



St. Catherine's School

Zoning Master Plan Submission



A great education is more than acquiring knowledge. We are in the business of preparing girls for lives of purpose.

Our shared values shape our teaching and learning in and out of the classroom.

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INTRO

While educating girls for college was a daring idea to most people in 1890, it wasn't to Virginia Randolph Ellett, the founder of St. Catherine's School. She knew that young women could handle the rigorous work of higher education, which led to Richmond's selection as the eighth city worldwide to offer the Bryn Mawr college entrance exams to women. St. Catherine's School was incorporated in 1917 and moved to its present location. In 1920, it was sold to the Episcopal Church and renamed for St. Catherine, the patron saint of young women.

As we celebrate St. Catherine's School's 125th anniversary, we carry the the same timeless ideals of intellectual rigor and joy in learning for girls in junior kindergarten (age 4) to grade 12. Girls excel when they experience an ideal learning environment where intellectual curiosity thrives, individuality shines, and confidence abounds.

Motto

"What we keep we lose; only what we give remains our own."

Mission

St. Catherine's School provides a rigorous education that prepares girls with diverse perspectives for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service in a global community.

Core Values

To fulfill our mission and pursue our vision, we take these values as core:

Pursuing academic excellence:

We cultivate intellectual habits in which we take joy in learning through energetic inquiry, analytical and creative thinking, and continual striving to reach new levels.

Developing character:

We teach individuals to live with integrity, responsibility, confidence, compassion, and respect for themselves and others.

Nurturing spiritual growth:

We enable each person to deepen her faith through worship, reflection, humility, and the recognition of God in every human being.

Celebrating individuals:

We recognize the unique gifts and potential of each person and help each to recognize the strength that comes from differences.

Building community:

We build up community within and beyond the school through teaching social responsibility, inclusiveness, and leadership to prepare each person to serve others and contribute to healing the world.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For several years, St. Catherine's School evaluated the building changes necessary on its Grove Avenue Campus to further its educational mission and to meet the needs of its students in the years to come. This evaluation had two primary goals: (1) provide enhanced classroom space of its academic, arts, and athletic programming, and (2) expand on-campus parking in support of its operations, thereby improving existing conditions for the community. This Campus Master Plan is the result of this evaluation and will guide the future replacement, expansion, and construction of buildings on campus.

These campus building changes include:

- A new visual and performing arts facility (Arts and Innovation Center), which replaces the existing performing arts building;
- A new athletic field with surface parking, in the same area as the current athletic field;
- The locations for new buildings as well as the expansion of existing buildings and associated/related improvements.

Under this Campus Master Plan, St. Catherine's School believes these changes will:

- Provide its students with an enhanced learning environment to pursue academic excellence;
- Augment its academic programs and incorporate technological advances to prepare its students for their futures;
- Improve parking conditions, both on campus and for the surrounding area;
- Provide a better playing field which would adequately support students' practices, games, physical education classes, and recess; and
- Guide redevelopment to have a positive impact on our neighbors and surrounding community.

Implementation of this Campus Master Plan in conjunction with its educational strategic plan will enable St. Catherine's School to continue to provide a rigorous education that prepares its students with diverse perspectives for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service in a global community.

CAMPUS VISION

Campus Vision

The objective and strategic plan for St. Catherine's School's Grove Avenue Campus is to enhance its current academic spaces, provide state-of-the-art learning environments for students, and to honor the traditions of St. Catherine's School by constructing new facilities or expanding existing facilities that fit well into the existing campus. The initial planning and design process for this Campus Master Plan involved an inventory of existing conditions on-site at St. Catherine's School. The following pages show a visual account of the existing buildings, future building changes, pedestrian circulation, on-campus parking, and open spaces on campus. The proposed new Arts and Innovation Center (AIC) will replace the existing performing arts building on campus and will provide the expanded arts and academic spaces needed for the current arts programming on campus. Other buildings will be expanded or new buildings built in the future in a manner which will integrate them with the existing structures, aligning with the architectural traditions and character currently in place on the campus.

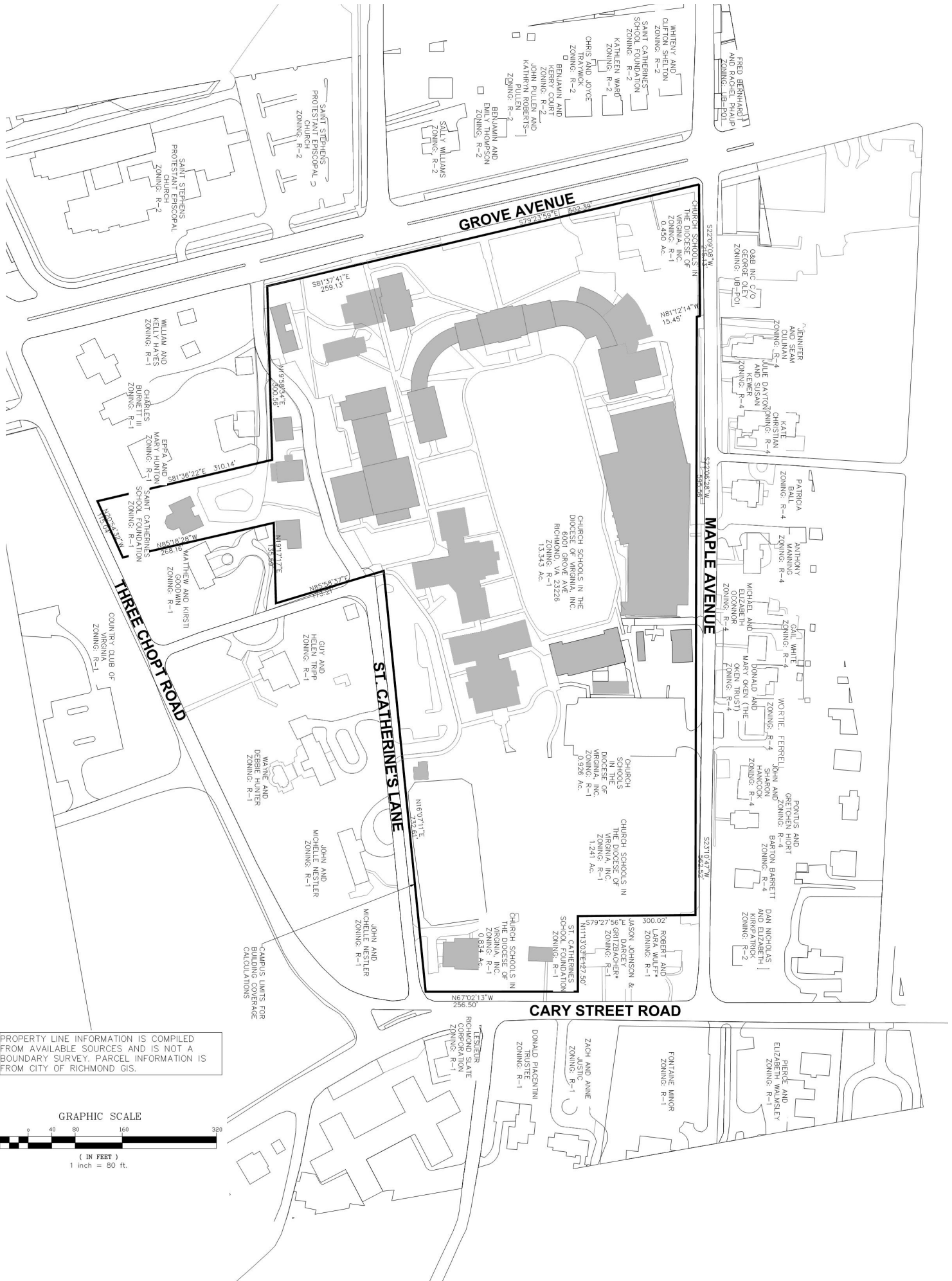
Site Geometry and Proposed Design Scheme

St. Catherine's School's campus is bordered on all four sides by vehicular roads; however, the two roads that run roughly on the North-South axis (St. Catherine's Lane and Maple Avenue) dictate the geometry that will be carried into the proposed expansion. Maple Avenue aligns with the current Kenny Athletic Center and implies that at least a portion of the proposed AIC building should align with the existing building to help define the architectural edge of the campus along Maple Avenue. It is our belief that the proposed building should enhance the experience that is St. Catherine's, and that the existing formal vocabulary should be considered and integrated to ensure a cohesive campus design and character.

At the center of the campus there is a formal green space, or lawn, around which most campus buildings are organized. The axial relationship of buildings on opposing sides of this formal green space is an important part of the overall campus design and will be emphasized by the placement of the Performing Arts Center portion of the AIC directly on the North-South axis, opposite of Bacot Hall, the "Old Main" academic and administrative building. Currently, McVey Hall occupies this spot on campus, but does not take full advantage of its important position on the campus green.

At the lowest elevation and southernmost available location on campus, we propose an artificial turf playing field on grade with surface parking directly adjacent. The proposed parking area will be screened from Maple Avenue with landscaping and a brick masonry wall. Access to the parking area will occur at two separate drive entry points off of Maple Avenue. A new mechanical plant facility will be located at one of the proposed building locations.

CAMPUS BOUNDARY SURVEY AND OWNERSHIP INFORMATION



EXISTING USES

EXISTING USE NARRATIVE

The existing building and facility program uses for the St. Catherine's School's Grove Avenue campus are described in this section. The existing academic buildings, sports facilities, offices, and support spaces are labeled in the legend below as well as in the site plan on the following page. Specific academic programming, administrative, and support uses for the buildings may change over time to meet the needs of St. Catherine's School's students, faculty, and administrators. In addition, the specific uses for each building below may be adjusted in the future.

EXISTING USE LEGEND

- ① Bacot Hall: classrooms and administrative offices
- ② Dining Hall: dining facilities, administrative offices and related uses
- ③ Washington Hall: classrooms, administrative offices, and auditorium
- ④ Kenny Sports and Fitness Center: athletic facility, classrooms, administrative offices
- ⑤ Power plant: central mechanical plant
- ⑥ Scene Shop: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑦ McVey Hall: performing arts, academic areas, classrooms, administrative offices and related uses
- ⑧ McCue Hall: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑨ Moore Fine Arts Center: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑩ Ellett Hall: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑪ The Arcade: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑫ Armfield Science Center: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑬ Development Office: administrative offices
- ⑭ Jones Maintenance Facility: maintenance shop and administrative offices
- ⑮ Tennis Courts
- ⑯ The Palace: faculty dormitory
- ⑰ Turner Hall, Wright Library, Bannard Chapel: library, classrooms, administrative offices, and chapel
- ⑱ Guigon Hall: classrooms and administrative offices
- ⑲ Blair Hall: administrative offices and faculty dormitory
- ⑳ Brackett House: bookstore and faculty dormitory
- ㉑ Jeffrey Hall: classrooms and administrative offices
- ㉒ Miss Jennie's: classrooms and administrative offices
- ㉓ Head of School's residence: single-family residence

PROPERTY LINE



EXISTING BUILDING



EXISTING USE PLAN



PLANNED USES

PLANNED USE NARRATIVE

Arts and Innovation Center:

The planned use for the proposed AIC will include spaces for performing arts, visual arts and innovation lab spaces. The new auditorium will contain approximately 550 seats and a scenery fly tower. The visual arts department will contain studio space for art classes at St. Catherine's School. The specific use of the space in the AIC may change over time.

Turf Field / Parking Area:

In addition to the AIC building, this Campus Master Plan includes provisions for the addition of a turf sports field with parking on grade. The turf field will be used for students' practices, games, physical education classes, and recess. Spectator bleacher seating will also be included at the field level. The parking area adjacent to the field will provide additional parking spaces for the entire campus, including the proposed AIC facility and turf field. The existing mechanical plant will be removed and relocated to support the AIC and other portions of campus. A new mechanical plant facility will be located at one of the proposed building locations.

Future Expansion:

This Campus Master Plan also identifies areas for the expansion of existing buildings and for the addition of new buildings to the campus. Uses could include classrooms, offices, mechanical equipment and other educational-related uses.

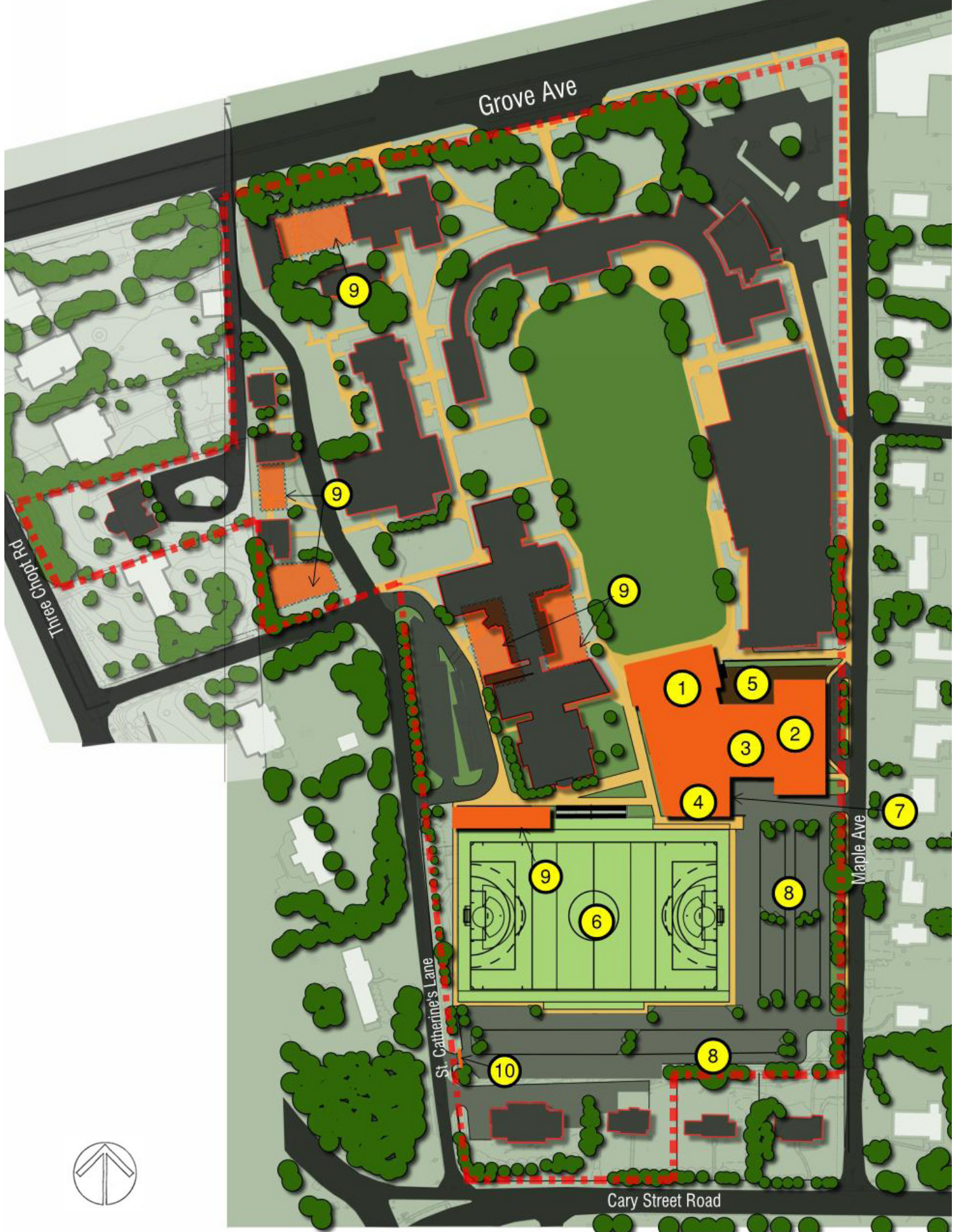
St. Catherine's School may also modify, improve, and update the exterior facades of existing buildings, porches, and porticos, without expanding the applicable building's footprint. Such changes could take place with respect to the existing and planned buildings and improvements shown on the Campus Master Plan. In addition, improvements associated with or related to building operations or educational operations may be located on the campus grounds outside of required front and side yards. St. Catherine's School may also modify its campus grounds with changes to the hardscape, softscape, landscaping, grading, and similar modifications. These changes may include modifications to, replacement of or relocation of sidewalks, terraces, and patios on campus.



PLAN LEGEND KEY

- ① Proposed Arts & Innovation Center Performing Arts Theater
- ② Proposed Arts & Innovation Center Studio Arts Building
- ③ Proposed Arts & Innovation Center Dance Studios
- ④ Proposed Arts & Innovation Center Theater Support
- ⑤ Proposed Arts Plaza
- ⑥ Proposed Turf Field
- ⑦ Proposed Arts Loading Dock
- ⑧ Proposed Surface Parking Lots
- ⑨ Proposed Buildings / Building Expansion Location
- ⑩ Gated Service Entrance at St. Catherine's Lane

- MAIN CAMPUS VIEW AXIS 
- PROPERTY LINE 
- PROPOSED BUILDING 
- EXISTING BUILDING 



PLANNED USE SITE LAYOUT

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL NARRATIVE

The core of the St Catherine's campus is a formal green space, or lawn, around which most campus buildings are organized. The axial relationship of buildings on opposing sides of this formal green space is an important concept which has been used as an organizing element in the new AIC design. Additionally, the tallest portion of the AIC, the fly tower, will occur at the center of the campus, not at the perimeter, to mitigate the impact on neighbors and the surrounding community. The building materials and design aesthetic of the new AIC will be in keeping with the existing campus buildings and fit in naturally to the existing landscape.

The AIC is envisioned as a grouping of two major building masses: 1) the Studio Arts wing, which would consist of two stories along Maple Avenue, maintaining the building edge and character established by Kenny Athletic Center, and 2) the Performing Arts Center and fly tower, which would be positioned on axis with Bacot Hall on the "Campus Green." Connecting these two building forms would be a "hyphen" building, which would house support functions for the theater and dance rehearsal spaces. This grouping of the three buildings will form the perimeter of what St. Catherine's School considers to be the heart of the project, the "Arts Courtyard." The "Arts Courtyard" is envisioned as an outdoor gathering, exhibit, and small performance space which will function in a variety of ways involving all users of the facility in an interdisciplinary fashion. Pedestrian access to this courtyard space will occur from the "Campus Green" and from a drop-off along Maple.

The new AIC will take its design cues from the existing campus context, which consists of buildings designed in a traditional red brick Georgian style, in keeping with long-standing Virginia architectural traditions. Transitions from interior to exterior spaces are handled with traditionally detailed porches or porticos. Materials utilized in the new construction will be selected based on their compatibility with existing campus buildings, and will include red brick, limestone or precast concrete, and roofing materials that are similar to other existing campus buildings.

A brick wall will be used along Maple Avenue where required by the zoning ordinance for parking lot buffering. This wall will be architecturally similar to the existing brick wall along Grove Avenue at the main entrance to St. Catherine's School. This wall may include school-related signage to the extent permitted by the zoning ordinance. This wall will be architecturally similar to the existing brick wall along Grove Avenue at the main entrance to St. Catherine's School. This wall may include school related signage to the extent permitted by the zoning ordinance.



View of St. Catherine's Signage at Corner of Grove and Maple Avenues



View of Kenny Center



View of Entry Detail



View of Lower School Portico



View of Ellet Hall Entry

The campus areas that are planned for future buildings or building expansion will also be designed to blend in with the existing Georgian architectural style on the campus.

The images on the prior page, this page, and the pages that follow provide illustrations of the architectural concepts discussed above, and the new buildings and building expansion will incorporate the themes and detail generally. The watercolor renderings are provided to illustrate the general extent (size and scale) of the AIC and the field and parking area. Specific building design, architectural design, and architectural detail for each of the proposed buildings and building expansions will follow the architectural principles in the Architectural Narrative.



View of Kenny Center Entry

EXISTING CAMPUS ARCHITECTURE



View of Bacot Hall Front Door



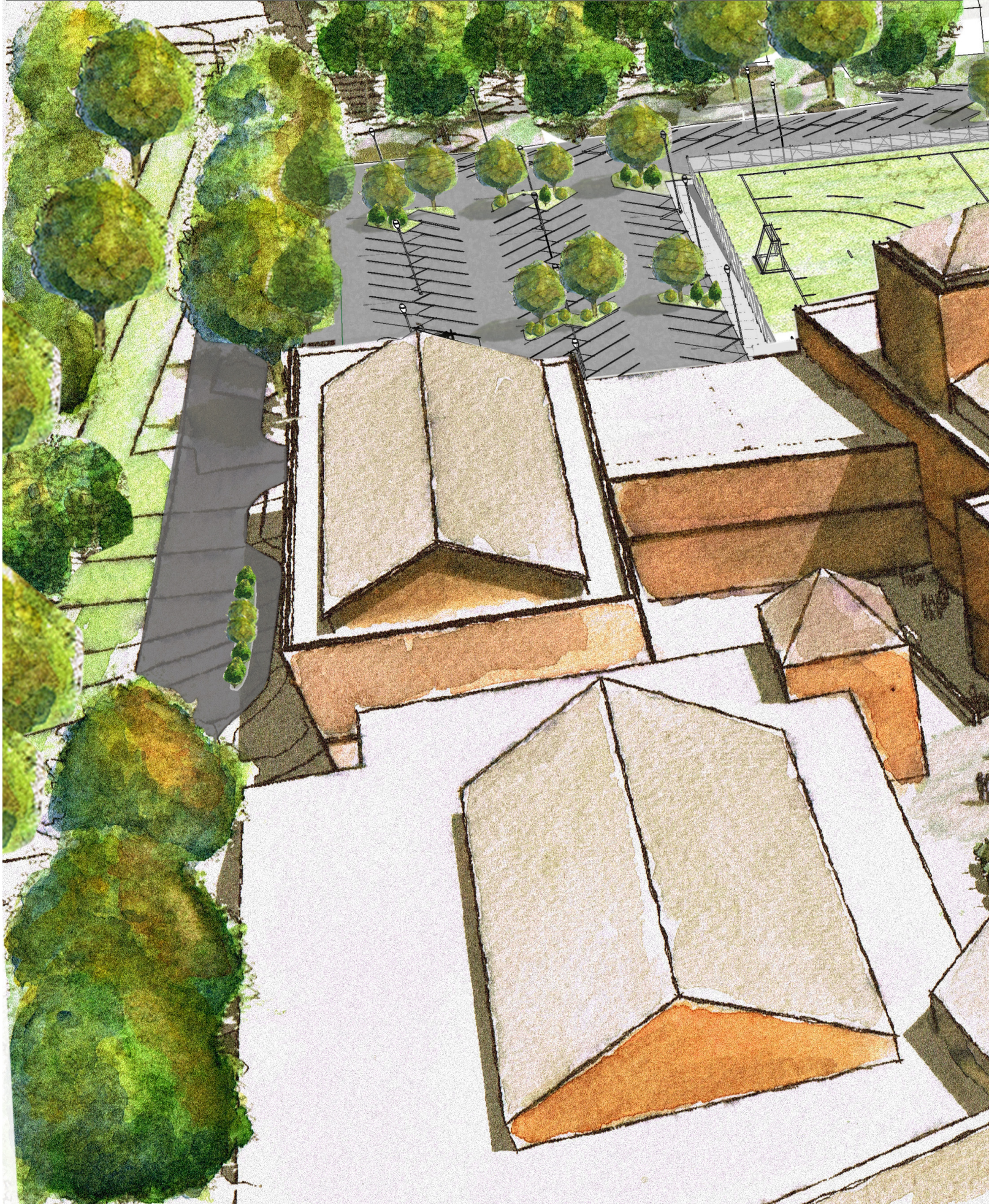
View of Portico at Bacot Hall



View of the Armfield Science Center



View of the Center for Early Childhood Education (Jeffrey Hall)

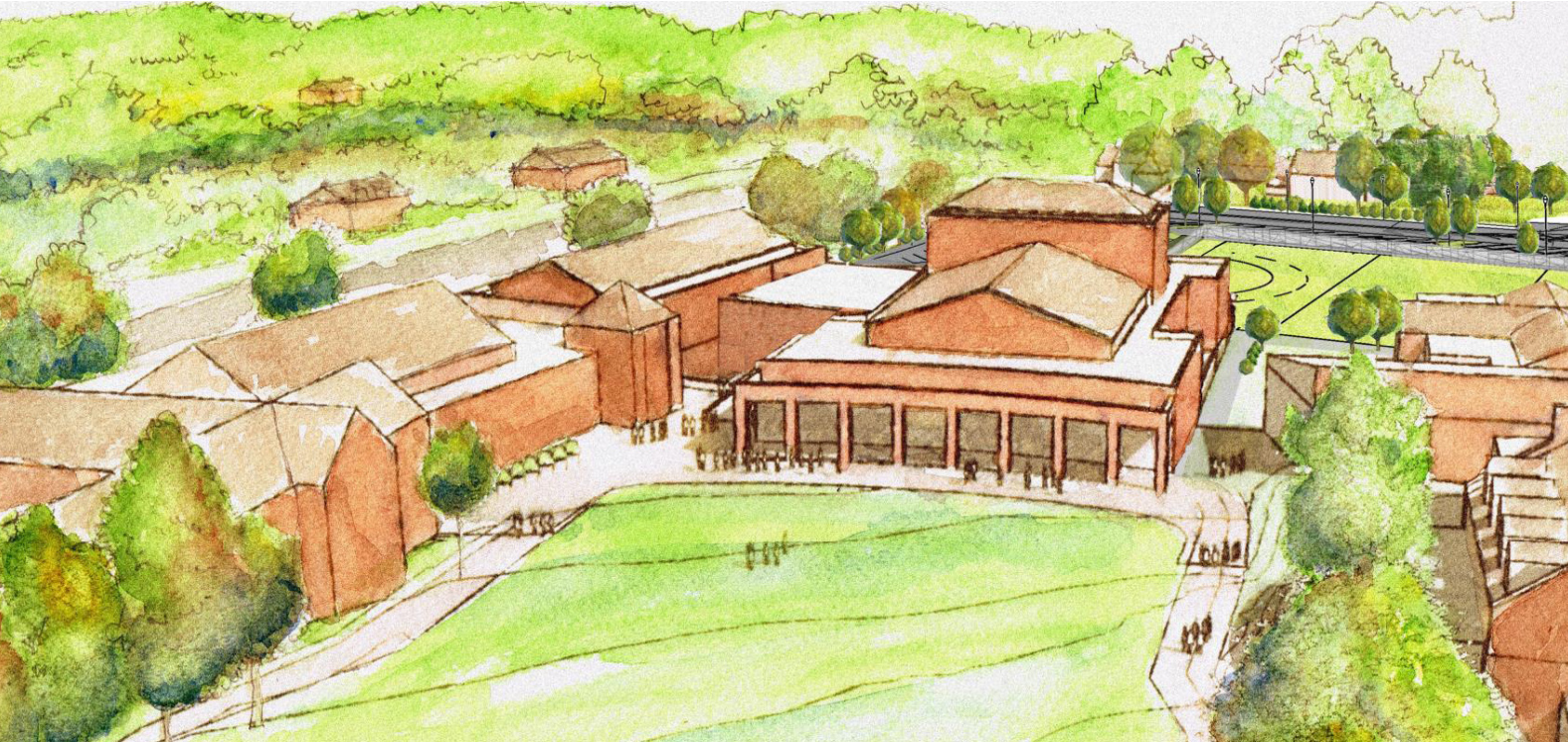




AERIAL VIEW OF EXISTING CAMPUS & RENDERING OF PROPOSED AIC



Aerial View of Existing Campus



Aerial Rendering of Proposed AIC

PARKING & COVERAGE

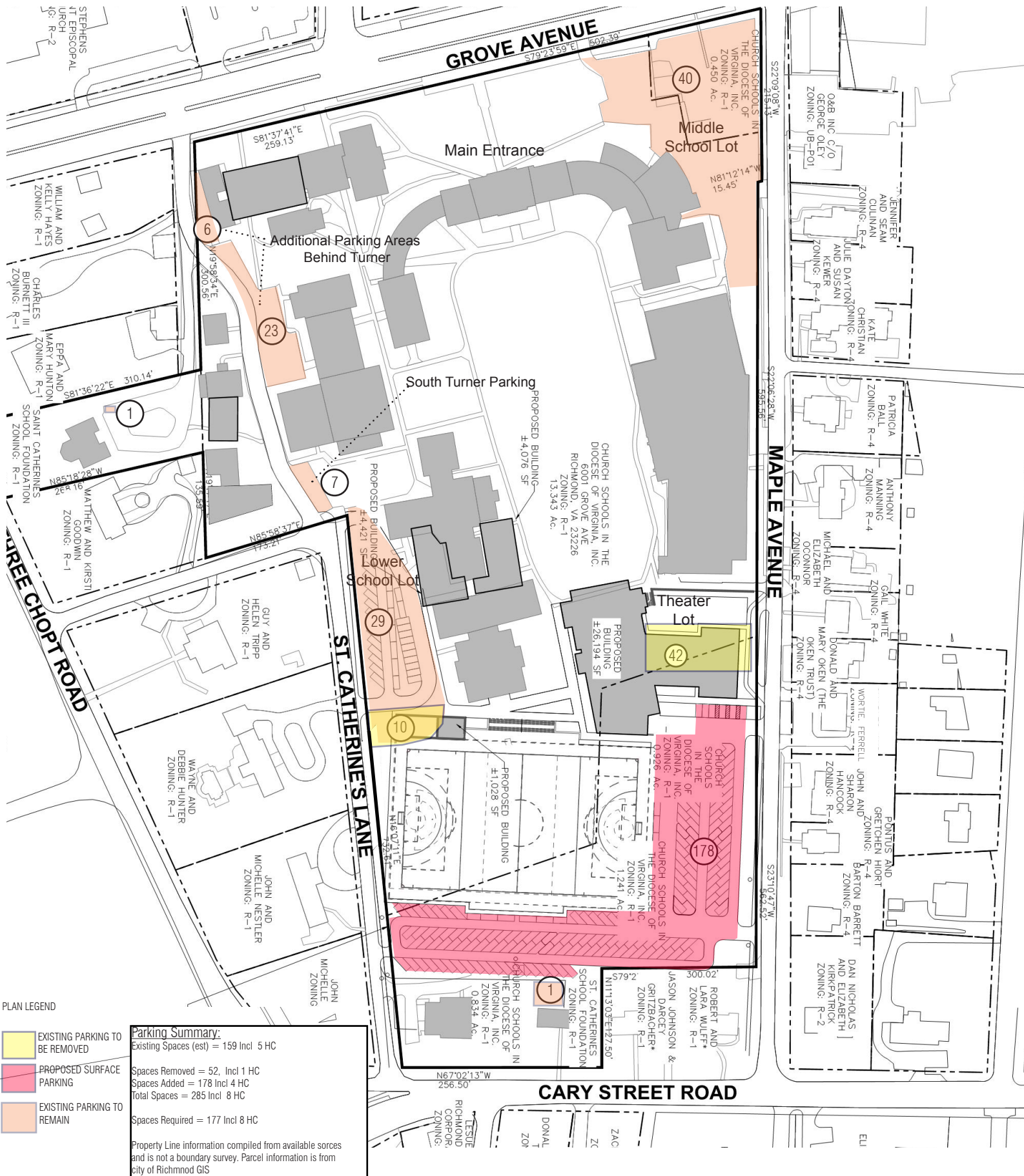
PARKING NARRATIVE

Adding more on-campus parking spaces is an important aspect of this Campus Master Plan. More parking is needed on a daily basis to support school life and the various programs that St. Catherine's School offers. St. Catherine's School also knows that on-campus parking is an important issue for its neighbors and the provision of more on-campus parking will have a positive impact on the surrounding community.

St. Catherine's School desires to address this need with the surface parking areas shown in this Campus Master Plan. The parking areas will contain a minimum of 178 spaces. The inclusion of this new surface parking will provide a minimum of 285 parking spaces on campus.



PARKING



PLAN LEGEND

- EXISTING PARKING TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED SURFACE PARKING
- EXISTING PARKING TO REMAIN

Parking Summary:
 Existing Spaces (est) = 159 Incl 5 HC
 Spaces Removed = 52, Incl 1 HC
 Spaces Added = 178 Incl 4 HC
 Total Spaces = 285 Incl 8 HC
 Spaces Required = 177 Incl 8 HC

Property Line information compiled from available sources and is not a boundary survey. Parcel information is from city of Richmond GIS

TRAFFIC CIRCULATION

TRAFFIC CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

St. Catherine's School's Grove Avenue campus is accessed by the public streets that bind the campus, including Cary Street, Grove Avenue, Maple Avenue, and St. Catherine's Lane. The main entrance is located on Grove Avenue (Main Entrance) and is accessed via Grove Avenue. Vehicles parking in the northeast parking lot (Middle School Lot) enter via Grove Avenue and depart via Maple Avenue. The existing theater parking lot (Theater Lot) is accessed via Maple Avenue. This Theater Lot will be replaced with the larger proposed parking area, which will also be accessed via Maple Avenue. The Lower School parking lot (Lower School Lot) is accessed via St. Catherine's Lane. The additional parking areas behind Turner Hall are accessed via Grove Avenue and St. Catherine's Lane.

PROPOSED ACCESS TO THE ARTS & INNOVATION CENTER (AIC):

Maple Avenue and St. Catherine's Lane are the two primary vehicular routes to access parking and drop-off at St. Catherine's School. Between the two roads, Maple Avenue can maintain comparatively more vehicular trips. In planning the building changes to the campus, Maple Avenue provides better road infrastructure to access the AIC than the narrower St. Catherine's Lane.

To provide for efficient movement in and out of the parking area and to reduce stacking on Maple, Avenue, the new parking area will be accessed by two separate entry / exit locations. The north entrance to the parking area will be located just south of the proposed AIC building directly off of Maple Ave while the south entrance will be located at the southernmost curb cut onto Maple Ave. The parking area will contain a one way double drive aisle near the playing field to handle bus and carpool drop off. The double drive aisle is being proposed to reduce queuing congestion for student drop off in the morning as well as for peak arrival and departure times for events in the proposed theater and turf field. In addition, a gated entrance onto St. Catherine's Lane will be provided in the southwest corner of the parking area. Use of this gated entrance will be restricted to (i) emergency vehicles and buses and (ii) special events on campus by all vehicle types. This gated entrance will allow larger vehicles to move more efficiently through the parking area and will provide a third access point for special events.

The new field and parking area will be linked to the AIC and the rest of the buildings on campus with sidewalks and will provide users of the facility with easy pedestrian access to the campus.

Existing surface parking at St. Catherine's School is kept primarily to the perimeter, which insulates the core of the campus from vehicular traffic and reinforces the pedestrian nature of the site.

OPEN SPACES





OPEN SPACE NARRATIVE

The Grove Avenue campus at St. Catherine’s School has large formal open spaces for students and faculty and also contains unique opportunities for the creation of new outdoor areas. The existing campus green space will continue as the central organizing element of the campus buildings but will contain a transition to a new lower-level arts plaza as well. In addition to the plaza, the existing outdoor recreation space adjacent to the Lower School will remain and a new lawn and expanded field sports spectator seating area will now reside at the south end of the campus, adjacent to the new field. Pedestrian paths will connect these open spaces.

Campus grounds and the identified open spaces will be used to further St. Catherine’s School’s academic, arts, and athletic programming and for other educational related uses. These uses include outdoor classroom space, athletic practices, athletic competitions, school-related events and programming, and other similar educational related uses.

OPEN SPACE PLAN LEGEND

- ① EXISTING CAMPUS GREEN SPACE
- ② EXISTING SECONDARY LAWN SPACE
- ③ NEW ARTS PLAZA
- ④ NEW TURF FIELD/ SURFACE PARKING
- ⑤ SPECTATOR / TEAM AREA FOR NEW FIELD
- ⑥ EXISTING LOWER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
- ⑦ EXISTING EXTERIOR DINING TERRACE
- ⑧ EXISTING FRONT LAWN

- MAIN CAMPUS VIEW AXIS 
- PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS 
- PROPERTY LINE 
- PROPOSED BUILDING 



Dining Terrace at St. Catherine’s School

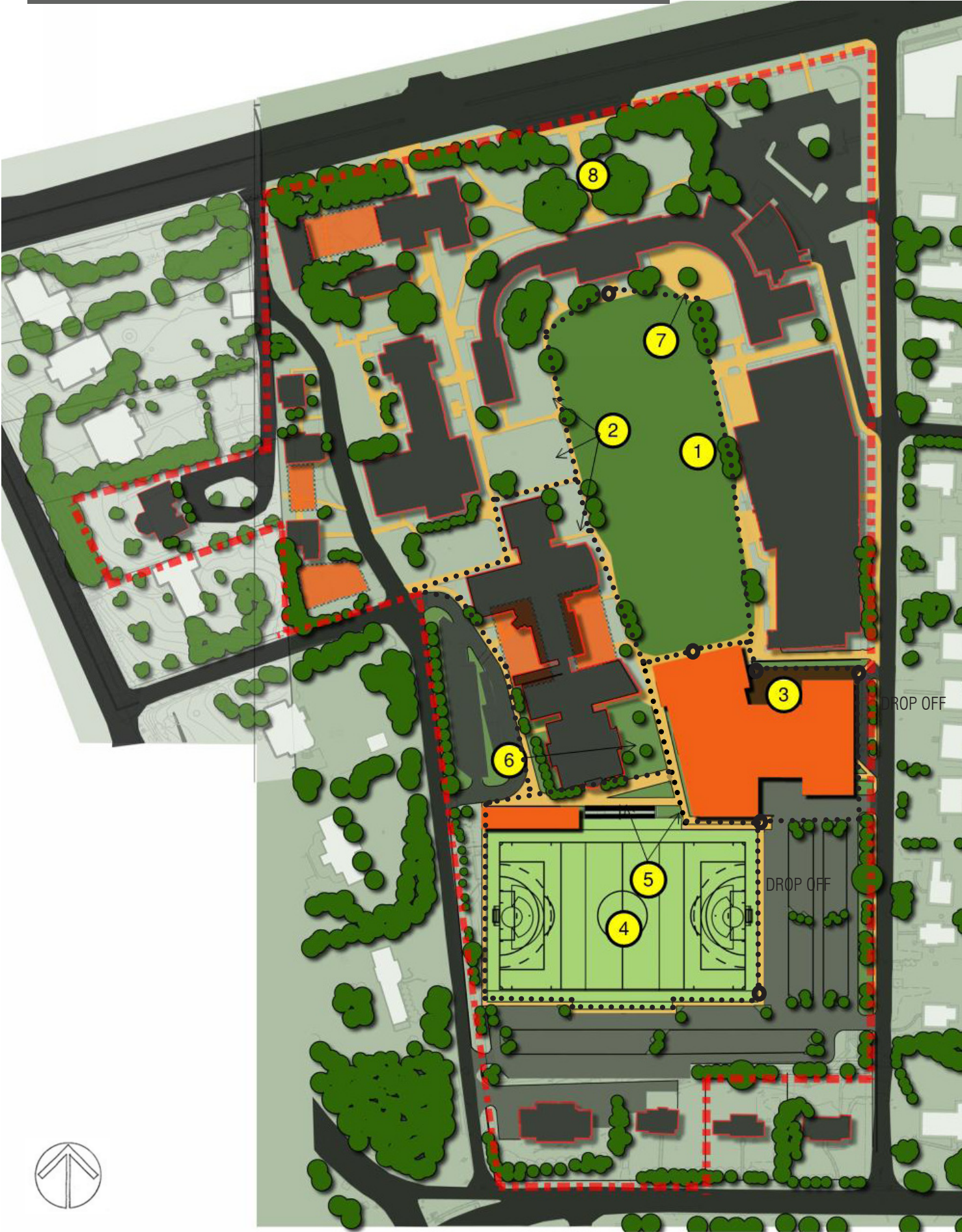


Campus Green at St. Catherine’s School



Aerial View of Main Campus Entry at Bacot Hall

OPEN SPACE SITE PLAN





St. Catherine's School