



Washington Latin
Parent Meeting
April 18th, 2019



Today's Conversation

- Update parents on growth plans
 - **WHY** – are we growing?
 - **WHAT** – will the new school look like?
 - **WHO** – will lead and staff the new campus?
 - **WHEN** – will we open the new campus?
 - **WHERE** – will the new campus be located?
 - **HOW** – will the work of this expansion be accomplished?
How will the current campus be affected?
- Answer your questions and get your feedback on future communications



WHY GROW?

NEED

There are **too few quality public middle and high schools** in DC, and thus many students and their families are not well-served. Another Washington Latin campus will eventually add about 700 Tier 1, quality spots.

VISION

Expansion will both **improve our model and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about public education.** As a public school that brings students of all backgrounds together to learn, debate, and develop an understanding of our shared humanity, Washington Latin represents what is possible in public education.



WHY: Mission & Plan

MISSION

To provide a challenging classical education that is accessible to students throughout the District of Columbia.

We seek to develop students who will become thoughtful citizens and leaders, contributing to the public good in their lifelong quest towards a fuller humanity. Ours is a school where words matter, ideas matter, and people matter.

In our **strategic plan**: expand our impact



WHAT is growth at Latin

- Growth best as a **deliberate, thoughtful process**
 - Planning ongoing since 2016
 - Considered various options before committing to current plan
 - Will NOT become fast-replicating charter network
- Opportunity to **leverage leadership experience** and **outside support** (thinking and funding)
 - Tapping “lessons learned” and expertise of team
 - Support in planning from DC, national resources
 - Funding for both planning, new team, and facility



WHAT will new school be?

- Driven by **same principles** as the Latin you know
 - **Classical** approach and liberal arts curriculum
 - **Excellent faculty** who are passionate and committed
 - **Small** classes and overall community → personal atmosphere
 - **Diverse** student body (racially, socio-economically, all DC Wards)
- **Separate campus** with grades 5-12 and 700 students eventually, but start with just grades 5-6 and grow organically
 - **Autonomous:** Own principal and campus team with autonomy in key decisions
 - **Shared principles & resources:** with current Latin (finance, HR, communications, etc.) under Head of School



WHO will lead new Latin?

- **New principal** will come from current Latin
 - To be announced at **State of School** in May
 - **Diana Smith** will remain Principal here at current school
- Faculty will be hired mostly from **external candidates**
 - Some current faculty will move to new campus
 - But limited to maximum 10% of current faculty (about 10)
 - Goal: sustain quality and character of current campus
- Plan is to **hire new leaders in 2019-20** to plan and develop understanding of mission, approach, and culture.



WHEN will new Latin open?

- Our target is to **open in 2020-21** school year
 - Have submitted application to DC Charter School Board to increase our enrollment ceiling; hearing in May
- Working to meet this timing, but can also delay one year if needed – goal is **quality over speed**. Factors to consider:
 - Funding availability
 - Location options

But we believe 2020 is both favorable and possible



WHERE will new school be located?

- **Location:** Looking for a central, accessible location
 - Do not yet have a building
 - Not yet committed to a neighborhood/area of DC
 - Hoping for an unused DC building (like current campus)
 - Will determine plan by June 2019
- **Building/Space Options**
 - “Swing space” – find temporary location for early years
 - Permanent building – find now, renovate for 5-12 school
 - Thinking creatively – Co-location? Incubator space?



HOW will we do this?

- **Secure planning assistance**
 - Working currently with foundation-supported consultants who specialize in charter school growth
 - Part of grant-funded cohort strengthening hiring process
 - Securing additional planning funding for staffing
- **Hire extra leaders/staff year before opening**
 - Plan to hire new Principal, Director of Academics, and Latin/Classics faculty in Year 0 (2019-20)
- **Seeking funding** to pay for funding gap in early years



HOW will this affect current school?

- **Committed to sustaining quality and character**
 - A stable, quality Latin on 2nd Street is important in serving current students and supporting expansion
 - Have established that current faculty may choose to move to new school, but we are not requiring anyone to move!
 - Want to support new school and also allow for its own character to develop
- **Extra work, but also extra resources**
 - New school has been focus of this current academic year
 - Brings resources (staff, systems) that benefit current school



QUESTIONS

Please ask your questions about the new school and how we will expand.

- We will answer here and then share common questions and answers with our parent community after this meeting.



WHY: Limited High-Quality Options in D.C.

Too few good public high schools in DC

- # DC public high schools – **44**
- # public high schools rated 4/5 or 5/5 on State Report Card – **7**
- # non-selective high schools rated 5/5 – **3**
- State rating of Washington Latin Upper School – **5/5**

Too few good public middle schools in DC

- # DC public middle schools – **82**
- # public high schools rated 4/5 or 5/5 on State Report Card – **13**
- State rating of Washington Latin Middle School – **4/5**

Access to good schools very limited



WHY: Demand for Latin

APPLICATIONS

