

NEWS

Notre Dame High parking structure rises, first of planned improvements at Sherman Oaks school

It's the first sign of a 20-year, multi-million-dollar master plan in the works.



The new 3-level, 180 vehicle parking lot going up on the Notre Dame High Campus is due for completion in October. (Photo by David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

By **MARIANNE LOVE** |

PUBLISHED: August 5, 2020 at 8:02 a.m. | UPDATED: August 6, 2020 at 3:16 p.m.



The construction of a three-tier, \$7-million parking structure visible at Notre Dame High School from Riverside Drive in Sherman Oaks is the first sign of a 20-year, multi-million-dollar master plan in the works and years in the making.

When it's completed at the end of September, it will remain empty, however, until students return to classes instead of learning virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“We currently lease off-campus space for student parking and we would rather have our students parking on campus instead of a block away and crossing one of the busiest intersections in the city at Riverside and Woodman,” said Richard Klee, the school's director of advancement. “Also, our neighbors will benefit from fewer Notre Dame students and guests parking on nearby streets.”

The 180-car parking structure will be named for the Arons family that has been long-time supporters of the school.

In addition to the parking structure, the family has funded two scholarship programs.

Notre Dame High School, approaching its 75th anniversary and founded by the Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross, is the oldest Catholic high school in the San Fernando Valley.

Its estimated \$30-million master plan was approved by the city on March 28, 2019.

A \$10-million dining commons comes next phase. Construction could start as soon as this spring.

Other phases include a second gymnasium and performing arts center with food services.

“The performing arts/dining hall building will be constructed on an existing parking lot and will include subterranean parking so that no parking spots are lost,” Klee said. “The practice gym will be built on the location of existing tennis courts.”

Additional classrooms are planned but the total number remains in limbo.



“Four new classrooms are planned as part of the performing arts building and the in-fill renovation/addition project in the existing building will include several classrooms,” Klee added. “The existing cafeteria space will be renovated to academic use, but the exact number of classrooms created will depend on how much of that will be devoted to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).”

Plans also include renovating and expanding the chapel to accommodate 150 students versus the current 70, renovating and adding new classrooms and expanding the existing theater.

A plaza and courtyard will be new based on existing open space in the inner part of the campus students refer to as the quad. It will be open-air and offer outdoor seating.

“The next phases are all based on fundraisers,” said Anthony Stark of Los Angeles-based Corsini Stark Architects, the firm of record for the master plan design.

Stark said in 2016 city officials encouraged the school to have a 20-year construction plan.

“The school did an extensive wish list with the board of directors, faculty and staff of what the school could use,” Stark said.

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and neighbors in the school’s vicinity helped shepherd the master plan through.

Council member Jeff Kalban said Notre Dame has been a good neighbor throughout the process. “Notre Dame is doing a wonderful master plan,” Kalban said. “By building the parking structure first, that gets more students to park on campus and get them out of the neighborhood. They are not increasing their enrollment. They are just making things better for everybody.”

Kalban added that the school is preserving one of their historic buildings.

“It’s a campus that has always been well done and it’s making it even more (with) great leadership,” he said. “They are going to have a beautiful campus by the time it is all finished.”

Other recently completed projects include a new aquatics center, an athletic training center and special events reception hall.



[Newsroom Guidelines](#)

[News Tips](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Report an Error](#)

 **The Trust Project**

Tags: [Community](#), [Education](#), [Top Stories LADN](#)



Marianne Love

**Join the
conversation!**

Login with your
dailynews.com subscription
to post or view comments.

Already a subscriber?

Login here.

Subscribe today

