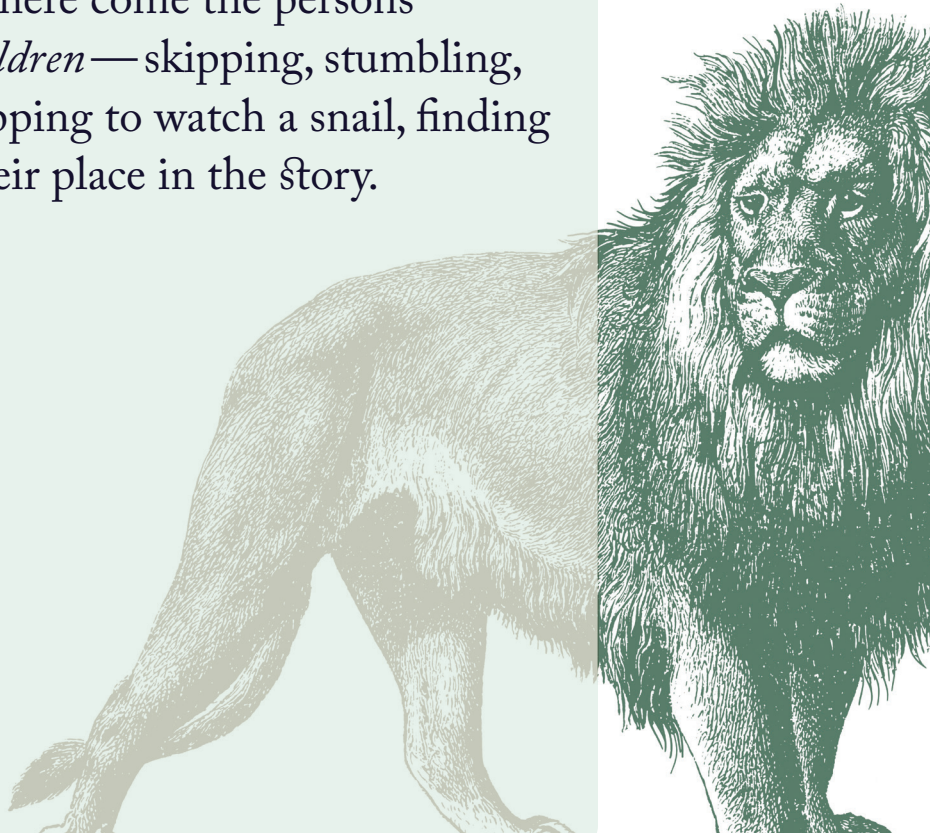
The plot is thick

War and peace, pride and prejudice,
irony, accident, and divine comedy.

The stakes are high

Heaven and hell within the balance.

And here come the persons
we call *children*—skipping, stumbling,
singing, stopping to watch a snail, finding
their place in the story.





OVERVIEW



One of the great ironies of our lives is that we are often concerned about what we do, when we are likely to have the most profound impact—and to be best remembered—because of who we are.

Oak Hill Academy (OHA) is a school founded in the belief that who we are—our character—matters, for it has the potential to shape the world around us.

A classical Christian school, OHA is dedicated to cultivating the human spirit within each child so that they grow in love of God and neighbour and are prepared to make meaningful contributions to the life of our world. We do this by rooting our curriculum and practice in the historic Christian faith and in the greatest ideas, books, artifacts, arts, and sciences of Western culture.

Established in 2018, OHA is flourishing and so are our children. By adding a grade each year as students have advanced, and through word of mouth, our community has grown dramatically. It will continue to do so on its way to becoming a fully integrated JK to Grade 12 school. But OHA has outgrown its first facility and desperately needs a new home.

A careful search resulted in successful negotiations for the purchase of a decommissioned school that is situated on an idyllic, seven-acre property. It is beautifully suited to the OHA community.

Securing this new home, and renovating, updating, and equipping it, requires that OHA raise \$5.6 million over the next two years. It is a lofty goal. But then OHA holds to a towering vision: to nurture wonder, wisdom, and virtue in Christ, which undergirds our noble mission of forming students for meaningful participation in the unfolding human story.

The indwelling of Christ is a thought particularly fit for children because their large faith does not stumble at the mystery, their imagination leaps readily to the marvel, that the king himself should inhabit a little child's heart.

Charlotte Mason

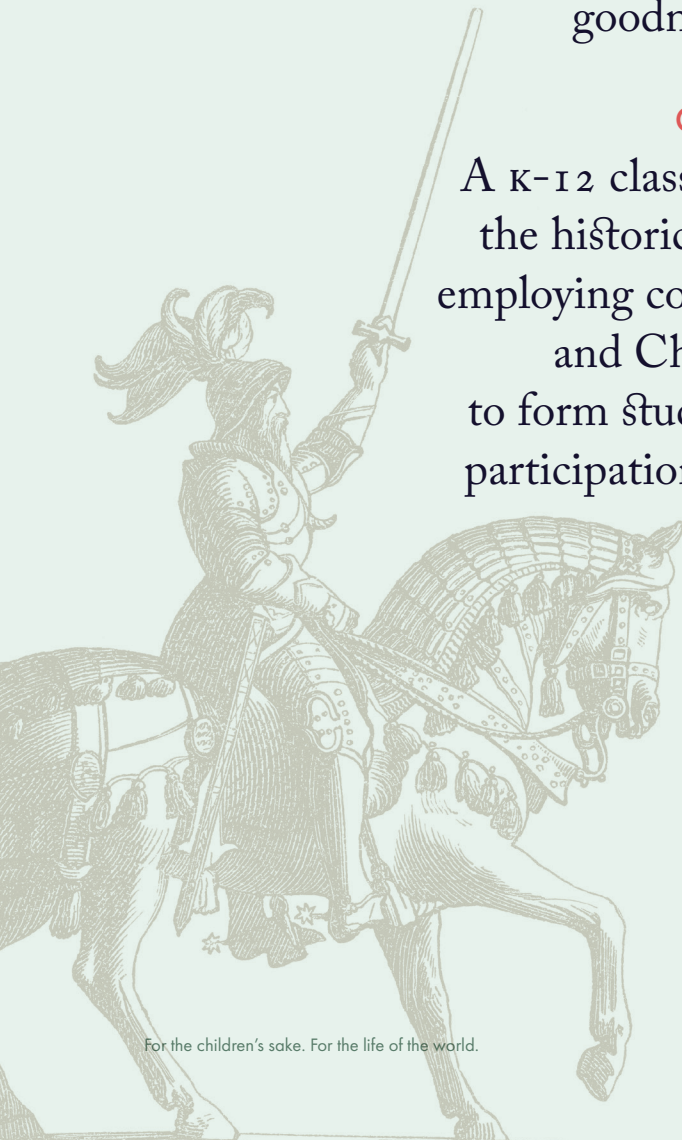
WHO IS OAK HILL ACADEMY

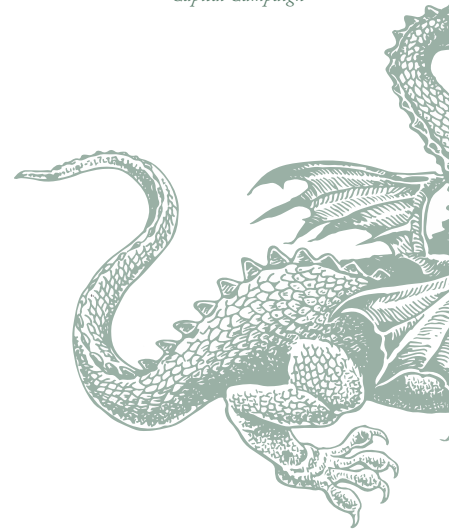
Our Vision

To nurture wonder, wisdom,
and virtue in Christ
through a banquet of truth,
goodness, and beauty.

Our Mission

A K-12 classical school rooted in
the historic Christian tradition,
employing common and liberal arts
and Christian teaching,
to form students for meaningful
participation in the human story.





Our Primary Objective

To form people rooted in right relationship with God, family, and neighbour — enthusiastic learners and hard workers who know themselves to be made in the *Image of God*; who speak with confidence and charity; who read broadly and think clearly and deeply; who are humble servants and faithful friends prepared to make a meaningful contribution to the life of the world.



Never be within doors
when you can rightly be without.

Charlotte Mason



Rationale for classical Christian education

Over the past century, public education has undergone a seismic shift, away from content and character and toward the utilitarian acquisition of skills for the workplace.

Modern education has exchanged formation for information. It asks, “What can I do with this learning?” Classical Christian education asks, “What will this learning do to me?”

And in the process, public education has removed from its curriculum the rich artistic, scientific, philosophical, and theological inheritance that have given rise to some of the best forms of human culture.

The recent rise of classical Christian education around the world points to an urgent recognition of the need for spiritual formation, alongside a rich curriculum worthy of our children’s attention.

Rightly done, classical Christian education is salt and light. It preserves and heals this present world, and illuminates it with all that is true, good, and beautiful for generations to come.



Oak Hill Academy Defined

Oak Hill Academy (OHA) was established in Hamilton, Ontario, in 2018, opening its doors with 10 families and 18 students. Four years later, OHA partners with over 50 families and 111 students, and 20+ staff. The school adds a grade every year as students advance and will graduate its first Grade 8 class in 2023 and its first Grade 12 class in 2027.

As a classical school, OHA stands in the tradition of “The Great Conversation,” a term originating with philosopher Mortimer Adler to describe the wellspring of Western culture, that ancient, ongoing, and cumulative process of the arts, sciences, and theology. Classical education emphasizes critical thinking, articulate speech, rootedness in nature, capacity for attention, and an integrated curriculum (theology, the sciences, and the arts are intertwined).

OHA is intentionally low-tech and tech-wise. We avoid over-reliance on screen technology by prioritizing pencils over keyboards, books over tablets, resonant experiences over entertainment, and manual over digital experiences. We work with our hands and explore nature often.

OHA embraces the historic Christian faith and delights in the gospel of grace. With parents and the Church, ours is the work of forming children into disciples, shaping free persons who know the good and choose to serve it above self. We desire to see our students becoming sages and saints, loving God and neighbour. Our high calling is to help them know their heritage and home, and to carry childlike wonder with them all their lives.

Classical Christian education is motivated by the conviction that the best preparation for a life well lived, for contributing to a society, is the cultivation of body, soul, mind, and heart. It also “looks” different—it is restful, not hurried, integrated, not specialized, focused on human beings, not objects to be instructed.

Only four years ago, we began the improbable journey of establishing a classical Christian school in the Hamilton area. Today we are a part of a growing movement in the US and Canada. In fact, OHA is now a leading part of a growing network of classical Christian schools in Ontario committed to recovering a rich, formative education for the sake of our children and, ultimately, for the life of the world.

THE CAMPAIGN

Vision

To create a sustainable home for Oak Hill Academy that will bear witness to the distinctives of a Christian school dedicated to nurturing students in the classical tradition.

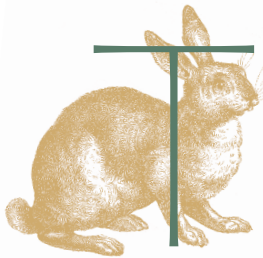
Mission

To raise \$5.6 million to purchase, renovate, and furnish Queen's Rangers school, ensuring a vital, sustainable future for OHA.





Campaign Objectives



To acquire a home and furnishings for Oak Hill Academy that will shelter the children of our school and act as a faithful and unique presence in the city of Hamilton and in the province of Ontario.

- To create an infrastructure for fund development and patron engagement within the school that ensures the long-term sustainability of OHA.
- To ensure the operational integrity and sustainability of OHA throughout the physical transition to our new home, ensuring the core of our school continues to flourish (busing and faculty compensation).
- To establish OHA as one of the leading expressions of the classical Christian education movement in Canada.

Rationale

A New Home Needed

Oak Hill Academy is dedicated to shaping children—those “skipping, stumbling, singing” little persons—to live lives of faithful presence, making transformative contributions for the sake of the world. An important part of this shaping process requires a stable educational home for our JK to Grade 12 classes.

For four years, OHA has joyfully partnered with Heritage Baptist Church which graciously provided a temporary home for the first phase of the school’s growth. But we have physically outgrown their space and now operate in two locations to accommodate our rapid growth. It is time to secure a permanent home for our flourishing, vibrant community.

We must have suitable accommodations by September 2023.

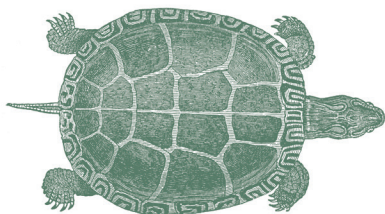
Queen’s Rangers, a surplus school from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), is that home. On October 7, 2022,



following much research and consideration, Oak Hill Academy's board submitted a successful bid for the property and building. The transaction will close December 12, 2022.

The love of learning,
the sequestered nooks,
and all the sweet
serenity of books.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Morituri Salutamus



The New Home Described

Built in 1958, Queen's Rangers Elementary is situated on seven acres of land on Governor's Road, in Copetown, at the edge of Dundas Valley. With 11 classrooms, a library, a spacious and bright kindergarten, a gym that will double as a chapel, a large athletic field, and proximity to conservation land and forests as well as community baseball diamonds, it is not a temporary solution, but one that will provide ample room to grow and fulfill OHA's vision of a thriving K-12.

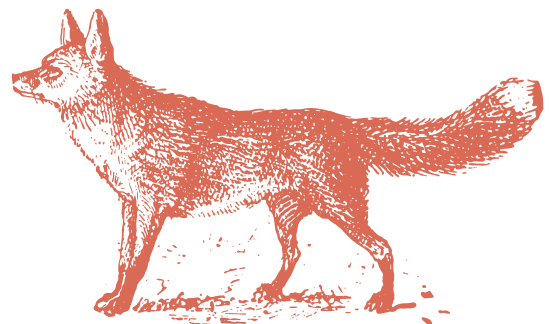
Although the "bones" of the 64-year-old building—which closed in 2020—are sound, renovations will be required to make the school fit for use by fall 2023. These renovations will include repairing and/or replacing the roof, as well as electrical, mechanical, paving, septic, and HVAC upgrades.

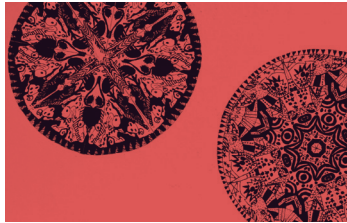


OHA Campaign Defined



lak Hill Academy's campaign goal is to raise \$5.6 million over the next 26 months. The campaign will employ a series of activities and events to secure the entirety of funds by December 31, 2024, and will consist of three phases:





PHASE	GOAL	AMOUNT	DEADLINES	PROGRESS
1	Purchase of Queen's Rangers Elementary School building and land. This phase is the most time sensitive; the purchase must be completed by December 12. The costs of this phase include the cost of the building and land, land transfer fees, HST, and legal expenses.	\$1.8M	November 16, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 670K grant • 1.1 0% loan
2	<p>Renovation of the facility in preparation for September 2023 school launch. This is the most demanding and costly of the phases. It will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new roof - New windows - New HVAC - A new septic tank: The existing septic tank was installed when the school was built. A new one is required to accommodate growth of student population, the addition of portable rooms, and eventual expansion of the permanent building - New parking lot and landscaping - Interior renovation: walls painted, wood varnished, removal of mildew (throughout the school) and also, in places, of asbestos. 	\$2.4M	November 30, 2024 <i>As the funds are needed immediately to complete the renovation of the school by September 2023, a mortgage, through the CRC Extension Fund is secured to enable renovation to begin immediately upon possession of the building.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150K (in 2022) • 150K (in 2023)
3	Purchase of furnishings (desks chairs, kitchen, athletic equipment, books for library, etc.), subsidization of busing and operational core for two years	\$1.4M	September 1, 2023	

Whatever is true,
honourable, pure, excellent...

think on these things.

What you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me—
practice these things,
and the God of peace will be with you.

The Apostle Paul



AN INVITATION

WE INVITE YOU TO GIVE, OR PLEDGE, to help establish a school dedicated to shaping our children into a virtuous, wise, thoughtful, and eloquent generation who will respond to God’s call, serve the world, and contribute to the cultural and spiritual flourishing of humankind.

Oak Hill Academy invites you to consider becoming a patron at one of five levels. The following table defines each giving level and the contribution it makes to our overall campaign.

LEVEL	RANGE	NO. OF PATRONS	TOTAL
Founder (<i>individuals/foundations</i>)	\$200,000+	5	\$1,000,000+
Sponsor (<i>businesses/corporations</i>)	\$5,000 – 200,000+	10	\$50,000 – 2,000,000
Major Patron (<i>individuals/foundations</i>)	\$25,000 – 199,999	10	\$250,000 – 2,000,000
Mid Patron (<i>individuals/foundations</i>)	\$5,000 – 24,999	15	\$75,000 – 360,000
Friends of OHA	Under \$5,000	60	\$6,000 – 300,000
TOTAL		100	\$1,381,000 – 5,660,000+

Gift/Pledge Fulfilment

Your gift or pledge can be fulfilled in one of the following ways:

1. *Direct financial gifts*

- A single gift given in 2022.
- A gift/pledge that is fulfilled over two to three years (2022-2024).
- A loan for the full amount of an intended gift, with the loan transitioning incrementally (over 2-3 years) to a gift (completion by the end of 2024).
- A gift that is fulfilled through monthly instalments (completion by the end of 2024).

2. *Transfer of stocks*

OHA is happy to facilitate a transfer of stocks. The Campaign Director and board representative will work with the patron in the fulfilment of such a gift.

3. *Gifts in Kind*

Material “gifts in kind” relevant to the purposes of the campaign make an important contribution to the fulfillment of the campaign. OHA can issue tax deductible receipts for gifts in kind.

4. *Gifts of Service*

The provision of volunteer services, whether in a specialty or general labour, is of immense importance to the sustainability of OHA. We welcome all forms of volunteer assistance.

Direct financial gifts can be made by...

CHEQUE

Cheques should be made out to
Oak Hill Academy and sent to
 85 Miller Drive, Ancaster, ON, L9G 2H9

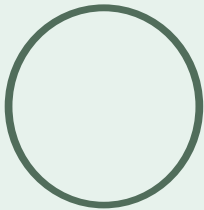
CREDIT CARD

Gifts by credit card can be made at
oakhillhamilton.ca/capital-campaign

For all questions regarding tax-deductible contributions and volunteering, please contact Greg Pennoyer at gregory.pennoyer@oakhillhamilton.ca

Oak Hill is a non-profit, charitable organization. It's CRA number is 757204110 RR0001.

PATRON/SPONSOR ENGAGEMENT



OHA is committed to engaging its patrons in a manner that nurtures a deep sense of participation in our community. Patron resources are designed not as “rewards,” but as investments in people who are seeding our culture with generations of life-giving, wise, and selfless citizens.

OHA will engage its patrons in ways that they themselves consider best for their families, their legacies, or, in the case of corporate sponsorships, their businesses.

The following table provides a glimpse of the ways in which, over time, OHA, its staff, students, and board, will engage its patrons ensuring they are as much a part of this faithful community as the students themselves. The goals are to:

- *Demonstrate honour and gratitude*
- *Invest in the lives of our patrons:* Desiring to serve patrons spiritually, intellectually, and socially, OHA will provide opportunities for them to explore the ideas behind classical education, making the

gifts of a classical Christian education as real to patrons as they are to our students and staff.

- *Ensure an ever-growing base of patrons:* OHA’s investment in its patron community will not only deepen patron connection, but also attract new patrons.

The question is not, “How much does the youth know when he has finished his education?” but how much does he care, and about how many orders of things does he care? In fact, how large is the room in which he finds his feet set and, therefore, how full is the life he has before him?

Charlotte Mason

	Corporation acknowledged across communications	Invitation to OHA Patron Tour	Invitation to principal's annual luncheon	Invitation to Christmas at Oak Hill luncheon	Invitation to annual spring gala luncheon	Contribution towards personal library	Name on wall of thanks giving	Invitation to annual spring gala	Gratitude bag	Monthly communication	Quarterly campaign report	
Founder												
200,000+	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 4 books/yr
Sponsor												
200,000+	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
100,000 – 199,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
50,000 – 99,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
25,000 – 49,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Major Patron												
150,000 – 199,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 4 books/yr
100,000 – 149,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 4 books/yr
75,000 – 99,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 3 books/yr
50,000 – 74,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 3 books/yr
25,000 – 49,999	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 2 books/yr
Mid Patron												
10,000 – 24,999		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 2 books/yr
5,000 – 9,999		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	* 2 books/yr
Friends of OHA												
2,500 – 4,999						*	*	*	*	*	*	* 1 book/yr
1,200 – 2,499						*	*	*	*	*	*	* 1 book/yr
600 – 1,199							*	*	*	*	*	
5 – 599							*	*	*	*	*	

To be given in one 12-month period

OAK HILL PREPAREDNESS

A number of indicators underscore both readiness for this campaign, and the likelihood of its success. These include:

Purchase of property

A clear expression of the trust placed in Oak Hill Academy and its leadership is the support that has been given before the launch of its capital campaign. It has secured:

- an anchor grant of \$670,000
- an interest-free loan allowing OHA to purchase the building
- \$300K in gifts towards the renovation
- a mortgage for renovations from the CRC Extension Fund

Solid base of revenue growth

Oak Hill Academy established a solid base of revenue in tuition and contributions that ensured it met its budget each year of operations. In its first four years:

- tuition grew from \$100,900 to \$382,533
- contributed income grew from \$142,556.00 to \$186,073.00

INCOME TYPE	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Tuition	\$100,900.00	\$183,353.00	\$258,000.00	\$382,533.00
Contributed	\$142,556.00	\$101,579.00	\$144,230.00	\$186,073.00

School registration growing at a healthy pace

This growth of the student body, number of grades, and faculty demonstrates the demand for Oak Hill Academy's unique approach to Christian education.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Students	22	40	59	82	111
Grades	JK-2	JK-5	JK-6	JK-7	JK-8
Teachers	5	7	10	15	20+

Qualified Team

Vendors

To ensure efficient, economical, and timely completion of the renovations, Oak Hill Academy has secured the services of companies with expertise in high-quality renovations, approvals from Hamilton City regulators, and all licensing and consents necessary to ready Queen's Rangers Elementary as OHA's new home:

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Henry Schilthuis, *Schilthuis Construction Inc.*

Henry Schilthuis has been President of Schilthuis Group of Companies since 2003. Schilthuis is a family company founded by Henry's father, who immigrated from the Netherlands in 1952. Henry Schilthuis' sons—who grew up digging pits by hand, wheeling concrete, and sweeping job sites—are today all part-owners in the company.

LAWYER

David VanderWoerd, *Ross and McBride, Hamilton*

David VanderWoerd has been practising law for over 30 years. He is an expert in the legal areas of business law, estate planning and administration, and charity and non-profit law. David received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history with a minor in sociology, along with a Michigan Provisional Secondary School Teacher's Certificate from Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his Bachelor of Laws degree at Western University.

ARCHITECT

Jason Brouwer, *Brouwer Architecture Inc.*

Jason Brouwer has nearly a decade of experience in architecture. He completed graduate studies at the University of Buffalo and earned a Bachelor of Architectural Science from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University). Jason is currently President-Architect at Brouwer Architecture.

OHA Team

The community that surrounds the founding and work of OHA consists of people who represent a broad spectrum of professionals, intellectuals, and leaders with deep commitment and vast capacity to ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of the school and its distinctives.

BOARD, STAFF, CAMPAIGN TEAM

Every staff member of OHA is deeply committed to the rich and unique contribution of classical education to the life of its children and to society. This commitment is demonstrated in the sacrificial care that each one gives to the students, to the mission of OHA, and to developing themselves as leading educators in the tradition. *Please see appendix for the full roster of board, team, and staff.*

VOLUNTEERS

A significant reason for the success of OHA is its community of volunteers. OHA would not exist without them. They assist in weekly cleaning crews, teacher assistants, volunteer librarians, hospitality, and event planning. Volunteers are an anchor within the community and one of the primary reasons for its flourishing.

Of the joyous motives of
our school life, the love of
knowledge is the only abiding
one; the only one which
determines the scale, so to
speak, upon which the person
will hereafter live.

Charlotte Mason



APPENDIX

OHA Board & Campaign Team



DOUG SIKKEMA is OHA's **board chair**, and is a founding member of the school. He is an assistant professor of the core program and English at Redeemer University. Oak Hill Academy is a family affair for Doug. His four children are enrolled and his wife Vanessa works there while serving on the curriculum team.

*Board of Directors
Campaign Team*



SAM OVERDUIN brings his operational experience to the OHA board and is glad to help wherever he can. God has been great in allowing Sam to serve the OHA community since its first year. Sam serves as treasurer of the Board and the lead on Oak Hill's finance team. He works as an operations manager at a local company.

Board of Directors



COURTNEY HORDYK, together with her husband Joel, runs Cameron Street Visual Storytelling, a visual media company. Discovering the classical model when her oldest was a few years old, she became determined to have her children educated classically. This started out with a year of homeschooling before learning about OHA. She is also on the curriculum team.

*Board of Directors
Campaign Team*



JANA VANDERZWAAG is the mom of five Oak Hill students. She has teaching experience in both homeschool and traditional classroom settings. She serves as the clerk of OHA's Board, and is an occasional supply teacher.

Board of Directors



BRIAN DIJKEMA is the vice-president of external affairs with Cardus, and an editor of *Comment*. Prior to joining Cardus, Brian worked for almost a decade in labour relations after completing his master's degree. He has two children enrolled at OHA.

*Board of Directors
Campaign Team*



GREG PENNOYER is OHA's **capital campaign director**. His passion for civic renewal led him to Parliament before he served in leadership roles with Focus on the Family, Faith in Canada 150, The Humanitas Group, and Image. He has also served on the boards of The Henri Nouwen Society, Image, Prison Fellowship International, and Canada Food for the Hungry. His son attends OHA.

Campaign Team



AREN PLANTE grew up attending Christian schools. Prior to entering full-time municipal administration, Aren completed a BA of Arts Honours at Redeemer University and a MA of Public Administration at the University of Western Ontario. Aren serves as the **capital campaign administrator** where he provides business operations support to the capital campaign director.

Campaign Team



PAUL GERICS and his wife Leah have attended West Highland Church for 30 years, where Paul has served as an elder, youth leader, and on the worship team. Paul is a retired IT security and risk professional who worked for 28 years at Royal Bank of Canada, in several executive roles. Four of his grandchildren attend OHA.

Campaign Team



DAVE KENNY spent nine years as an entrepreneur and 15 years in senior corporate management, before entering parachurch ministry. Most recently he served as a senior vice-president with ShareWord Global. He has a BA in Theology and is working on his MA in Philanthropic Studies. Dave is husband to Jacinda, a teacher at OHA, and has six children, five of whom attend the school.

Campaign Team

OHA Faculty & Staff



Jesse Newton serves as the **principal** of OHA. After learning about classical Christian education, he left his engineering career to do his part educating and discipling the next generation. Three of his four children currently attend OHA. Jesse received a Bachelor of Engineering & Society with a minor in Religious Studies and a Master of Applied Science, both from McMaster University, and concurrently received a graduate diploma from United Nations University INWEH.



Allison Dekker is **vice principal** of OHA, and teaches most of the junior and intermediate students. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Education degrees from Redeemer University and taught at a Christian school in Hamilton for ten years. Allison and her husband Paul have four children (all students at OHA), and serve in their city and church in a number of roles.

Danielle Burgsma
Office Administrator

Sarah DiMauro
Grade 4

Rebecca Harskamp
Grade 3–8; Nature Study

Miranda Hofsink
Grade 3 PSW

Joanne Hordyk
JK–Grade 2 Music

Leslie Kent
Grade 3–8 Music, Drama

Jacinda Kenny
SK

Zach Kingma
Grade 6

Mark Lyons
Grade 7/8

Daniel Paul
Grade 3; Grade 4–8 Latin

Amy Randall
Grade 1

Vanessa Sikkema
Education Assistant

Laura Sommer
Grade 5

Rose Tamming
JK

Jennifer Tatem
Grade 2

Maria VanBentem
Education Assistant

Ann Wierenga
Grade 1–2 Nature Study, Grade 3 Art

Sandra Zuidema
Grade 3–8 Picture Study, Art

From Moses and Homer to Dante,
John Calvin, and Teresa of Ávila,
down through to Thomas Merton,
Dorothy Sayers, and C.S. Lewis,
the end of such an education is the
cultivation of the human spirit,
“teaching the young to know
what is good, to serve it above self,
to reproduce it, and to recognize that
in knowledge lies responsibility.”*

*David V. Hicks, Norms and Nobility





OAK HILL
ACADEMY

GREG PENNOYER

Capital Campaign Director

gregory.pennoyer@oakhillhamilton.ca

905 961 9424

85 Miller Drive, Ancaster, ON, L9G 2H9