



S.T.E.A.M. Center

Frequently Asked Questions

How did we get here with the new S.T.E.A.M. Center?

While this is not a new project, it does represent a major re-imagining and broader vision. The campus and church communities came together in 2019-20 with the collective goal of generating funding to construct a new thrift shop and food pantry for Christ Episcopal Church. The success of that collaboration – with approximately \$1.3-million raised – resulted in the church deeding its property to Saint Stephen's for the future S.T.E.A.M. Center.

During the past 18 months, we have remained in what we've termed the “quiet phase” of the campaign, hosting private dinners, small gatherings, and one-on-one donor meetings. To date, we have raised \$7.2-million toward a goal of \$10-12 million. Final costs are nearly defined as construction, engineering and permitting are being determined. We hope to begin construction in fall 2023. This project is the largest single fund-raising campaign the school has ever embarked on, but the finish line is in sight.

How will the new S.T.E.A.M. Center celebrate the performing arts?

Saint Stephen's has a long and successful history when it comes to the arts. In transforming an acoustically challenging gym into a working theater or converting classroom spaces into band venues and a playhouse, teachers, students, and volunteers have taken on the challenge with gusto. But the time has come for the hard work of the past to be rewarded.

With the performance area and backstage spaces of the S.T.E.A.M. Center, our Fine & Performing Arts program will establish a dedicated location for budding singers, actors, musicians, and dancers of all ages to develop and showcase their talents.

Other features include:

- Seating for up to 600 people for auditorium-style events, and up to 400 for sit-down dinners
- Moveable walls to allow for different room configurations where multiple programs can be held simultaneously

- A raised stage for performing arts productions
- A spacious foyer area that can be used for receptions, etc.
- A kitchen area for catering prep

How will the new Center elevate our STEM program?

STEM activities occur daily in every grade level throughout campus. Students in the older grades learn the dynamics of computer languages, build and fly drones, design and 3D print interactive projects, engineer bridge models, and examine the impact of computers on society – their social implications and issues of security. Our youngest students use interactive games to discover basic coding principles, and all of our students learn proper digital citizenship.

The new S.T.E.A.M. Center will provide a home base for showcasing these activities and more that's easily accessible to faculty and students in every division, providing the next generation of computer scientists and engineers with cutting-edge resources. The building will house:

- An academic maker space
- Computer science, engineering and robotics design lab
- Media production studio
- State-of-the-art audio and video technology

What else will happen in the S.T.E.A.M. Center?

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| ● Academic competitions | ● Sustainable gardens |
| ● Graduation ceremonies | ● Digital Art/Fine Art Showcases |
| ● Guest speaker series | ● Robot Wars |
| ● Award dinner | ● Capstone Research Presentations |
| ● Dances, Gala | ● Amelia Bedelia Fashion Show |
| ● Extracurricular activities | ● Wedding receptions |
| ● Musical performances | ● Community events |
| ● Science Fair | |

Who is being asked to support the campaign?

The entire Saint Stephen's community will be asked to participate in the campaign. Alumni, grandparents, current families, past parents, grandparents and friends of the school will all have an opportunity to give. Gifts of any amount are appreciated.

How will students be impacted during construction?

Our goal is to minimize the impact on campus life during active construction times. One of the great advantages of the S.T.E.A.M. Center design is that it can be completed separately and will allow students to stay in their classrooms until the new facility is ready for them.

Will there be added parking?

We know that there are certain days throughout the year – Christmas, Grandparent's Day, Spring Fling, Blessing of the Animals, and others – when parking is a challenge. Approximately 72 spaces will be created as a result of the new S.T.E.A.M. Center.

What is the timeframe for construction?

We estimate that construction will take 14-months to complete. Construction planning is already underway and initial site preparation work will begin in early fall with your help.

Why should I invest in the school? My children are no longer there.

Everything we enjoy at Saint Stephen's is the result of the generous gifts from those who came before us; as they provided for you and your children or grandchildren. It is now our responsibility to provide for those who will follow. Your belief in Saint Stephen's mission was, in part, what led you to choose the school for your children. You now have the opportunity to reinforce that choice with a gift that reflects your continuing commitment to the goals and values that a Saint Stephen's education represents. A gift to this campaign will ensure Saint Stephen's strength and success in the future. If you believe in SSES, it's easy to give.

Is my gift tax deductible?

Yes. Saint Stephen's is designated by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible in accordance with federal law. You will be provided with an authorized receipt for tax reporting purposes.

Are opportunities for named gifts available?

Yes, naming opportunities are available. The Development Office will work with donors in the order of the date on which a gift or signed pledge agreement was executed to select an appropriate opportunity.

Must my contribution be made at one time, and does it have to be in cash?

Saint Stephen's encourages campaign pledges to be paid over a three-to-five year period to allow donors to make significant gifts that might not be possible with a one-time contribution. Pledge payments can then be made at any time, although most choose to follow a regular schedule, on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. In addition to cash, Saint Stephen's encourages donors to consider giving gifts of stock or

appreciated securities that may afford significant tax benefits. You are encouraged to consult with your attorney or financial advisor as you consider making your pledge.

Are there other ways to make a non-cash gift to Saint Stephen's?

There are many ways to give to Saint Stephen's, including: a bequest, life-income, retirement fund assets, life insurance, appreciated stock, and many types of trust agreements.

How do I make a gift of stock?

Publicly traded stocks can easily be transferred to Saint Stephen's. Stock gifts may be transferred electronically, broker-to-broker or the actual certificates of stock may be mailed or hand-delivered. Actual stock certificates must be properly endorsed and accompanied by a signed Notice of Stock Power. To initiate an electronic stock transfer, you should contact your broker to direct the transfer to Saint Stephen's. The Development Office can help you with this.

Is it possible to have my gift matched?

Yes, if your employer has a matching gift program. This could double or triple your investment. Check with your personnel office or human resources department to see if your employer has a matching gift program. They will provide the form to complete your matching gift. If you need assistance completing the form, please send it to the Saint Stephen's Development Office.

What if I have additional questions?

We are happy to answer any questions. Please contact the Development Office at (941) 746-2121 ext. 1123 and we will answer your questions or connect you with the right person who can.