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Clinton Christian Academy unveils \$5.5 million campus expansion plan

Clinton Christian Academy invited families and community members inside its gymnasium Tuesday night for the first public unveiling of an ambitious campus expansion effort, a capital campaign leaders say is designed to meet the school's growing enrollment and strengthen programs for years to come.

The Jan. 27 gathering, titled "**Looking Ahead Together...Our Campus Future,**" offered updates on the Facilities Enhancement Project first introduced last year, along with architectural renderings, funding progress and testimony from parents and administrators about why the project has become a priority. A re-enrollment meeting for families preceded the presentation, giving parents a chance to prepare for the upcoming school year before turning attention toward the school's long-term vision.

Speaking to the audience, parent and capital campaign committee leader Tara Dull emphasized both gratitude and urgency as she outlined the scope of the proposal.

"It's really an honor and privilege to get in front of you all tonight" Dull said, noting her son Easton has attended CCA for a decade. "As a fellow CCA parent who deeply loves this school, I want you all to understand what we've got planned and why we're so excited about these enhancements."

According to Dull, Clinton Christian Academy, which began in the basement of First Baptist Church in 2000 and marked its 25th anniversary last year, is seeking to raise \$5.5 million in its first-ever capital campaign. More than \$3.5 million has already

been pledged since fundraising quietly began in 2025 through targeted conversations with donors.

The proposed project would add roughly 10,000 square feet to the existing campus while renovating several current areas. Plans include a new secure front entrance and office space, a library and media center, expanded science labs, additional classrooms, and a large cafeteria with a commercial kitchen that could double as recreational space. A two-story addition connected to the gym would house a weight room, locker rooms and more instructional areas.

As three-dimensional renderings scrolled across the screen, Dull described how the additions would reshape daily life for students.

“We’re out of room and that’s a good problem to have, but the infrastructure wasn’t built for the number of students we serve today” she said.

Upper school principal Becky Hyke echoed that assessment in a separate interview following the presentation, explaining the campaign grew out of years of prayer and planning.

“They knew five or six years ago that enhancements were coming” Hyke said. “They hired an architect, and then began asking, ‘How do we raise the money without raising tuition?’ We wanted to involve the community.”

Hyke credited Dull with helping energize the effort by saying, “God gave her insight, and she just went for it. She’s inspired a lot of people.”

Lead administrator Robin Ritchie said enrollment growth has made the need increasingly clear. When she arrived eight years ago, the school had 114 students. Today, that number has climbed to 182.

“We are basically out of space” Ritchie said. “We’ve outgrown the cafeteria, we run three lunch shifts, and we don’t have a commercial kitchen. We’re using residential refrigerators and freezers to serve over a hundred kids a day.”

Athletics have faced similar challenges, she added, with donated weight equipment largely kept in storage due to a lack of room and locker areas stretched thin during basketball season.

The campaign, Ritchie said, is aimed less at future expansion than at serving current families more effectively. “We’ve reached the point where we need to take that next step” she said.

Organizers hope to send the project out for construction bids this spring, with the goal of breaking ground as soon as possible, potentially over the summer, if fundraising continues on pace. Jeff Lowe, who appeared in one of the project videos, said completing the work in a single construction phase would be ideal in order to secure better bids and avoid piecing the project together over time.

Throughout the evening, Dull returned to stories from students, teachers and parents to illustrate why she believes the investment matters. She recounted moments of prayer in classrooms, students encouraging teammates after practice, and graduates carrying study habits learned at CCA into college.

“This campaign isn’t just about buildings or budgets” she told the crowd. “It’s about legacy, about faith, and about creating the kind of school our kids, and their kids, can thrive in.”

Before closing in prayer, Dull invited attendees to support the campaign through prayer, connecting school leaders with potential donors, sharing information in the community or contributing financially through one-time gifts or pledges.

“We’re planting seeds we may not fully see, but our children will” she said.

As families lingered afterward for cake and conversation, administrators said they were encouraged by the turnout and the momentum already behind the project.

“We believe God has brought us this far for a reason” Ritchie said. “Now we’re just trusting Him for what comes next.”

