

What <sup>will they</sup>  
become?  
Let's find out **together.**





Explorer



With your help, it's  
amazing what  
they can become.

For more than 60 years, River Oaks Baptist School has held fast to its Christian foundation *and* continually evolved. We have been persistently dedicated to developing ambitious academic programs. Still, what sets ROBS apart even more is what else we are developing - great kids. We have always believed that while building our students' minds, it's just as important to build their confidence, their spirituality, their compassion, and their character.

From preschool to eighth grade, our purpose is to be that first formative step in inspiring kids to dream big and setting out to make those dreams come true. We are helping them become the next outstanding generation who will lead, build, and care for our communities, our country, our world.



*Visionary*

We believe this is  
education with a  
greater purpose.

Because of our approach, we have been blessed with exceptional students, supportive families, and steady growth.

That very growth is why we now reach out to you. We are in the early stages of building a new middle school facility like no other. This structure will blend mindful architecture, enlightening technologies, and state-of-the-art spaces to spark curiosity and invigorate the learning process. Our new middle school is the future - and we need your help to get there.





Scholar



Young minds blossom beautifully when you give them space.

Both inside and out, the new middle school will be a model of both contemporary and classic learning. Within the four-story building, each grade will “own” an entire floor, complete with classrooms, open collaborative spaces, and an advanced science lab. The design will do more than immerse students in a world of exploration, experimentation, and design; it will also enhance the sense of community for which ROBS is known and loved.

The building will also include a versatile black box theatre, a sophisticated robotics lab, dedicated music rooms for instrumental and choral groups, and vast studio spaces for drawing, painting, and ceramics. Rooftop terraces, gardens, and balconies will extend classrooms, provide verdant nooks for reading and study, and serve as natural settings to inspire art and creativity. Additionally, a Bible classroom will offer a peaceful sanctuary, welcoming students in for quiet reflection, prayer, and discussion.

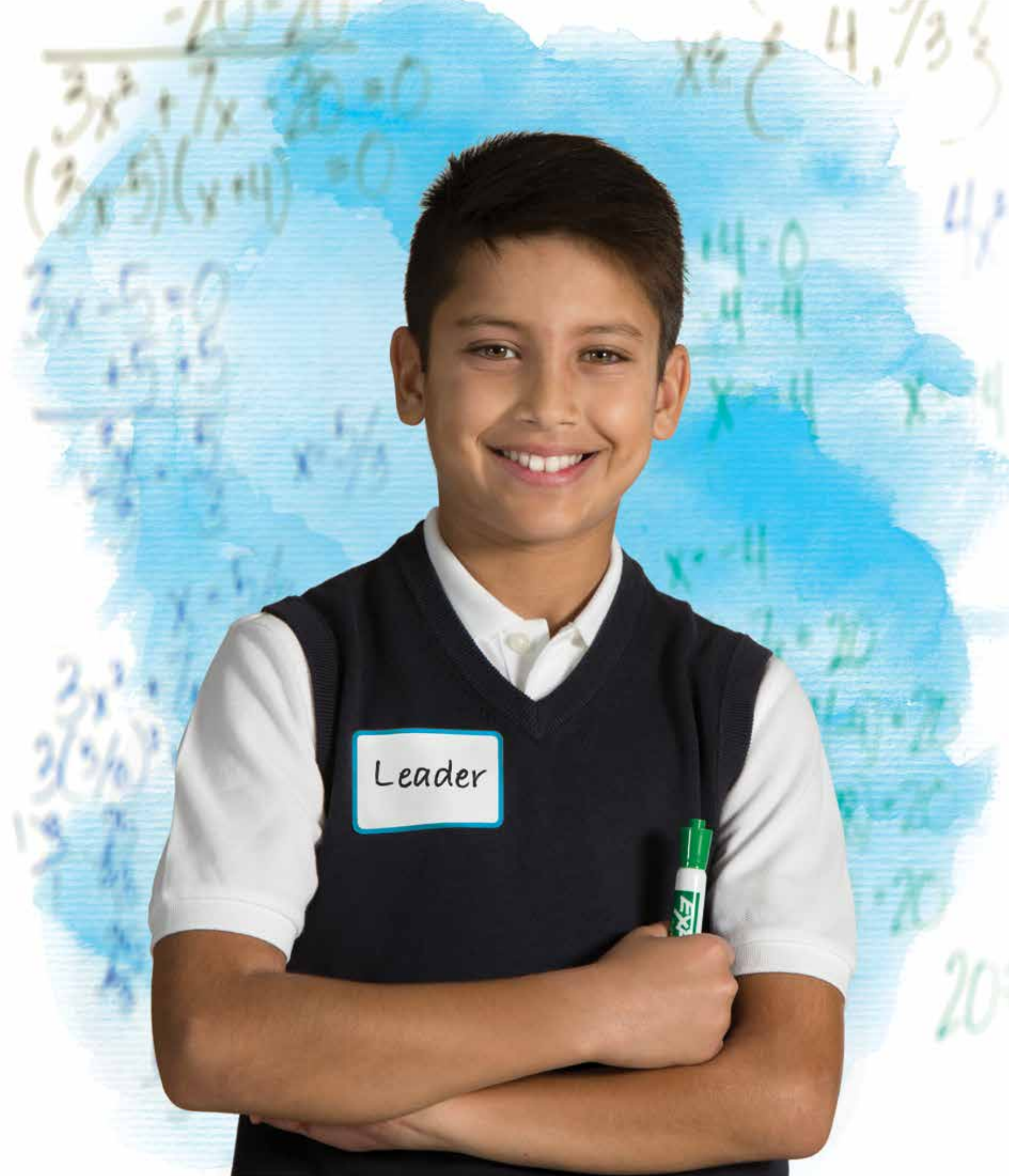


Teammate

# Help us now to build for the future.



Our new structure will serve many logistical purposes as well. A new garage will improve parking and facilitate better traffic flow throughout our campus. Its thoughtful underground design will have the extra benefit of adding green space for student learning and enjoyment. There will be a new main entrance and administrative wing, enabling better use of our current buildings. This addition also allows us to grow our student body, which means expanded programs in athletics, arts, and other vital offerings, while reducing individual class size.





Inspired

Our mission is to  
**empower**  
their **dreams.**

Throughout our long history, we have been exceedingly fortunate to have supporters like you to help ROBS become what it is today. Over the years, we have helped thousands of kids strengthen their relationship with God, define their dreams, and go forth confidently into the world to pursue them. Whatever your connection to ROBS, we are so grateful for your interest in helping us realize our next dream.

No matter how you contribute, you will be helping us at ROBS. But so much more than that, you will be helping our future generations - our children - to dream, to grow, to become.



## C A M P A I G N F O R R I V E R O A K S B A P T I S T S C H O O L

### Phase One Priorities

- ◆ *Fulfill the financing for 3900 Westheimer*
- ◆ *Improve traffic flow for better access and egress by increasing carpool drop-off*
- ◆ *Expand parking by 150 spaces through an underground parking garage for faculty*
- ◆ *Create a new Middle School building with learning communities for grades 5 through 8*
- ◆ *Build a state-of-the-art rehearsal and performance space for choral and instrument instruction*
- ◆ *Add a black-box theater for drama productions*
- ◆ *Build a graphics/robotics lab, maker space, and outdoor learning areas for enhanced programming*
- ◆ *Install an artificial turf practice space with a lacrosse wall*
- ◆ *Construct the leadership center with a new main entrance and administrative offices, which will allow for future renovation of current spaces to expand Lower School facilities and program*
- ◆ *Concurrently reduce individual class size and increase the number of students per grade, beginning with grades 5 and 6*

### THE PLAN

In partnership with River Oaks Baptist Church, ROBS intends to secure significant private support to fulfill the financing of 3900 Westheimer and the rest of Phase 1 of the Master Campus Plan. The Master Campus Plan maximizes the use of the School's scarcest resource: land. The plan calls for rooms dedicated to a particular grade level, shared fine arts and maker spaces, and community-building areas for current students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, and applicant families. Here are some highlights:

#### GRADE LEVEL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

We envision a new Middle School building that will become a much-anticipated destination for current and prospective students. Every floor of the four-story building will house one Middle School grade in a self-contained learning environment designed to enhance class identity and community. Each distinctive cluster will include classrooms; a science lab; a large, flexible multi-purpose space; smaller areas for meetings and collaborative work; outdoor learning space; and faculty office space.

#### BIBLE CLASSROOM

The Bible classroom will be a special sanctuary within the Middle School building—a place designed for reverence and reflection – to encourage and support children's faith. Its prominent location within the busy hub of Middle School life, along with an adjacent outdoor prayer garden, will remind students and adults alike that contemplating God's Word and applying it to contemporary life are central to the mission of the School.

#### STATE-OF-THE-ART SCIENCE LABS

Currently, the science labs for grades 5–7 are cramped classrooms in a 35-year old building. A centerpiece of each grade-level learning community will be a spacious, modern science lab with room for robust and safe exploration and experimentation. Fully-equipped science facilities with adequate electricity, water, and gas connections, as well as access to outdoor space, will enable science teachers to take learning to the next level.

#### ROBOTICS/GRAPHICS LAB AND MAKER SPACE

Versatile spaces with room for computers, electronic components, robots, 3D printers, workbenches and workshop tools, and an assortment of supplies will hum with activity as students explore programming, robotics, computer-aided design, and digital art. Students will have the opportunity to experiment, converting abstract ideas into functional prototypes, learning from mistakes, and refining their ideas.



### **PERFORMING ARTS FACILITIES**

Separate rooms for choral and instrumental music will enable ROBS to provide more offerings during the school day. We consider this a significant and exciting addition to our curriculum. Research shows that learning to play a musical instrument has multi-faceted benefits for children, from strengthening memory, mathematical capability, and even reading comprehension to enhancing perseverance, discipline, and social skills.

A flexible, two-story black-box theater will provide a permanent home for theater classes, a performance venue for drama productions, and a space within which students can hone their public speaking skills. Drama is a uniquely valuable tool for enhancing communication, imagination, empathy, cooperation, and even problem-solving: *“How can I recite a monologue in six different ways? How do I cover (or recover) when I flub a line? How will my character react to a particular situation?”* That’s what students discover on stage!

### **VISUAL ARTS STUDIOS**

Ample studio space for drawing, painting, ceramics and sculpture will give students first-rate facilities for exploring creativity and self-expression. Studying the visual arts teaches children to envision, make critical judgments, learn from mistakes, and persist.

### **OUTDOOR LEARNING AREAS**

The design of the new Middle School building creates terraces that will serve as extended classroom space. Studies demonstrate not only how important direct contact with nature is for healthy child development, but also that schools with outdoor classrooms see academic gains in a variety of subjects and skills, from social studies to language arts to critical thinking.

### **PARKING AND TRAFFIC**

Phase 1 will provide much-needed parking and traffic solutions. An approximately 150-space underground parking garage to be used by faculty during the school day will take significant pressure off surface parking for parents and visitors. Parents and visitors will be able to use the garage for activities outside the school day. An elongated drop-off line that can accommodate twice as many cars during carpool will expedite traffic flow on and off campus. These improvements will enhance the daily experience of every parent and child on campus. Even before construction on Phase 1 begins, 3900 Westheimer has relieved congestion by adding parking spaces for faculty and increasing carpool drop-off capacity by 67%.

### **ENROLLMENT AND CLASS SIZE**

With this new facility, our students will experience the “best of both worlds.” The student-teacher ratio in Lower and Middle School classrooms will decline to 18:1, down from 20:1. At the same time, we will be able to increase our student population by about ten students per grade level. This modest change will enable ROBS to strengthen programming by making more sports offerings and enrichment activities feasible. As an added benefit, it will alleviate some of the pressure on our highly competitive admission process, which could offer seats to only 25% of last year’s applicants.

### **IMPACT ON LOWER SCHOOL**

Phase 1 will also benefit Lower School students. Areas in the Hightower and Huffington buildings that were previously dedicated to the Middle School will become available to the Lower School for more creative, sustained, and cooperative work.





## WHY ACT NOW

### A VIEW OF THE FUTURE

Today's second-grader (ROBS Class of '24) will graduate from college in 2032. What will the world be like in 15 years? Professional forecasters predict a proliferation of new technologies such as robots and driverless cars; rising demand for food, water, and energy; seismic shifts in medicine; and a revolution in the manufacturing and retail industries thanks to 3D printing. The common thread is that each of these subjects requires advanced knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, or math.

### **The National Association of Independent Schools has issued a list of skills and capacities that children will need in the future, among them the ability to:**

- ◆ *Understand, use, and apply digital technologies*
- ◆ *Understand traditional and emerging topics in math, science, and technology—environmental science, robotics, fractals, cellular automata, nanotechnology, and biotechnology*
- ◆ *Use knowledge and creativity to solve complex, real-world problems that don't have rule-based solutions*
- ◆ *Use trial and error; devise and test solutions to problems; and acknowledge that innovation involves small successes and frequent mistakes*

As a school community, this information is a clarion call to action: It is our duty to ensure we are giving children the very best education we can offer overall and in the essential areas of math, science, and technology.

### MAKING LEARNING EVEN BETTER

The academic leaders at ROBS are perpetually studying and applying the latest research on how children learn best. Here's what we know: **children become stronger thinkers when they are active learners.** With this in mind, we are building on our strong, foundational curriculum to create a richer academic experience focused on the following priorities:

- ✓ Problem-solving
- ✓ Connections across disciplines
- ✓ Creativity and innovation
- ✓ Cultural intelligence
- ✓ Character and social skills through collaborative work

An important part of our enhanced curriculum comes in the form of projects that give students time to delve deeply into a problem or question. We know, and studies show, that students are more motivated by—and *learn more from*—high quality projects in which they create real products or solutions to be shared with their community.

This kind of learning requires spaces that are different from traditional classrooms—large, flexible areas where students can get messy in a workshop, build large objects such as robots and competition fields, and have easy access to ongoing projects for extended periods of time.

## Turning Up the Learning

- ◆ *Fifth graders apply their understanding of series and parallel circuits to build an original product with functioning electronics such as a baseball cap with cooling fans.*
- ◆ *Each sixth grader researches a different element on the periodic table, learns how that element applies to daily life, and creates a superhero that demonstrates the element's key properties.*
- ◆ *Seventh graders create "cell cities" in biology, choosing creative ways to represent the various parts of cells and their functions.*
- ◆ *Eighth graders apply their knowledge of physics concepts to create cars using wood, cardboard, rubber bands, and other found materials.*

CAMPAIGN FOR  
RIVER OAKS BAPTIST  
SCHOOL



CAMPAIGN CHAIR  
Susan Cox

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

BOARD DIVISION CHAIRS  
Jim Donnell  
Jacques Hodges

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FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDS  
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Jeanie & Tommy Carter  
Kelty & Rogers Crain  
Terry Huffington & Ralph Dittman  
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Mindy & Jeff Hildebrand  
Ned Holmes  
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Carmen & Butch Mach  
Cora Sue & Harry Mach  
Joella & Steve Mach  
Kim & Scott Martin  
Alice & Keith Mosing  
Gary Petersen  
Kathy & Ed Segner  
Elizabeth & Peter Wareing  
Randa & Charlie Williams

**YOU CAN DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

❖ A visionary \$5,000,000 challenge gift has been offered by our generous past parents, Mindy and Jeff Hildebrand, who seek to inspire others to join them in assisting ROBS to secure the remaining \$9,994,000 needed to begin construction. (1:1 match of new and increased gifts)

❖ The deadline for meeting this challenge is August 31.

❖ Pledges can be paid with cash, credit card, or stock gifts.

Multi-Year Pledge	Yearly Gift	Hildebrand Challenge Match	Cumulative Total Impact
\$250,000 *+ (Over 5 years)	\$50,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
\$100,000 *+ (Over 5 years)	\$20,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
\$50,000 * (Over 5 years)	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
\$25,000 * (Over 5 years)	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000

\* All gifts of \$25,000 or more will be recognized on a donor wall

+ All gifts of \$100,000 or more will be recognized at the leadership level

*“ROB is a special place that has created many lasting memories for our family and so many others. There is simply no better PS-8 program in Houston that equips their students with the necessary holistic skills to achieve success and accomplish great things. We pray that our matching grant is the catalyst to push the Kids.Love.Learning. Campaign over the finish line. Be generous, our kids deserve it!”*

**- Mindy and Jeff Hildebrand**

Thank you ~~XcdkagdbckWg^La`eWsf)a`~~,

Susan Cox  
Campaign Chair  
Parent to Elizabeth '18 and Catherine '22

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