INVESTING IN
THE EPISCOPAL
EXPERIENCE
EHS begins work on a new campus quad that will deepen the School’s sense of community and enhance its mission.

Episcopal’s 2018 Strategic Plan is a blueprint for the future as the School approaches its third century. Yet the plan is guided by the words of one of the School’s heroes of the past, legendary EHS teacher Patrick Henry Callaway. Callaway once said that a great school should display an “under construction” sign at the gate at all times. He was speaking metaphorically, of course, to articulate the idea that the best educators relentlessly innovate in pursuit of excellence and a better tomorrow. Yet soon Callaway’s words will take on a literal meaning as construction signs go up and work begins to create a new quad on the western end of the EHS campus, with two new dormitories and a new health and wellness center.

With the new living spaces, the School is not looking to expand enrollment. Rather, it aims to reduce the average student-to-faculty ratio on dorm campuswide from 23-to-1 to 15-to-1. Living with smaller groups of students, faculty will build deeper relationships with their charges — relationships that EHS believes are key to a student’s academic success, character, and healthy emotional development.

A new health and wellness center, meanwhile, will advance a key Strategic Plan priority. Episcopal in recent years has invested significantly in its health staff and programming, reaffirming its belief that the high expectations and rigor of its academic program must be accompanied by a focus on the physical and emotional well-being of each student. EHS now has one health professional for every 41 students, the best ratio among its peer schools.

Yet McAllister Health Center, built in 1934 as an infirmary for an all-boys enrollment half the size of Episcopal today, is an impediment to continued on page 27
This conceptual rendering illustrates how the School is folding the planned facilities into campus. The new quad will be a natural extension of the campus core, lying just west of Baker Science Center and Stewart Student Center. The new track and field, meanwhile, will occupy ground that Episcopal planners earmarked for expansion as far back as 1984. It is to sit adjacent to Coxe Field and Hummel Bowl.

1 Baker Science Center
2 Stewart Student Center
3 New Quad
4 5 New Dormitories
6 New Health and Wellness Center
7 Hummel Bowl
8 Coxe Field
9 New Track and Field
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Ed Smith, former editor of the Charleston Post and Courier and author of 'Charleston南部's Greatest Writers,' believes that the city has a rich literary tradition. "Charleston has always been a haven for writers," he says. "The city's history, culture, and natural beauty inspire many to put pen to paper."
Episcopal’s campus encompasses more than 130 acres, each a valued and treasured asset for generations of students. Yet what parcel of land can best accommodate the new facilities crucial to educating future generations? School leaders wrestled with that question in 1984, when EHS enrollment was just over 300 students. After months of study and analysis, they agreed to several guiding principles for land use. Among those: any new academic or residential buildings would be built close to the core of campus to preserve the School’s tight-knit community feel. Other new facilities would be added west of Hummel Bowl and in Laird Acres.

More than 30 years later, Episcopal, now with 440 students, has arrived at a similar conclusion in its new campus master plan. The School and its campus-design experts studied several possible sites for the new dormitories and health and wellness center. Ultimately, all agreed that building on the site of Hoxton Field and Track represented the best and only suitable option.

The School didn’t reach this decision lightly. Hoxton is a cherished fixture on campus, a place used and loved by decades of students. The School will erect a marker on the new quad to celebrate its legacy and tell its story. Built in 1914 — a gift from sisters B.H. Buckingham and I.C. Freeman of Washington to extend the sporting activities of the recently completed Stewart Gymnasium — it has hosted more than a century of athletic competition.

Still, the advantages of locating the new quad on that spot are too many to ignore. It is the best and most suitable place to integrate the dormitories and health center into the heart of campus. In that location, all three buildings will be steps from the Stewart Student Center, Laird Dining Hall, athletic facilities, and Townsend Hall’s classrooms, creating more density at the core of campus and putting all the School’s social and wellness components in close proximity. Also, other potential sites had environmental issues or other disadvantages; one would have forced students to cross the busy road that rings most of campus.

Finally, moving the track and field offers an enormous opportunity to remake the EHS athletic facility arguably most in need of work. The field’s undulating ground needs a modern drainage system. It’s the second choice of EHS soccer teams next to the newer Bryant Field, which has been praised by U.S. World Cup teams that used it for training. The track surface, meanwhile, is long overdue for replacement, and its unusual configuration makes for unorthodox start and finish lines, complicating the hosting of events.

The new field will provide an inspiring venue and help ensure the School’s five soccer teams will have adequate space for practice and games. Its natural grass surface will feature an advanced drainage system, and there will be an indoor shelter, space for storage, and parking.

The new track will have a standard configuration and a high performance surface that will help protect runners from injury. The complex will also bring running and throwing events together; it will include space for discus and shot put, which are now relegated to the lawn adjacent to the Front Drive.

An added bonus: with the track’s relocation, EHS will be able to make the campus ring road a continuous loop, improving traffic flow.

The estimated cost of the new track and field is $5.1 million. They are expected to be completed sometime in 2020.