

50+ ADVANCING THE MISSION

Fifty years ago, Mount Carmel Academy, an all-girls school run by the Sisters of Mount Carmel; and Thibodaux College, an all-boys school run by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart combined to form Thibodaux Central Catholic High School which later became Edward Douglas White Catholic High School. The original campus contained a main classroom and office building, a gymnasium, a chapel and a residence for the Brothers. The following year a band room was added and then the campus remained virtually untouched for the next 25 years.

Because of the success and growth of the school, the next 25 years would call for major additions and renovations. The original Brother's residence was completely renovated and turned into a student union, which feeds all of the students and serves as a gathering place. The Pere Menard Building, which contains a new library, AE center, video studio and ten classrooms was constructed. At the same time, major renovations were done in the main building to add additional offices, an infirmary and work areas for faculty and staff. The Preston LeJeune Gymnasium, a state of the art practice facility was built and has been used by all of the sports teams and the band. An addition to the band room was constructed which doubled its size, allowing the music program to continue to flourish. The dressing facilities and locker rooms have undergone a major renovation, and a new turf field has been installed at the stadium.

Since the current facility has opened, 6101 students have gone through the hallowed halls and many of them serve our community now as doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers and priests. We are very proud of our first 50 years, and we now look forward to the next 50 years with optimism and hope that all of our graduates will be successful.

As we move into the next 50 years, there are two needs that must be addressed in order for us to continue to provide academic excellence.

Phase I. Jeanette Labat Science Corridor – All of our science labs have served us well for 50 years and have never been renovated. These labs serve the needs of all of our biology, chemistry and physics students. Over 6000 students have used these labs over the last 50 years and improvements are needed. Many things have changed in the field of science education, and we must upgrade our labs in order to meet the current needs of our students who are our future doctors, nurses, engineers and scientists.

Phase II. Academic Enhancement Center Expansion - Our Academic Enhancement Center gives students with learning differences the help that they need to get an outstanding education. The program services over 160 students, and our current facility is not adequate to properly handle this number. This expansion would double the size of the current facility.

Phase III. Extension of the Pere Menard Hall – When Pere Menard Hall was built in 2002, the building was designed with the intent that it would some day be extended. We are still using four portable buildings behind Pere Menard Hall. These buildings are over 20 years old and need to be replaced. An extension of Pere Menard Hall would add five classrooms and an art studio. The current area above the main gymnasium used for art classes is small and inadequate for the needs of our many art students.

At the present time we are moving forward to complete Phases I and II, and our hope is that you will be able to support us in this most important endeavor.

