



ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

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GAYLE AND TOM BENSON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX FACT SHEET

- \$10 million, two-story, 16,940 square-foot complex.
- Complex doubles the school's pre-construction science laboratory space.
- Connected to St. Mary's Hall and Cazale Hall whose second floor classrooms for Science, Physics and Robotics were renovated during the 2015-2016 school year.
- Blitch Knevel Architects
- Donahue Favret Contractors, Inc.

The Gayle and Tom Benson Complex incorporates form and function with details reflecting the school's 155-year legacy in New Orleans, its Irish roots and Dominican heritage. In 1860 seven Dominican sisters from St. Mary's Convent-Cabra in Dublin, Ireland, arrived in New Orleans to teach the children of Irish immigrants. Dominican's history is rooted in the legacy of St. Dominic de Guzman and the tradition of prayer, study, community and service. These are the pillars of Dominican life and the foundation for the Dominican student's experience.

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Star of St. Dominic Courtyard

- The Star of St. Dominic is from the legend that during his baptism, his Godmother had a vision of a star on St. Dominic's forehead.
- The fountain is framed by an eight-pointed star; the North direction points to Ireland.

Veritas Tower

- Made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Loren Muhleisen Levet (SMDHS '56).
- The Veritas Tower and Veritas shield celebrate the school's Dominican heritage and the Church's tradition of the dialogue between Faith and Reason.
- Under the Veritas Tower is a piling, signed by Class of 2015 members.
- Placed under the piling: St. Dominic Prayer card, Veritas Shield, Rosary, Our Lady of Knock Prayer Card from Ireland, St. Joseph Prayer Card, Dominican Sisters of Peace Shield/Pin, STREAM™ Prayer, Alumnae Directory, St. Mary's Dominican High School Mission Statement, Profile of a Dominican Graduate, and Alma Mater.
- From the Alma Mater – *Saints and Sages names enrolled* – future graduating classes will sign the columns inside the tower.
- The Complex roofline points to the Veritas shield on the tower.

Cupola

- Celtic cross honors the school's founding by the Irish Dominican Sisters from St. Mary's Convent-Cabra in Dublin, Ireland.
- Cupola interior and base of the Celtic cross signed by Dominican Sisters, school Leadership Team and Alumnae representing graduating classes from the 1930s to the 1960s.

St. Albert the Great Atrium

- Sculptural design by Angela Gregory, a renowned sculptor who was a professor and sculptor-in-residence for two decades at St. Mary's Dominican College in New Orleans. The art was inspired by the life and dedication of Albertus Magnus, O.P., who was canonized and proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1931. Also known as Albert the Great, he is the Dominican Patron of Peace and Patron of Natural Sciences.

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Adoration Chapel

- Placed in the center of the school's main building, the Adoration Chapel reflects the school's mission statement and affirms that Jesus is at the center of Dominican Catholic education.
- The Adoration Chapel is in memory of Katherine Raphiel McKay (SMDHS '37) with love and gratitude from Ken and Jane McKay Blanchard (SMDHS '67).
- Stained glass window, "I am the Bread of Life; I am the Light of the World." Commissioned artist Stephen Wilson used glass from China, Poland, France, Germany and the United States to create the window representing the Body and Blood of Christ.
- In the center of the chapel is circular, green onyx mosaic marble tile flooring. It salutes the Irish heritage of the school's founders.
- A tabernacle, carved by Patrick Ricard, stands at the center of the marble tile. The tabernacle's base is carved from solid laminated walnut. The tabernacle is made from walnut, cherry and African padauk. The entire structure stands eight feet tall.
- The shape of the tabernacle evokes the ark of the covenant sheltering the Bread of Life.
- The chapel's location, directly below the Disputatio Room, represents the necessity for contemplative prayer as students prepare for the search for Veritas – Truth through disputatio.
- On the chapel's exterior wall, a Mitchell Gaudet commissioned glass work of four glass pillars represents Dominican's tradition of prayer, study, community and service. The art work reflects gratitude for the major donors of the complex.

The Ermina Wadsworth | Azby Fund Technology Center

- The Center is a setting where students will analyze, synthesize, and articulate academic content in a collaborative, creative, technologically advanced environment.
- It is designed to strengthen students' understanding and practice of responsible digital citizenship well-formed in Dominican Catholic values.
- The five break-out rooms provide areas where students can work on research projects, in study groups and on other collaborative endeavors. One of the rooms is dedicated for video production.
- In planning for the STREAM™ initiative, the school's information technology infrastructure underwent a complete renovation, from the central data center to the personal wireless endpoint devices of the students, teachers and staff.
- A virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) provides students a uniform means of access to curriculum contents anywhere on campus using their personal computing devices.
- New fiber optics at 10 Gigabits per second between the new network core and each of its distributed data closets across campus form a secure communications backbone that can be easily migrated from the current speed of 10 Gigabits to 40 Gigabits per second in the future.
- The Center also has a view of the Peace Garden, dedicated to our Dominican Sisters of Peace.

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Science Wing

- Made possible through the generosity of Leo and Nancy Denault.
- Comprised of the Chemistry Laboratories.

Life Sciences Classrooms

- Classrooms for Anatomy and Biology
- Science Research Laboratory
- SynDaver™ Surgical Model will be used in the senior and junior Human Anatomy Classes. St. Mary's Dominican High School is the first high school in the United State that has a SynDaver™, an elaborate and sophisticated full-body surgical simulator.

Holy Family Foyer

- Made possible through the generosity of Quinn and Karen Conrad (SMDHS '74) Eagan.
- Among the area's dedicated uses, it will be a meeting place for students and representatives from colleges and universities.
- The foyer features a 7' x 9' giclee print reproduction of *The Holy Family*. The original painting by Belgian artist Joseph Paelinck, circa 1820, hangs at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California.
- The painting was donated by Mrs. Joan McLaughlin of Munster, Indiana, in memory of the deceased members of the Shondel and McLaughlin Families. Mrs. McLaughlin is the sister of Bro. Roger Shondel, O.P. who is a member of the school's Guidance Department.

The Disputatio Center

- Located directly above Adoration Chapel.
- A place where students, faculty, alumnae, visiting educators, and professionals will come together for in-depth discussions, integrating faith and reason.
- Made possible through the generosity of John L. and Joan Frischertz Mascaro (SMDHS '51).
- The marble statue of St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church and Patron of Catholic Schools, was originally located at St. Matthias Elementary School in New Orleans. It was given in gratitude for the Dominican Sisters who taught at St. Matthias, the school's graduates who attend St. Mary's Dominican High School, and the parishioners of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in New Orleans. The statue's relocation was made possible by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Mater Dei #868.