

CASE FOR SUPPORT



RACINE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

OUR OUTSTANDING SCHOOL

Racine Lutheran High School has a **75-year history** serving the academic and spiritual needs of students in Racine County. Our school offers a rigorous college preparatory curriculum in a nurturing community where students excel and thrive as they grow in their learning, faith, character and leadership. RLHS's dynamic, faith-filled environment prepares graduates for leadership in service to the church, community and the world.

RLHS provides a challenging academic program with Advanced Placement courses and online dual-credit courses through the Concordia Promise Program with Concordia University Wisconsin, Concordia University Ann Arbor, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

The majority of these students pursue continuing education at a four-year university or technical college.

Recently, a growing number of students have taken advantage of CNC Boot Camp, Industry 4.0, the Welding Academy and other career-readiness programs through Gateway Technical College, **which enable students to earn college credits.**

These programs act as a stepping stone for those who seek to continue their education in engineering and related fields, as well as prepare for a front-line job in advanced manufacturing immediately upon graduation from high school.

Ninety-five percent of our graduates go on to post-secondary education. Many of those graduates have received generous tuition awards towards continuing education. Class scholarships and grants in excess of \$3.5 million were awarded to last year's class. Students that graduate from Racine Lutheran High School are prepared to go on to become contributing servant leaders in our community.





LEARNING

OUR ENROLLMENT KEEPS GROWING

RLHS continues to be blessed with a vibrant and growing school community. **In the past 5 years we have turned away over 15% of prospective students because we don't have room for them.** We are "bursting at the seams".

The three Lutheran grade schools that feed into RLHS are also growing, and that directly affects our projected enrollment. The Racine Parental Choice Program has increased by 30% over the past six years, and projections indicate that this growth trend will continue. **We are now faced with both a challenge and opportunity to expand the school to accommodate growth in enrollment, and to prepare for future students, all while providing some of the best educational opportunities possible.**

Racine County is experiencing dramatic growth due to Foxconn moving into the area. This will bring thousands of new jobs, new families and new students to the area. **There will be a greater demand for new and expanding businesses, housing, services and education.** RLHS and its Board of Directors recognize that significant changes affecting our area – increasing numbers, advances in technology, demand for different and improved facilities, programs and activities – have challenged the ability of the school's current physical facility to provide a quality education in a competitive, demanding environment. With an expanded and renovated facility, we could serve 25 more students a year, or 125 more students over the next five years.



THE CHALLENGES OF AN AGING FACILITY

With aging school facilities, increasing enrollment, and advances in technology, addressing our facility issues has become an urgent need. **We are housed within a historic, but aging building that we have outgrown.** The good news is that the **current facility is debt-free** which makes it a favorable time to address current and future needs.

In order to support our continued excellence in all other areas, we desperately need an updated and innovative facility transformation that will maximize educational value and address the needs of our students today, and in the future. We have postponed addressing our facility needs far too long – **it is time to act now in a significant way.**

CHARACTER

OUR VISION: TOP-TIER FACILITIES THAT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON EDUCATION AND OUR COMMUNITY

Our mission is to guide our youth in faith, learning, character, and leadership by nurturing their relationship with Jesus Christ and educating them for a life of service to God and humankind.

To best keep this promise and serve our growing number of students, we have a bold vision for a better future that will:

- Create new academic and community spaces in an optimal learning environment;
- Modernize and renovate the facility mechanicals and bring them to code;
- Create an indoor athletic facility that meets the needs of both students and athletes to learn teamwork and benefit from competitive exercises;
- Serve more than 125 new students over the next five years;
- Make all parts of RLHS handicap accessible;
- Provide fine arts students with facilities that meet their needs;
- Prepare young men and women to become valued citizens, leaders and assets for the dramatic growth and changing face of our community.

OUR PLAN AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Over the past several years, leadership, along with members of our community, have carefully examined the needs facing our school to make certain we are keeping pace with growing challenges regarding space and technology. To improve the experience of our current students and prudently prepare for the future as our enrollment continues to rise, we have partnered with Zimmerman Architectural Studios to develop a floor plan for additions and renovations.

The design features over 37,800 square feet of added space, and 11,660 square feet of renovated space including:

- Five new classrooms with updated technology
- An Academic Support Center to provide assistance to students with academic challenges
- Expanded cafeteria space
- A new spacious gymnasium with expanded locker rooms and weight room
- A permanent concessions stand
- The existing gymnasium will be repurposed for chapel services, music and performing arts programs
- Updated and energy efficient mechanical systems
- Two sets of new restrooms
- Additional storage

It has been estimated that approximately \$9 million will be needed to fully fund this much needed renovation and expansion project. This is well beyond the reach of RLHS's yearly operating budget of \$2.7 million.



THE CALL TO ACTION

A capital campaign of \$9 million is needed and will provide the high school with the funding to address all the current needs of the school now and well into the future.



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Racine Lutheran High School did far more than I could ever have asked for. Thanks to the school and its staff, I obtained the spiritual foundation that I would not have had the opportunity to obtain elsewhere. The care that was shown by staff in the small class sizes helped me develop positive habits both in the classroom and in everyday life. The trajectory of my life was drastically altered by the fact that, while I was at RLHS, I was more than just a body in a seat. I was cared for and loved by fellow students and staff alike. My kids will go to RLHS!

Eric Oertel, Class of 2010
Mount Pleasant Police Officer

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I am forever grateful for the good fortune I had to attend Racine Lutheran High School. The experience was rich and deep – a faith-based education, dedicated teachers and staff, well-rounded academics, and social and personal development – providing great preparation for college and life. Understanding what questions to ask, where to get help, how to study, why history matters, developing dedication and work ethic, doing the right thing, and doing things right – they were all lessons I learned at RLHS!

Tom Kammerait, Class of '74
Attorney/CPA

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