

2021-22 CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT



YELLOWSTONE. FOREVER.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR YELLOWSTONE SCHOOLS

Dear *Yellowstone. Forever.* Supporter,

Last year I stated that we were “excited to move towards a brighter future.” Looking out my office window with Yellowstone’s most recent test scores on my desk, I can see that brighter future taking shape. While the new building continues to take shape outside, our students and teachers have focused on academics inside. I am thrilled to report that our students showed significant academic growth! Our plans for academic recovery are working! Students’ academics are recovering from the nationwide-slide since the start of the pandemic . Our teachers and staff are working hard, and it shows.

We were blessed to acquire much of the building materials before supply chain issues began, which helped us stay on schedule with construction. We also had several celebratory moments to remind us of the purpose of our new building, including a Foundation Blessing ceremony in January and a beam signing event with all of our students, staff, family, and friends in May.

Our alumni, who graduated from Yellowstone in 2018 as 8th graders, just wrapped up their senior year of high school. All of them graduated, and 100% are heading to college (half of those are out of state). These positive results are why we continue to move forward to provide a brighter future for more students.

I hope you enjoy this report on all of the progress we’ve made, the challenges ahead, and a look at the exciting things to come in this new academic year.



Ryan Dolibois
Executive Director / Superintendent

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

2021

JUNE - JULY 2021: Plumbing in our current historic Douglass Elementary building was updated and improved. Further work will continue as part of the new construction. The clinic was moved to a temporary location where it will remain until our new building is complete. The library was packed up and converted into mobile libraries and classroom collections. The new building will include an updated and expanded clinic and a two-story library. A new security vestibule was installed at the entry of the building.

AUGUST 2021: Students and staff enjoyed 19 brand new restrooms in the Douglass Elementary building. Students returned to campus for 100% in-person learning. A new, specialized team of instructional coaches and academic interventionists joined Yellowstone staff to support teachers and student academics.

SEPTEMBER 2021: A crane arrived on campus to begin moving steel and start the construction process of the new building.

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE, CONT'D.

OCTOBER 2021: Trained students from the University of Houston’s College of Education began working as tutors with small groups of our students. Their work was coordinated through a Director of Student Achievement who leveraged student data to provide targeted, individualized support to each student.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021: Demolition and dirt work began to prepare the site for the new structure. A roof-level structure was erected to house our existing HVAC system. Chiller and boiler piping was re-run to accommodate the new location.

2022

JANUARY 2022: Students watched out of classroom windows as the playground was removed. A temporary playground was put into place at the park across the street, and interactive “Imagination Blocks” and other outdoor play equipment were donated to the joy and excitement of students.

Our Foundation Blessing Ceremony was held with around 100 guests and a front-row seat to construction. The foundation, construction, students, classrooms, and future of the building were prayed over.

FEBRUARY 2022: The Douglass Elementary library was demolished to make way for the connecting walkway to the new building. Students are excited for the new, two-story library that will take its place!

MARCH - APRIL 2022: The new building began to take shape as Concrete Pads A, B, and C were put in place, and steel beams were erected. After Spring MAP testing, 85% of our students experienced growth in math and 70% in reading. Specifically, 92% of our 8th-grade students showed growth, better preparing them for their high school transition.

MAY 2022: With most of the building framing completed, we saved the last beam to be lifted into place for our students, teachers, staff, parents, board members, alumni, volunteers, supporters, partners, and the Yellowstone community to sign their names and leave their blessings.

JUNE 2022: The building is 35% complete and on schedule to be finished by the first quarter of 2023. As part of our five-year strategic plan to provide a life-changing experience to 750 students in PK3-12th grade on one campus, a new Chief of Schools joined our staff.

JULY 2022: All structural steel is onsite and 99% complete. The building envelope, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing installations have begun. The new water retention system was installed, and the layout for the new loading area has been set. As the building continues to take shape, our students will return to a new construction landscape!

Read more about our campaign at
WWW.YELLOWSTONESCHOOLS.ORG/FOREVER

CHALLENGES AHEAD

We continue to build this project in an inflationary environment with many supply chain issues. While our early planning and tight management have helped us manage the project to date, we anticipate this Fall could bring additional costs and delays to the project as we work towards completion in the first quarter of 2023. We are analyzing our budget every two weeks to ensure that our campaign budget will be sufficient to get us across the finish line. We are also working actively with our vendors for long-lead items that will outfit our new spaces, including technology, and furniture needs.

Our cafeteria renovation could not be completed before school starts in the fall, so to minimize disruption, it will now be the project's final phase in early 2023. This could bring some additional costs to the project to account for crew mobilization and other operational needs during the renovation period.

We have been blessed to date with few lost days to inclement weather; we hope that our campus (and city) can avoid an active hurricane season or other related weather that would delay construction.



CAMPAIGN BUDGET

We have made much progress this year and are grateful for the support received. As we start our 2022-23 school year, we are close to our campaign goal, with an exciting \$1.5M challenge grant to push us to our target.

New Building Construction	\$18,500,000
Academic Response to COVID-19 and Program Support as we grow	\$6,500,000
Existing Building Renovation	\$2,500,000
Road Closure/Abatement, Outdoor Improvements, and Future Land Acquisition	\$2,000,000
Repair/Maintenance Fund	\$500,000

GRAND TOTAL

\$30,000,000





LOOKING AHEAD

We have an exciting year ahead as we finish *Yellowstone. Forever.* campaign fundraising and celebrate 20 years of teaching in Houston's Third Ward. With construction on schedule, the building is set to be ready in the first quarter of 2023. Celebrations for our 20th anniversary will take place throughout the year, with a focus in Spring 2023. Academics will continue to be the primary focus as we aid our students in their growth/recovery back toward grade level and beyond.





YELLOWSTONE SCHOOLS

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