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Breaking Ground on New Classroom Building as Enrollments Rise at Historic Campus

Orchard Lake, MI – Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory announced today that it will break ground May 18th on a new classroom building for its Orchard Lake campus. The 29,000 sq. ft. building will serve both the Boys Division and the recently established Girls Division at the Catholic school first established in 1885. Overlooking Orchard Lake, the building will house 20 state-of-the-art classrooms, as well as collaborative learning spaces.

The building is part of an ongoing capital investment in St. Mary's teaching facilities. Transformation of the library's lower level into classrooms and the complete renovation of the historical "Prep" building are already complete. The new classroom building is slated to open for the Fall 2022 semester.

"Students, parents, and alumni can be proud of how beautiful the historic Prep building renovation turned out and will now have a state-of-the-art learning facility in our new classroom building that fits right into the character of our campus," said Andrew Harrington, Chairperson, St. Mary's Prep Board. "Most importantly, this is about better serving students as they develop their minds and faith here at St. Mary's."

Bishop Robert Fisher of the Archdiocese of Detroit said that it is encouraging to see the work planned: "The school has such an important history, and this will allow even more families to enjoy the benefits of Catholic education. It's an inspirational place for young men and women."

St. Mary's Prep was established in 1885. The new Girls Division of the school welcomed its first class in the fall of 2020, and demand exceeded space in the class. The incoming class for the fall of 2021 filled in less than a half hour after acceptances were emailed. The Boys Division enrollment has also increased.

"The time is now for this investment," said Headmaster Bob Pyles. "There has been outstanding demand for a St. Mary's education, and I credit our faculty and staff for that. When you have outstanding professionals inspiring students in a small class atmosphere, great things happen. Our motto of 'God. Family. St. Mary's.' is meaningful and important to parents and students alike."

The work is funded by private donations through a capital campaign that has \$9.5 million in gifts and pledges toward the \$14.6 million goal. The school continues to raise lead gifts for the project and will offer opportunities for donors at all levels to contribute as the building opening nears.

"We look forward to sharing details of the key people that have given of themselves to begin this effort," said Harrington. "Each gift reflects the important role that St. Mary's has played in the lives of individuals and families. It is an opportunity for people to pay tribute to that history and provide that same blessing for generations of students to come."

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