

\$7M move up will enhance Spartanburg Day School campus

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The face of Spartanburg Day School soon will change with the addition of a new \$7 million, 26,000-square-foot Upper School on the front campus.

School leaders and supporters held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday morning. Construction will begin June 1 and be complete in August 2011.

The project is part of a \$22 million capital campaign that also funded a new dining commons and new athletic facilities.

"The Skylyn (Drive) skyline is about to change," SDS Headmaster Chris Dorrance said. "We are now putting our footprint on the front of campus. Much of what has been accomplished over the last two-and-a-half years has been on the back of campus. Now, it is time to go forward. This is an investment in the future. In a time when we are worried about our schools and cutbacks in education, we are investing \$20 million in the future of Spartanburg's community."

The new two-story facility will include new office space and 19 classrooms, three state-of-the-art science labs and two computer labs. The school will seek LEED certification for the building, as it is for all new construction. SDS will be retrofitting its existing buildings this summer to earn LEED certification.

Lead architect K.J. Jacobs with McMillan, Pazdan, Smith said footings and structural steel will be visible when school begins in the fall. Fencing will keep students safely away from the construction site until it is complete.

"The architectural style is a little bit different than what you've seen on campus so far," Jacobs said. "This is really a new image for the school. It looks back to sort of the history of private day schools in this country."

SDS educates 477 students from 4-year-old kindergarten through graduation. The Upper School (grades 9 through 12) has 143 students.

"It will have a lot more room for us to do stuff," said rising junior Mason Gillespie, 15, who will be part of the first class to graduate from the new Upper School. "I think that's really cool, to be the first graduating class."

Rising eighth-graders at SDS, including Gabby Haddad, 13, and Elizabeth Sexton, 13, will be the first group to spend all four high school years in the new building.

"The classrooms are going to be a lot better," Sexton said. "It's going to be neat to have all new classrooms."

"It's going to be huge," Haddad added. "It's going to be really different."

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Spartanburg Day School held a groundbreaking for its new Upper School building on Monday. The 2012 class will be the first to graduate from it.

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