



“In Harmony, Small Things Grow” A Home for the Arts & Community

MESSAGE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

As alumni, parents of alumni, and chairs of “In Harmony, Small Things Grow: A Home for the Arts & Community,” we are honored to have this opportunity to commend Our Lady of Good Counsel High School to you and to seek your support for the exciting work described in this webpage.

When Our Lady of Good Counsel High School moved to Olney and created a new campus seven years ago, we were taking a bold step toward realizing and sustaining the vision for the school, a vision stretching back to our founding in 1958.

We were excited by the opportunity the new campus presented for academic attainment, athletic achievement, and dedication to faith and service. Every day, we witness the extraordinary impact that this move to Olney has on our students, faculty, and the entire GC community.

But something is missing. In 2007, we built the school that we could afford. Today, with your help, we can complete the school.

Our current facilities provide an ideal educational environment for everything but the performing arts. And the students involved and interested in choral music, instrumental music, dance, speech, debate, and acting as well as the technical and behind-the-scenes sides of theatre make up a surprisingly significant portion of our school community. In fact, every student takes at least one course in the arts at Good Counsel, and as many as one third of the students are participating in some form of arts-related activities on any given day.

Our classrooms, science labs, athletic facilities, chapel, and dining facilities are first-rate. But those who are involved in performing arts do not have a place to call “**home.**” We think it is time to provide appropriate and dedicated space for the arts just as we have done for academics, athletics, and faith formation.

We are now embarking on the final leg of the journey to complete the campus for Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. The leadership is ready. The students and faculty are anxious for this home for the arts. We invite you to join us, too.

Following several years of careful study, a new Performing Arts Center is planned for the space reserved for it when we built the original campus. The new design will truly support a growing program in the performing arts. The facility will be an educational learning center with common

classrooms for drama, dance, and music as well as a main theatre to seat up to 700 people. There will be proper space to build scenery, sew costumes, create and store props, and dress for theatre productions.

Even without changing the curriculum in any way, the new facility will have a minimum daily usage of 70% – perhaps even more. Our students will no longer need to rehearse in hallways; build sets in parents' garages; sing, debate, speak, or play instruments in the Kane Center or Litton Gymnasium; store costumes in shipping containers, or perform in rented spaces at another school or local facilities.

Completing the Good Counsel campus will be a major effort. It will require commitment. It will require investment. But that is nothing new for our school. We are now the trustees of this great treasure, and the responsibility to build community and strengthen the school falls to **each of us**.

The greatness of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School was built on the commitment of the Xaverian Brothers and lay teachers who cared deeply about each student they encountered. Since our humble beginnings, Good Counsel has been a place where bright, eager, energetic students worked side-by-side with compassionate, disciplined, and dedicated faculty and staff. Now is the time for each of us to continue to build on that legacy and provide the full and complete educational experience central to our values and so important to our students – today and in the future.

We ask you to read through this website with a renewed commitment to Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Examine each aspect of the project. Reach out to us to discuss how you can become involved. We hope that you, too, will feel compelled to join us in meeting this critical need for the education of every student – now and for the future.

To all who know and love Good Counsel – graduates, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends – we call upon you to participate. Our ultimate success depends upon you. We have made our own investments in this important project. With your support, we can help Good Counsel create this home for the arts for our community.

Handwritten signatures of David and Lisa in cursive script.

David '75 and Lisa Higgins P '04, '06, '09
Campaign Co-Chairs

Handwritten signatures of Alfred and Kathy in cursive script.

Alfred '66 and Kathy Checchi
Campaign Co-Chairs