



Notre Dame de Sion School High School Athletic Complex Case Statement

Notre Dame de Sion School has been providing a premier independent Catholic education to the young people of Kansas City for over 100 years. A Sion education is rooted in its Catholic identity with a deep commitment to justice and service, a thirst for academic vigor and steeped in respect for cultural and religious diversity. Sion students develop the necessary skills to collaborate with each other, expand their critical thinking skills, enhance their creativity, and go on to not only thrive in an ever changing world, but bring the “sanctuary” of Sion to those who need it most. With a keen eye towards the future of 21st century educational curriculum and facilities to build a strong enrollment foundation for the school, Sion has recently completed a comprehensive Strategic Plan, which outlines five specific initiatives to achieve this goal.

Notre Dame de Sion School Mission Statement

The Notre Dame de Sion School of Kansas City is an independent Roman Catholic school providing the highest quality college preparatory education from preschool through grade 12. Sion continues the tradition of the founding sisters, the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion, inviting students to encounter God in a Catholic atmosphere that respects all faith traditions. The school partners with families and the community to prepare students for socially responsible, values based leadership in a culturally and religiously diverse world.

A Tradition of Excellence at Notre Dame de Sion School

Notre Dame de Sion School of Kansas City has a rich tradition of academic excellence that began in Kansas City in 1912 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion. Today Sion continues its affiliation with the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame de Sion, who provide guidance to the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff. The Kansas City school is one of 18 Notre Dame de Sion schools

around the world that provide students of all backgrounds with a place of learning in a caring atmosphere.

In 1927, the Sisters of Sion built their first Kansas City campus at 3823 Locust Street in what is known today as Kansas City's urban core. Formerly a boarding school for young women, the facility today offers coeducational Montessori preschool through 8th grade education to approximately 300 students. There are few choices for private grade school education in the urban core and Sion's tradition of offering a quality academic experience has been and will continue to be a strong foundation for central Kansas City. In 1962, the all girls' high school campus was moved to its current location in south Kansas City.

As young women are invited to attend Sion in the 9th through 12th grade, the goal is to enable them to share their passion with others and become responsible citizens of a larger world. Today, over 420 young women engage in coursework that is aligned with the mission of the school, with a strong sense of global awareness and addressing social justice issues within our local community and throughout the world.

Sion is a member of numerous educational organizations including the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), and Sion is dually accredited through AdvancED and the Independent Schools Associate of the Central States (ISACS). Most recently Sion was invited to join the Heads Network-National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls (NAPSG). We are the only school in Kansas City participating in this prestigious national organization.

Sion is grounded in values that embrace socio-economic, geographic, religious and ethnic diversity and annually provides more than \$658,000 in financial assistance. Students that attend Sion represent seven Missouri and Kansas counties and diverse faith and ethnic groups. In addition, the current demographic of young women who attend Sion's high school campus includes over 330 student athletes who participate in at least one team sport each year.

High School Campus Track and Field

Extra and co-curricular activities are an integral component to educating the whole student. Female athletes who attend the high school have the opportunity to participate in 11 sports across three seasons: basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming/diving, tennis, track, and volleyball. Nearly 75% of all Sion high school students participate in one or more competitive student activities. When Sion students graduate from our high school, five Sion students on average matriculate with significant scholarship opportunities to collegiate level athletic programs each year.

In support of the growing need for superior athletic programs as well as academic excellence, Sion opened the new gymnasium and indoor athletic facility in 2005. In 2007, a sprinkler system was installed in the outdoor field as a short-term improvement to the playing field. Additionally, improvements to the softball diamond and field area, including the addition of permanent dugouts and infield grading, were also made. These improvements were important to take Sion's athletic program to the next level but currently do not meet the expected standards and the demand for top notch and competitive facilities in 2014.

Sion high school students currently participating in field hockey, soccer and lacrosse practice and compete on a sub-par field with unreliable availability due to weather conditions. With the current natural grass field conditions, student athletes' practices and games are often postponed or cancelled due to extreme weather and poor field conditions. During the spring of 2013, Sion's lacrosse and soccer teams were limited to indoor practice for 75 percent of their season. Instead of running plays and drills on the field, they were struggling to have practice in Sion's gymnasium. Despite this hardship, Sion's soccer team went on to claim the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Class 2 District Championship. The team lost in the State Quarter finals and one can only wonder if the outcome would have been different if our athletes would have had the appropriate access to a turf field for practices.

As Sion currently does not have a track facility to provide the necessary outdoor practicing facilities, our student athletes must either run through the neighborhood streets adjacent to the high school or be transported to another local private school's facilities. The softball outfield area is also in poor condition and additional grading is required. At this time, Sion is one of the only private high schools in Kansas City that does not have updated athletic facilities including a quality turf field and eight-lane asphalt track. This leaves Sion student athletes at a disadvantage, as well as seriously affecting our ability to continue to attract and retain top scholar athletes.

To meet necessary recruitment and enrollment expectations of current and prospective families, Sion's Board of Trustees and Administration have determined that a 21st century outdoor Athletic Complex, including an all-weather track, turf field for soccer, field hockey and lacrosse with an improved softball and practice field, will complete the high school sports facility enhancements.

Community Partnerships

With the rising construction cost for facilities from sports venues to performing arts auditoriums, national trends for 21st century educational institutions show that local community partnerships support financial sustainability and enhance

the experience for all involved. These partnerships provide additional educational opportunities for all involved organizations. Sion is considering a partnership with Avila University as well as other urban K-12 schools who need access to outdoor sport facilities. Facility use partnerships mean that an outdoor Athletic Complex could be used more frequently.

The Future

Each year Sion recruits the best and brightest students and more than half are student athletes. The excellent education Sion provides to students is second to none in Kansas City and, in order to stay competitive in the marketplace, Sion must also provide an outdoor sports facility that meets or exceeds the competition. To level the playing field for student recruitment, Sion must enhance its actual playing fields and add track and field facilities.

Financial Strategy

In partnership with our Strategic Plan, this micro-campaign will be funded through designated gifts and will not be budgeted as part of the annual operating budget. This project will be funded through pledges and gifts with no debt incurred for this project.

Conclusion

Sion asks for the community's support for the \$4 million micro-campaign to fund the Notre Dame de Sion High School Athletic Complex. The upgraded facilities will support Sion as we continue to provide the academic excellence that has been its hallmark and to succeed in offering a competitive education to the young women and scholar athletes of Kansas City.

2013 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

MISSION AND IDENTITY

Continue to develop our identity and actions as a Catholic School in the tradition of the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion by:

- Creating a professional development plan that ensures our school will remain true to the founder's values and vision, and relevant to today's educational needs.
- Assisting our students in a Catholic atmosphere to fully embrace Sion's core values as they live their lives as global citizens and future community leaders.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Provide for the long-term financial sustainability of Notre Dame de Sion School by:

- Building operating reserves to allow for opportunities for additional investment in programming and facilities improvements.
- Balancing market and/or mission appropriate tuition while increasing opportunity for Financial Assistance and all-school programming.
- Achieving full enrollment through progressive marketing initiatives and competitive compensation packages designed to attract and retain outstanding faculty and staff.
- Growing the endowment for increased scholarship opportunities, all-school programming and facility maintenance and improvements.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Develop and implement a comprehensive public relations and communication plan for all constituents of Notre Dame de Sion School and the broader community in order to:

- Increase awareness of the School in the Greater Kansas City area.
- Realize and maintain full enrollment.
- Cultivate strong and lasting relationships that promote alumnae(i) and parent engagement.

PROGRAM, CURRICULUM, AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Ensure that Notre Dame de Sion School continues to deliver vigorous programming for all students by:

- Analyzing current curriculum with a focus on the school's mission and best practices in the 21st century classroom to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a global society.
- Enhancing extra-curricular and co-curricular offerings that bolster the School's academic program and student life.

- Providing meaningful evaluation and professional development opportunities for the School's leadership, faculty and staff to foster a culture of collegiality and academic excellence.

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT AND RENOVATION

Create a master plan for the physical plant and school grounds that:

- Evaluates and prioritizes current and future structural needs to support the School's programs.
- Makes use of collaborative and strategic community partnerships to leverage the School's ability to maximize its resources.