



State of the School Address

January 2016

Dear Lake Ridge Academy Families and Friends,

We are excited to bring you this reflection of 2015, an incredible year in the history of Lake Ridge Academy, with the construction of a new, transformational building, and the introduction of innovative academic advances.

Kemper Science and Engineering



This is truly a dream come true! Construction of our state-of-the-art science and engineering building serving grades K to 12, began in late summer. The facility will open in August for our next academic year.

Global Citizenship Center of Excellence

To complement our Centers of Excellence in science and the arts, Lake Ridge Academy launched the third, and final, center of excellence in 2015, the Center for Global Citizenship. This center has been designed to emphasize our strengths in the humanities and world languages, and serves as a pragmatic tool to navigate the challenges of the 21st century. Students will become proficient participants in the increasingly economically, politically, and culturally interconnected world by building their political acumen, communication skills, cultural literacy, and empathy - all with the goal of lifelong global responsiveness. Refer to the recently published *Byline* for much more detail.

Positive Financial Results

Lake Ridge Academy finished the last fiscal year with the best financial results in very many years, thanks to the wonderful philanthropic generosity of families and friends. We raised all of the funds necessary to construct the new building, plus \$843,000 in endowment dollars to support the ongoing maintenance of this trend-setting facility.

	Actual 6/30/15
Total Revenue	\$9,665,799
Total Expenses	\$8,788,095
Total Net Income	\$887,704

President's Vision Council



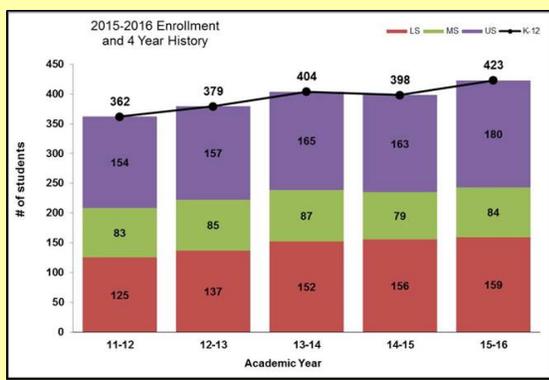
Bob Smith and Chann Spellman
President's Vision Council Chair and
Vice-Chair

The mission of this newly-established advisory group, the President's Vision Council, is to advise the President and the Board of Directors on matters related to the school's long-range plan - Vision Beyond 50. In pursuit of our bold Vision objectives, this forward-thinking council meets twice a year to consider educational topics related to Vision Beyond 50, offering ideas and suggestions to help the Board, the administration, and teachers accomplish our ambitious goals.



Dr. Sean Decatur, President of Kenyon College, spoke to the President's Vision Council about the importance of liberal arts education in the 21st century

Strategic Enrollment Growth



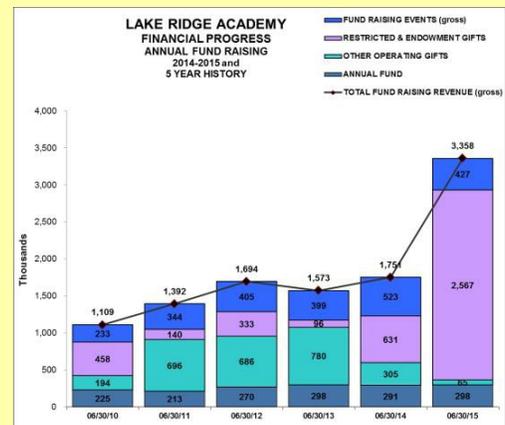
Lake Ridge Academy's enrollment growth for the past three years is 11.6%. We are, by far, the fastest growing independent school in northeast Ohio. We are thrilled to have added second sections for every Lower School grade, which was a strategic priority. New student acquisition for Middle and Upper Schools are likewise high. While growing our student body by 26.3% over

the past six years, Lake Ridge Academy has maintained small class sizes, boasting an 8:1 student to teacher ratio.

Remarkable Fundraising Success

Fundraising hit an all-time high last year, with total gifts and pledges exceeding \$3.3 million. Fundraising is vitally important to the good health of our school since tuition covers just 75% of our expenses each year.

Our 50th Anniversary Campaign continues to be critical to Lake Ridge Academy's future. With under two years left in the fundraising campaign, we have received over \$14 million in gift commitments against a \$17 million goal. Over 1,100 families/donors have supported the campaign with gifts of \$10 to over \$1 million.



Many thanks go to our very generous donors, who have led by example and are making a significant difference in the lives of our students.

New Technology

Last summer, important technology upgrades were made to Lake Ridge Academy's network and the Ader Upper School Technology Lab. Thanks to funds received through the Spellman gift, announced at the 2014 auction, we began to address our aging infrastructure as we replaced a number of critically-important servers. Each of the two new servers purchased has the capacity to hold seven terabytes of data. This hardware, combined with the most up-to-date software, has easily replaced the limitations of our old equipment and added at least ten times the storage capacity - enough for years to come.

We also purchased and installed thirty new iMacs in the Ader Upper School Technology Lab. Though the older iMacs could no longer run the sophisticated digital software used in the lab, they were welcome replacements for the computers that were being used in

the Upper School science labs. Besides replacing the students' computers in the technology lab, the teacher's workstation was completely replaced thanks to a generous donation from the Moore family. The Ader Technology Lab continues to be a very impressive space for prospective students and is providing our current students with some of the best technology available for their digital coursework. These generous gifts allow it to remain state-of-the-art.



Students in Ader Upper School Technology Lab

Additional work on the network infrastructure included our first steps to replace the outdated switches located throughout our campus. These switches carry all of the digital information on campus and get it to the right place, and along with surge protectors, are being replaced building by building to ensure that there are no compatibility issues that might otherwise occur by mixing old and new switches. The Spellman gift combined with the 2015 Auction's Gift from the Heart has provided us with the funding needed to complete this project.

Besides providing faster processing speed for our network, the 2015 Gift from the Heart has provided funding to expand our wi-fi capability across campus. This expansion became crucial with the construction of the Kemper Science and Engineering building. The new equipment will easily support the new science building while strengthening our wi-fi network throughout the campus especially in the Bettcher Convocation Center and Rob Hall. The funding also enables us to extend that network to the pavilion and the track, the maple sugaring woods, and, for the first time, Heusinger House.

Athletics Accomplishments



Middle School Track
Meet

The big news in athletics this last year had to do with a new Upper School sports offering and the first track meet on our newly repaired track. As we previously reported, various sections of our track had become unsafe due to normal wear. While it still could be used for practice, we no longer could host home track meets. Through a generous Parents Association gift, these damaged sections were removed and replaced with a new surface. Last spring our Middle School track team participated in Lake Ridge Academy's first home track meet in several years.

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Last spring also marked the start of Upper School Girls' Lacrosse. Fifteen girls joined the program that, in its first year, was run as a club sport. We were fortunate that our girls' soccer coach, Tara Bowen, also played lacrosse at the collegiate level and was willing to take on the coaching duties. Throughout the spring of 2015 our girls learned the rules and basic tactics while developing the fundamental skills needed to play the sport. For the second year, the plan is for the team to play ten club sport matches.



Girls' Lacrosse Team

The goal for 2016-2017 is to compete as a full varsity sport, under the auspices of the Ohio Girls Lac Association. We also hope to start a program in our Middle School in 2016-2017.

Closing

Mike and I, and our Leadership Team, remain energized and inspired by our incredibly talented students. It is because of our love for the students and our school that we continue our quest for excellence. In the second year of our three-year strategic plan, we have already surpassed several of our ambitious goals. These include the establishment of two new centers of excellence - in science and and global citizenship, plus the building of a trend-setting new science and engineering facility.

As always, these and other accomplishments could not happen without you, the Lake Ridge Academy community. Your generosity and support, as evidenced by our recent auction, continues to be extraordinary. The beneficiaries of which, as always, are the children of Lake Ridge Academy. Along with them, we sincerely thank you.

Very truly yours,

Carol Klimas
President

Michael Shaulis
Head of Academics