CORNERSTONE 2020

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead

A Capital Campaign for The Cornerstone School
ABOUT

The Cornerstone School began more than 35 years ago, created by a small group of parents who were committed to providing an alternative model of education for their children. As an independent, 501(C)3 non-profit organization, The Cornerstone School has successfully adapted programming to ensure that the education of children is relevant to the needs of a changing society in which they will find themselves as young adults. Our guiding philosophy is to provide and cultivate educational experiences, which allow children to develop academic, social-emotional, and creative potential.

Our community of learners and their families have built an atmosphere of creativity, innovation, mutual respect and high educational achievement that has become synonymous with Cornerstone. We offer an accelerated and enriched program, where varied and individualized approaches to learning invite and sustain curiosity, building a lifelong love of learning. Our program focuses on the individual child and their cognitive, social, emotional and physical growth and well-being. We are committed to developing and growing the transformative leaders of tomorrow.

The small inclusive atmosphere is supported by highly qualified educators who collaborate with students to understand their unique intellectual abilities. High academic expectations and an accelerated curriculum are fostered by continual teacher - student interaction. Students are engaged in an experiential and stimulating learning environment. Emphasis on S.T.E.A.M. disciplines promotes the critical thinking and problem solving skills that are essential for success in the 21st century. The core values of tolerance, integrity, and mutual respect are instilled throughout the curriculum. Cornerstone students distinguish themselves as proficient citizens prepared for challenges, opportunities and responsibilities they will encounter over their lifetime.
THE FUTURE

The Cornerstone School is at an exciting and pivotal crossroad. In preparing our students for their next step, we recognize that focusing on foundational skills, competencies and character qualities are fundamental. These requirements equip our students for the new and different context in which they will need to learn, live and work beyond their years at Cornerstone. Problem solving, critical thinking, physical health, and creativity are vital skills required for our future generation’s success.

To remain an educational innovator and leader, The Cornerstone School is launching the *Cornerstone 2020: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead* Capital Campaign. The campaign will raise funds and build permanent facilities for the Art, Music and Athletics programs, in addition to creating new classrooms for Early Childhood and Lower Elementary grades. These new facilities allow for continued growth and development of the Arts and Athletics programs at The Cornerstone School.

We know that reaching our goal will require unprecedented generosity and support from the entire community. Your support shows your commitment to shaping and defining The Cornerstone School for years to come. You are taking ownership in the future educational enhancements of your children, as well as future generations of Cornerstone students. Brick by brick, we can achieve this goal together. Please join us in making this goal a wonderful new reality for Cornerstone students!
NEW FACILITIES

This transformative project will enhance the student experience by creating an attractive, spacious facility that better enables modern instruction and student development. Additionally, The Cornerstone School’s face to the public will be enhanced as we build a facility that is an outward demonstration of our sense of community.

Construction of classrooms for the Visual Arts and Music programs

The Visual Arts and Music programs will have permanent space in the school designed to suit their needs and to accommodate the different age groups using these classrooms. This will enhance the current program and complete the curricular offerings to include opportunities for students to develop their creative talents.

Construction of a multi-purpose facility for indoor athletic activities, whole class presentations and school wide meetings.

Renovations of our current school building will create more practical and flexible space in our existing structure. The multi-purpose facility will allow dedicated space for school presentations and Physical Education activities during inclement weather.

Construction of new Early Childhood and Lower Elementary classrooms

New facilities for Early Childhood and Lower Elementary programs will accommodate the needs of our younger students by providing classroom space that is flexible, practical, and spacious. We know that teaching and technology evolve, and that active learning through collaboration and group projects are the most effective teaching method.

There will be two classrooms for the Early Childhood program and a shared common space for collaborative and center activities. Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade classrooms will replace the modular units that currently house these students.
The new buildings will be located at the north end of the current campus on Lake Weir Avenue. An additional 17,000 square feet of learning space will be available for students, with an additional 1,300 square feet being repurposed for administrative space.
FULL S.T.E.A.M. AHEAD

The Cornerstone School’s shift to a S.T.E.A.M.-centric curriculum, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Athletics, Math) creates countless opportunities to provide meaningful learning experiences for children, where inter-curriculum connections are seamless, and allows for the application of knowledge and concepts to problem solve.

At The Cornerstone School, technology, math, engineering and robotics have been integrated into teaching and learning for the last 20 years. Recent research emphasizes the importance of the Arts in helping to develop the skills and competencies necessary for innovation in these areas. Additionally, research also shows that Art education builds many of the cognitive skills that are required in the business and professional worlds; skills like critical thinking and creative problem solving.

Athletics are a powerful tool that bring people together and create a sense of community. Studies have shown that exercise increases blood flow to the brain and helps the body build more connections between nerves, leading to increased concentration, enhanced memory, stimulated creativity, and better-developed problem solving skills.

Strong Arts and Athletics programs empower students by providing limitless opportunities for success, and appeal to both their physical and emotional needs. Permanent facilities for Arts and Athletics education allow The Cornerstone School to further nurture creativity and innovation and will provide students with a fully integrated program.
A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD

Being the best requires commitment and investment.

The commitment of The Cornerstone School’s Academic Team, and investments made by our Trustees, have made it the best learning environment in Marion County.

Our school leadership has developed teaching methods that optimize the property and buildings to their highest potential year in and year out. Over our history, Cornerstone’s Board of Trustees has invested in the school grounds and buildings to maintain Cornerstone’s reputation as the best.

Time does not stand still. Staying at the top requires continued investment in technology, flexibility, appearance, and security. This is the role of our Trustees, who are responsible for the vision necessary to maintain and improve The Cornerstone School’s learning environment.

For the past year, our Board has been working on a future vision of the school property that addresses current needs, provides major improvements to the campus, and expands learning opportunities in music and the arts. We are moving from S.T.E.M. to S.T.E.A.M. with visionary new buildings that will expand additional learning opportunities to develop pathways to success.

Our trustees are committed to executing a plan that will maintain The Cornerstone School’s “best” reputation, but we need everyone’s support and financial commitment to create a dream S.T.E.A.M. campus.

Without risk, there is no reward. Standing still in our accelerated culture will result in “best” becoming “average”. I know our board is very excited about our school’s future. So, let’s get everyone excited in the future vision of The Cornerstone School with a legacy campus for generations of children, families, and teachers.

Steve Allen
Board President
DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

The *Cornerstone 2020: Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead* Capital Campaign is calling upon individuals, businesses and corporations to provide the support and funding necessary to make the new facilities at The Cornerstone School a reality. The following is a list of available opportunities to attach a corporate, institutional, or individual name, to a designated space within The Cornerstone School.

- **Art Studio Naming Rights** $200,000 (*Reserved*)
- **Music Room Naming Rights** $200,000
- **Multi-purpose Facility Naming Rights** $200,000
- **Early Childhood Classroom Naming Rights** $100,000
- **Early Childhood Playground Naming Rights** $50,000
- **Donor Wall** $5,000-$50,000

*All naming requests will be received and considered on a first submitted basis. All naming requests are subject to final approval, at the exclusive and unrestricted discretion of the Board of Trustees, as representative for The Cornerstone School. The naming opportunities and contribution amounts identified above are requested minimum contribution amounts and may be modified at the discretion of The Cornerstone School. Special requests may be received and considered at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and The Cornerstone School. Please contact The Cornerstone School at 352-351-8840 to inquire about any special requests.*