



WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN ACADEMY



**ANCHORED ON
OUR FOUNDATION.
FORWARD IN FAITH.**

WLA Case Statement

"Christian education cultivates a worldview that is attained only through faith in Jesus Christ. Colossians 1:15-20 powerfully presents the basis for this worldview: Jesus created all things, is before all things, holds all things together, and reconciles all things to God by making peace through his blood. All things are taught from that perspective. That is the Christian education we cherish at Winnebago Lutheran Academy."

Randy Westphal, WLA Alumnus and Principal Emeritus



COMMITTED TO CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

Winnebago Lutheran Academy faithfully impacts hundreds of area families every year – and has for nearly a century. With Christ as our Cornerstone, we nurture students spiritually and intellectually during their teenage years, teaching them to apply lessons of God’s Word in everyday issues and decisions.

WLA is a high school associated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Owned and operated by 38 churches and 14 grade schools known as the WLA Association, we are centered in Fond du Lac with families from as far as Oshkosh, Montello, and Iron Ridge who entrust us with providing their children a Christ-centered education. WLA is blessed to partner with our Association schools and we are committed to offering the best Christian educational opportunities and activities to their 1400 students.

A teenager’s faith and values are often challenged during these formative years, making it especially important for young people to have a firm foundation in God’s Word. At WLA, students are surrounded and supported by peers, teachers and staff who share their same beliefs and hope in Christ – all in a caring, forgiving environment. It is a comfort to know that God’s Word never changes. Our hope is anchored securely on the same God who parted the sea, stilled the storm, walked on water, and saved us from our sins.

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” (Hebrews 6:19)

At WLA, we are passionate about providing a strong academic focus in a Christ-centered learning environment. Christian faith is practiced and celebrated in the classroom, on the athletic field, on the stage and in all activities. For nearly 100 years, we have made it our mission to glorify God by nurturing the growth of every student to live as Christ’s child within their families, congregations, and communities.

Now it is time to prepare for the next 100 years.

HISTORY

Winnebago Lutheran Academy began in 1925 by St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac. First located on the corner of East 2nd and South Marr Streets in downtown Fond du Lac, the school moved to a new facility on Merrill Avenue in 1955 – where it currently stands. God has richly blessed our nearly 100 years of providing Christian high school education. Established by one church, WLA is now supported by 38 Lutheran congregations and 14 Lutheran grade schools.



*God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way. In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.*

(Hymn 293 - Christian Worship)





PREPARING BEACONS OF LIGHT

Approximately 300 students grace the halls of WLA during a school year. After four years, they emerge as graduates well equipped for college, technical school, the work force, or the military. More importantly, they are prepared to be beacons of light – letting their faith shine through their lives and contributions to society.

At WLA we put a strong emphasis on academic excellence as evidenced by multiple accreditations from national and state-recognized agencies. We teach our students to think critically, work collaboratively, and apply technology. Our students perform well academically and, in recent years, have achieved a higher average ACT score (21.1) than the Wisconsin state average (20.3).

We offer college and Advanced Placement courses as well as classes in performing and graphic arts, technology and the trades. We have services available for students with unique learning needs and we foster students' creativity, confidence, and athleticism through a wide range of extracurricular activities. Using their God-given talents, our students shine in music, theatre, sports, Esports, forensics, student organizations and student events.

We have an extensive network of 5,000 alumni, many of whom stay in the Fond du Lac and surrounding areas contributing to the business, academic, and cultural vitality of the region – while shining their light as witnesses of Jesus.

However, we are now at a crossroads. Our aging school building is deteriorating and in need of many upgrades to continue meeting the needs of our students and community long-term.



LACKING AND LANDLOCKED

Built in 1954, the current WLA building sits on 12 ½ acres of land in Fond du Lac. As our student body grew and our facility aged we built school additions and renovated multiple times – most recently in 2000.

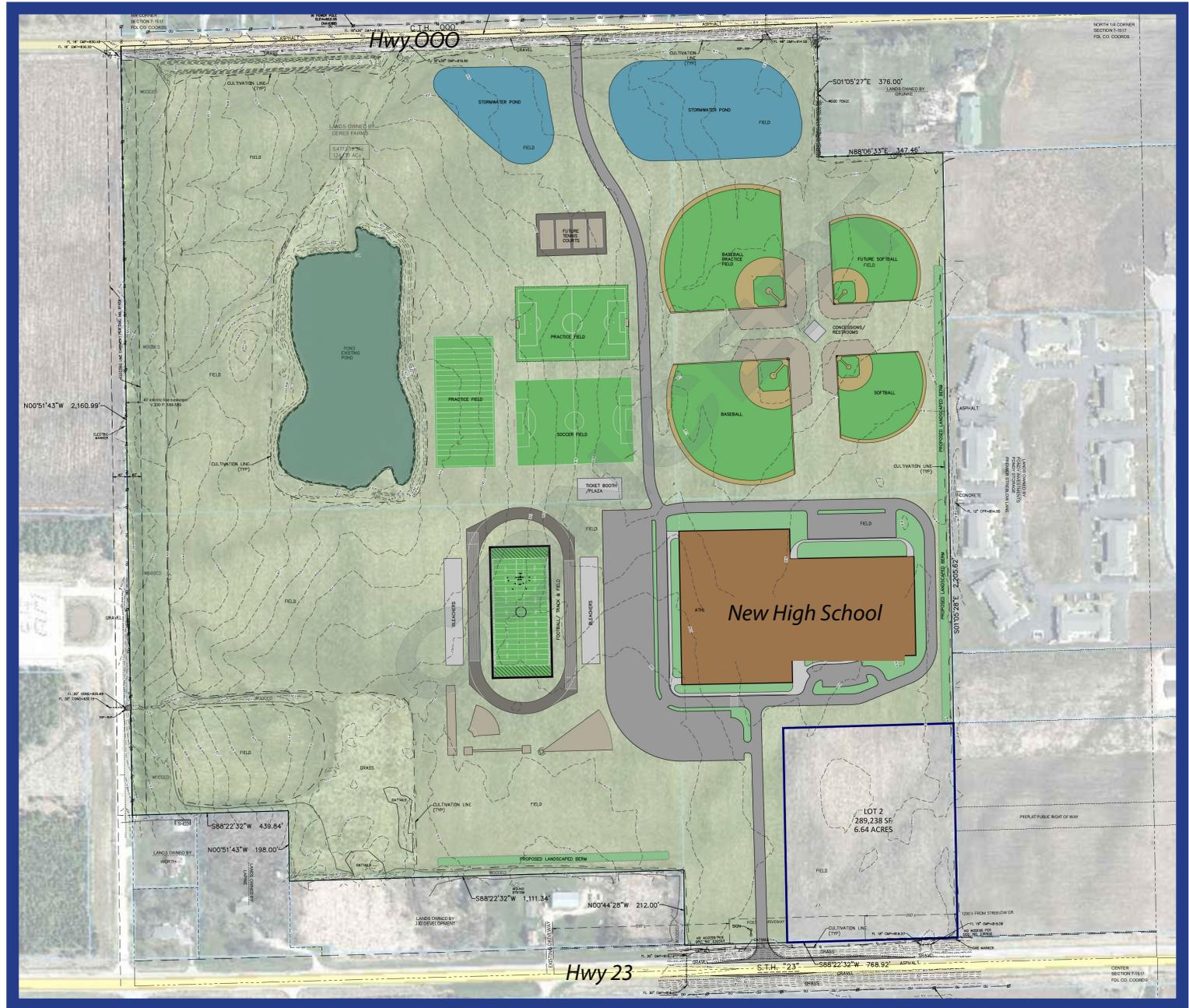
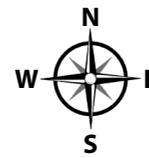
Then in 2011, a facility study revealed major infrastructure concerns and inadequacies with our campus, especially in original parts of our building. The work necessary to make our current facility a safe, effective option long-term is no longer feasible. Being landlocked, the upgrades identified are more costly to repair and maintain than building a new school.

In addition, our current facility lacks space for extracurricular interests. Students thrive when given opportunities to excel outside of the classroom, but currently there is no proper home for theatre and fine arts performances and we have limited athletic facilities on our campus.

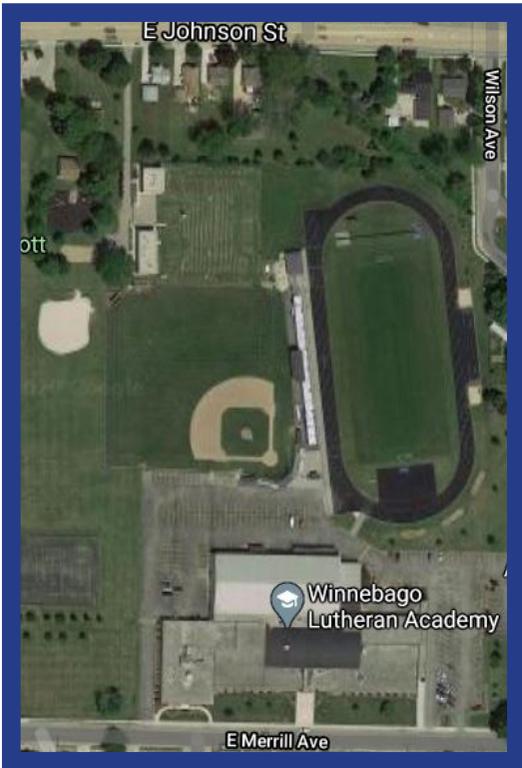
We are excited about moving forward with the quality and variety of educational experiences our students, families and community deserve. This will be done in a modern, flexible learning environment that is becoming a standard in our area.

It is our responsibility to give our students a facility that fosters learning in a comfortable and safe setting – one that will allow us to continue to “train up children in the way they should go and when they are old they will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)





Proposed New Campus Site Plan (120 acres)



Current Campus (12.5 acres)



"For The Mission – When I was Chairman of the WLA Executive Board, I ended all of my correspondence with these words. These words were true when my father graduated from WLA and went on to become a pastor, these words were true when my wife graduated from WLA and went on to become a WELS teacher. These words were true when my four children graduated from WLA and went on to further their education. All four now have Master's Degrees and are serving as WELS lay leaders. Our dear Academy isn't a building, it is a Mission that will never change. The Mission is to train and educate our youth in Christ. That is what this building project is truly about!"

Tim Boerneke, Campaign Co-Chair

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

On June 24, 2020, the Plenary Board of Winnebago Lutheran Academy unanimously approved the purchase of 120 acres of land on Highway 23 west of Fond du Lac to eventually establish a new WLA campus. The new location opens up numerous possibilities for WLA's future with many advantages over our existing site. It is more central for families in our Association. It is large enough to accommodate everything we offer on one campus. And it is an area for potential growth for the Fond du Lac area.

We are excited to be able to offer a plethora of opportunities for our students, staff and guests. Building a new facility from the ground up means we can create space for:

- Chapel
- Athletic fields and complex
- Performing arts venue
- Labs and workshops
- Flexible educational/learning spaces
- Association and community events

We plan to pay for the new property this fall and continue to lease it as farmland while we raise funds for a new campus. In order to realize our vision of a new WLA we must address three important areas for WLA's future:

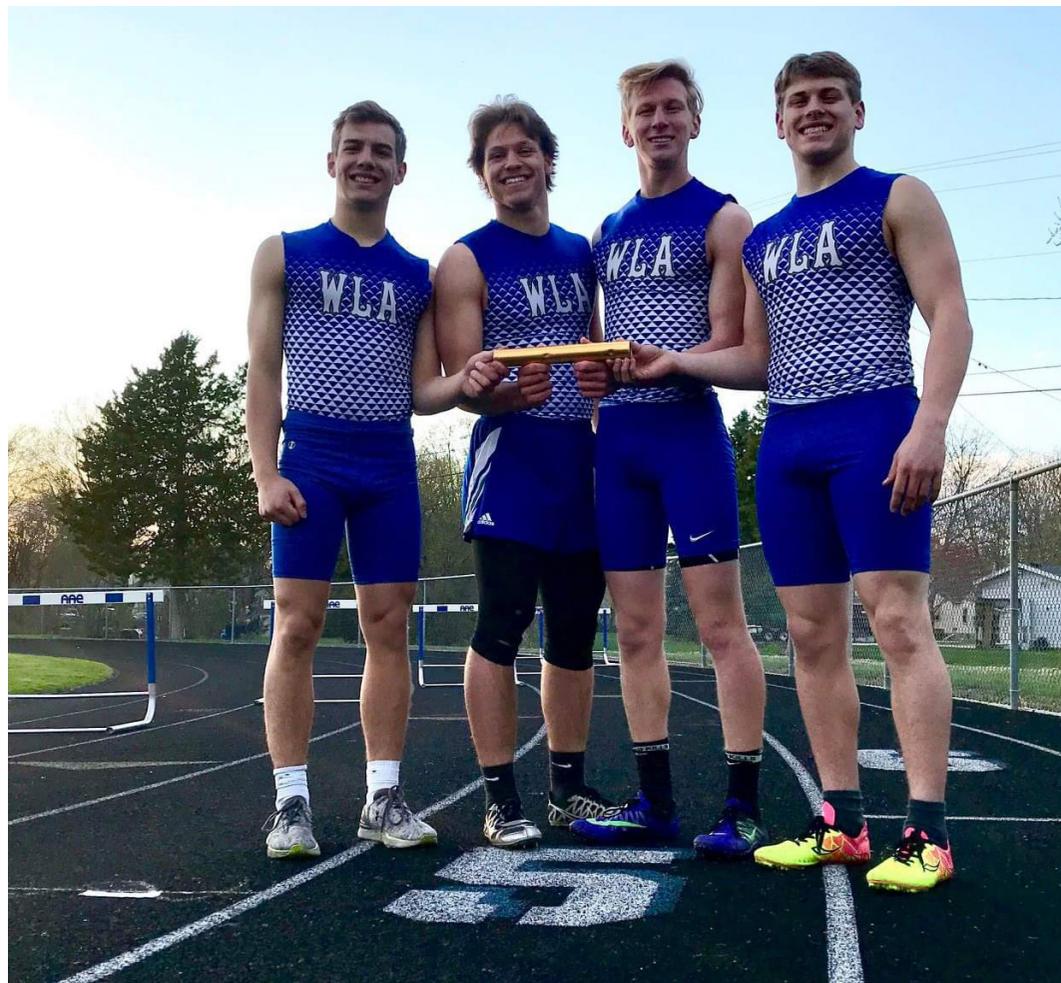
- Pay for the land acquired on September 30, 2020 – \$2 million
- Be good stewards of God's gifts by retiring our existing capital debt – \$1.6 million
- Create a capital project fund – \$1 million – to accomplish two goals:
 - Enable strategic, modest improvements to the current facility for safe and effective operations in the short-term, eventually positioning the facility for optimal resale when the opportunity is available
 - Provide the funds necessary to plan for the new campus construction

God has richly blessed us with a building that has served our needs for almost seventy years, but now it is time to chart a new course for the future.

Confident in God as our ultimate source of hope, we are boldly embarking on a \$4.6 million fundraising campaign to carry on our legacy of shaping students for future lives of service in Christ.



WLA leaders sign documents to purchase land for the new campus.
L-R: Principal David Schroeder, Executive Board Chairman Dan Loest,
Executive Board Secretary Tom Pollack, Business Manager Eric Schraufnagel





BUILDING ON A CENTURY OF BLESSINGS

Just as God has blessed us this past century, we now navigate the future in eager expectation of God's blessings to come. We look forward to building new opportunities and a brighter tomorrow for our students.

Direction for WLA going forward:

2020

- Pay for the land acquired on September 30, 2020
- Create Master Plan for new property
- Create conceptual designs and images of new school

2021-2022

- Capital campaign to complete land acquisition, retire existing debt and complete modest, strategic renovations of current facility

Currently, we are praying and planning to have a new campus in 7-10 years. We enthusiastically enter the next era of Winnebago Lutheran Academy confident of God's faithfulness. We are devoted to providing high-quality Christ-centered education for another 100 years and we kindly ask for your support.

Your gift to the campaign helps us continue positively impacting area teens and families as we equip students for a faith-filled life of success after high school.

Anchored on our Foundation, we boldly move forward in faith. Please support us on our journey.

*Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure,
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest all who trust this steadfast Word;
Their anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.
(Hymn 291 - Christian Worship)*



CONTACT US

Kevin Ehlke

Director of Mission Advancement

kehlke@wlavikings.org

920-921-4930 Ext. 422

920-539-4041 (cell)

Winnebago Lutheran Academy

475 E. Merrill Avenue

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

www.wlavikings.org



Photo Credits:

Carla Jane Photography

First & Goal Sports Photography

WLA Staff Photography

"I can say with confidence that WLA has prepared me for life after high school by providing me with Scripture-based skills to navigate our secular culture and the opportunities to form lifelong, Christian friendships. Because of my Christian education at the Academy, I will confidently embark on the next chapters of my life knowing I need not fear for God is with me, and He alone will strengthen and guide me through life's most turbulent challenges (Isaiah 41:10). I am forever grateful for my WLA experience!"

Emily Kollmann, 2020 Valedictorian

