

LEADING THE WAY TO LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Nearly 5 years ago, a newly invigorated Viking Foundation began the “Campaign For Our Schools.” This was the first capital campaign our District had ever undertaken and thankfully our Community embraced the concept. Community members pledged over \$1,000,000 toward the “Campaign For Our Schools” and the funds raised supported a combination of projects that supported athletics, the arts and technology. These were all projects that could not be funded by the school budget.

Just as our world is changing very quickly, so are the ways young people can be educated to prepare them for the world of science, technology, engineering and math. With this newsletter, the Viking Foundation is announcing a new \$1.6 million campaign, **“The Campaign for 21st Century Learning.”** This new campaign focuses on funding state-of-the-art 21st Century Classrooms that expand the use of new technologies and learning platforms. These settings will promote critical and creative thinking, collaboration, problem solving, innovation and communication. The classrooms will provide opportunities for discovery and innovation during early school years. Teaching science, technology, engineering, arts and math (e.g., S.T.E.A.M.) in these classrooms, as early as possible in school years, will benefit North Shore students when they graduate. The Viking Foundation’s new **“Campaign For 21st Century Learning”** will enable our district to stay on the cutting edge of teaching. The prospects of this are exciting but they come with the requirement that the community again support this privately.

These are exciting times for students but the rich and beautiful North Shore education to which we have become accustomed remains under funding pressure. The public/private partnership is a commitment that must continue. The Viking Foundation is asking for your support to assist in leading our district.

VF Co-Presidents, Douglas Wefer and Carol Remy, and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edward Melnick



SUMMARY

The Viking Foundation is a (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1995 and revitalized in 2011. It was established by members of the community to raise funds for the sole purpose of maintaining and enriching the educational environment in the North Shore District. "The Campaign For Our Schools," a phase which has just ended, was extremely successful in augmenting effort and achievement in the arts, athletics and technology.

The next phase will seek to attain objectives consistent with a district that can continue to thrive and triumph. In the face of high property taxes, state budget deficits and the imposition of a tax cap, the North Shore Schools and the Viking Foundation will move forward in a campaign designed to raise \$1.6 million. These funds will be directly earmarked for state-of-the-art 21st century classrooms, arts education, and necessary enhancements to the Viking Foundation Victorian Communications Center.



THE CASE FOR SUPPORTING THIS CAMPAIGN

The current environment of high property taxes and restricted state budgets have compelled the district to seek new and innovative funding sources outside of tax revenues - including charitable contributions from the community. This is where the Viking Foundation has found its renewed vigor and why it is moving forward. It is an investment that the community makes in itself and its children's future.

HOW MUCH IS NEEDED? WHY?

The financial goal of this campaign is to raise \$1.6 million. The breakdown of the use of these funds will be: \$950,000 applied to the cost associated with the development of state-of-the-art 21st Century classrooms. The balance of funds raised will be used to fund priority elements of the arts and technology related projects. This campaign continues our district's philosophy of raising funds outside of normal budgeting and taxing.



STATE-OF-THE-ART CLASSROOMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The classroom of the future will respond much better to educational settings that promote critical and creative thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving. This environment enables children to learn faster and adapt to changes easily. Ultimately, these skills enable children to grow into productive adults. These new classrooms will contain moveable walls to allow multiple instructors to teach larger groups. Students will be sitting in flexible pods to allow for differentiated instruction and exploration. Teaching aids including traditional marker boards and interactive white boards will remain, but these tools will be positioned in innovative ways to maximize the use of technology. It is essential that our preparation of students considers the reality of completely new workforce requirements:



- **Collaborative Technologies in the Classroom** - online meeting software, social networking tools, conference systems, productivity software (Cost: \$10,000)
- **Audio Visual Solutions** - digital and video cameras, interactive whiteboards (Cost: \$10,000)
- **Productivity Tools** - desktops, laptops, tablets, editing software, publishing software, 3-D printers (Cost: \$45,000)
- **Assessment of Learning** - student response systems, E-portfolios
- **Furniture** - adjustable desks, laptop/tablet charging and storage carts, dual service lecterns (Cost: \$25,000)
- **Professional Development** - consultants to train and support teachers, curriculum work on an ongoing basis (Cost: \$5,000)

Total Estimated Cost for 10 Classrooms: \$950,000

The Viking Foundation

New Learning Opportunities for the 21st Century

ARTS EDUCATION

The district is also committed to continuing the tradition of providing a strong, effective, and universal arts education program. Over time, we have learned that involvement in the arts has an association with gains in the important academic areas of math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts can also improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and team work. Recent studies maintain that the creativity and innovation utilized in the artistic process will be highly valued by employers in the coming years as we continue to shift into a global economy.

Acting on their commitment, the district undertook an independent professional review of the Fine & Performing Arts program. Virtually all elementary students and over 70% of students in Grades 7-12 participate in these programs. The aim of the study was to examine arts education curriculum to determine its strongest elements and to make recommendations for continuing the district's excellent standards in this discipline. The study included interviews with administrators, teachers, and parents, and also offered a brief survey to glean anecdotal experiences. The study concluded that while the district's arts education facilities were used to the maximum, they must be upgraded with investments in equipment, technology, and facilities.



THE ELEMENTS

The High School Theatre: This space functions as a district and community-wide resource. It is used by all schools for music performances, plays, graduations, assemblies, and fundraising events; as well as community education. The following upgrades will be necessary to continue to support its function as an educational and community space:



- **Conventional Lighting** - instruments, cable, lenses, special effects, projection screen (Cost: \$35, 000)
- **Sound System** - updated to include construction of sound booth, wireless microphone system, speakers, and amplifiers, side video and audio monitors, back stage rooms (Cost: \$85, 000)
- **Box Office** - to facilitate online ticketing, laptop computers, software, printers, scanners (Cost: \$6, 000)
- **Redesign Needs** - draping, mirrors, sewing machines, display boards (Cost: \$8, 000)
- **Scene Shop** - additional decked level for storage, dust handling system, lumber racks, power tool kit with safety compliance, materials, equipment (Cost: \$50, 000)
- **Theatre Storage** - backstage storage via decked levels of platforms accessible by stairs (Cost: \$20 000)

- **Hydraulic Pit** - allow for raising and lowering pit floor and extending the stage (Cost: \$10 000)

- **Alternative "Black Box" Theatre** - construction to provide additional performance opportunities as well as adding a dance program. This multi-use system will be portable, flexible, and safe. (Cost: \$35,000)

THE ELEMENTS

The Music Department: Music is an integral component of any dynamic arts program. Band, orchestra and chorus provide great creative outlets for students in transition to adulthood. The educational aspect of music has been demonstrated to enhance learning and achievement.



- **Large Instruments** - decreasing budget support has necessitated a need for the purchase of additional large instruments including string basses, tubas, french horns, saxophones, and clarinets (Cost: \$100, 000)
- **Percussion Equipment** - Drumline, a successful program, is very popular at the high school level. Obsolete drumline equipment needs to be replaced. The elementary band programs require timpani and concert toms, as well as a bass xylophone and baby grand piano (Cost: \$33, 500)
- **Flip Form System for Elementary General Music Studios** - (Cost: \$10, 000)
- **Replacement Risers for Sea Cliff School and Glenwood Landing School Choral Programs** - (Cost: \$6, 500)
- **Baffles for High School Stage** - (Cost: \$36, 000)

The Visual Arts Program: The Arts Review report indicates that the district should install MAC Platform Mini Labs



to enhance visual literacy, graphic design skills -which will allow students to work on real life design projects (Cost:\$32,000).

- **Document Camera Patches** - (Cost \$4,000)
- **Digital Camera Sets** - for middle and high school (Cost \$24,000)
- **Large Format Color Printer** - for high school (Cost: \$6, 000)
- **Photo Lab Upgrade** - (Cost: \$9,000)
- **Districtwide Art Gallery Space** - exhibition areas at the middle and elementary schools to allow for student work display (Cost \$40,000)

Total Estimated Cost for Arts Education: \$550,000

VIKING FOUNDATION VICTORIAN COMMUNICATIONS STUDIO

Following the initial construction of this facility, certain items will be needed to complete this state-of-the-art space including:

- **Editing Room** - counters/chairs, storage cabinets, audio/video monitors, computers, printers/scanner
- **Control Room** - lighting and mixing console, counters /chairs, audio/video monitors, storage cabinets
- **Production Studio** - LED lighting, cameras, cyclorama, window coverings, storage, audio/video monitors, tall storage capacity
- **Utility Closet** - network switch and cabinet, fiber press box, dimmer, media server, patch panel, power supply

Total Estimated Cost for Completion of the VF Victorian Communications Studio: \$100,000

YOUR IMPACT

The success of this campaign will depend on charitable gifts and pledges for the community, alumni, local businesses, charitable foundations and other sources. This is a compelling endeavor that will enhance an already high quality education experience for current and future North Shore students. **Accomplishing this will take Pledges, Cash Contributions, and/or Gifts of Securities.**

As you consider your support for this campaign, please remember that:

- The Viking Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization, fully tax deductible
- Gifts may be made in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special and will be recognized as such
- Pledges may be made over five years and paid incrementally - and will be acknowledged for tax purposes
- Donations may be earmarked for a specific project although unrestricted gifts are preferred

**Please Give As Thoughtfully and Generously As Possible to
"The Campaign for 21st Century Learning"**

For information visit: www.nsvikings.org or email us at: info@nsvikings.org or call us at: 516.945.9320

VIKING VICTORY SQUARE

The Viking Foundation continues to support the VIKING VICTORY SQUARE, a permanent, highly visible brick square that will be located in the breezeway to the new athletic field at North Shore High School. This brick square will surround the path to the field and will be used by anyone needing access to the field, bleachers or concession stand, including students grades K-12, parents, athletics teams, the band, faculty and the whole community.



PURCHASE YOUR BRICK TODAY!

Be a part of the victory by purchasing a personalized brick! You may include child/ children's name(s), family name, the name of your business, a quote or sentiment. Don't miss this opportunity to forever show your support for the North Shore Schools!

- 12 x 12 bricks: \$500**
- 6 x 9 bricks: \$250**
- 4 x 8 bricks: \$100**

All donations are tax deductible. Payments may be made to Viking Foundation, P.O. Box 155, Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579 or via credit card to www.nsvikings.org

Purchase Your Personalized Brick Today!
Email: bricks@nsvikings.org

The Viking Foundation
 P.O. Box 155, Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579

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**IMPORTANT
 UPCOMING EVENT!**

**THE ANNUAL KINDERGARTEN
 PARENTS' RECEPTION WILL
 TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR AT
 THE SEA CLIFF YACHT CLUB
 ON TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016
 AT 7 PM**

**ALL PARENTS OF INCOMING
 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS
 ARE INVITED. WE LOOK
 FORWARD TO AN
 INFORMATIVE INTRODUCTION
 TO OUR SCHOOLS**