



The Academy announces the Middle School Transformation Project

Comprehensive expansion to break ground this summer

The Thayer Academy Middle School Transformation Project seeks to give physical form to the warm, welcoming, and supportive community already thriving there. While expansion and innovation thread themselves throughout the design plans, the driving force behind the project is connection: among students and classes, among faculty and departments, and with an Upper School which shares its ambitious mission.

Upon completion, the two-story structure will complement the Middle School's academic rigor and inclusive culture in both form and function. It will feature, among other improvements, an additional Grade 5 classroom, a new dining hall, a digital media classroom, increased space for the arts, and new classrooms for the English and History programs. Three skylights will wash the building in natural light as a large window wall offers views of the Upper School and the Academy's playing fields. An open Central Hall / Gathering Space with tiered seating will serve as the hub of school activity, creating room for everything from assemblies and classes to snack time and casual conversation. Added interactive spaces, both indoors and outdoors, will reinforce a sense of community.

The Academy plans to start construction this summer (2021). The project is slated to be finished one year later, and the Middle School will begin the 2022-23 school year in its new building.

The Thayer Academy Middle School Transformation Project will enhance program flexibility, scheduling autonomy, and a spirit of true collaboration while making the Middle School itself more visible to the larger community. The end result will be a school reimagined to more fully address the needs and expectations of today's students and families. 🍷

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We hope that with this new building and new spaces for design thinking, it will enable us to vertically align our curriculum so that every student is exposed to design thinking from fifth to eighth grade.

- MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
GALEN HAMANN



Former St. Francis of Assisi School to serve as temporary Middle School

One great advantage to launching the Middle School construction project at this time is the Academy's access to the former St. Francis of Assisi (SFA) School, which will be able to fully absorb the Middle School program for the duration of the work.

The former SFA facility is located at 850 Washington St., just down the street from Thayer's main campus, and is already under lease; the Upper School used it while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent need for physical distancing. During the Middle School construction period, however, the facility will be completely repurposed to serve only the needs of Academy students in Grades 5 through 8. Those needs include dedicated space for a library, a Collaborative Design Lab (CDL), and the Hale Learning Center.

With its cafeteria, classrooms, stage for performing arts, internet access, and parking, the former SFA site offers a temporary Middle School location well equipped to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. 🍷



View a "Before & After" comparison of blueprints of the Middle School, videos from Head of School Ted Koskores '70 P '10, '13 and Middle School Director Galen Hamann, and an FAQ section to learn more about the project at: thayer.org/mstransformation.



Scan the QR code on your mobile device to view a video walkthrough that highlights interesting details of the new Middle School design by Eck MacNeely Architects.

Learn more online here: thayer.org/mstransformation





“An Architect’s Mentality”

Academy construction projects marked by a larger vision for the campus

Story by Rebecca Delaney

In the 18 years that Ted Koskores '70 P '10, '13 has served as Thayer Academy's head of school, the campus has undergone a dramatic transformation. Important upgrades include the addition of Cahall Student Commons, the renovation of Southworth Library, the construction of the Center for the Arts (CFA) and the Computer Science & Robotics Wing in Glover Building, and the opening of the long-awaited ice rink at Thayer Sports Center, to name just a few.

And as head of school, Koskores has worked diligently to ensure a unified and informed campus aesthetic, say two of the principals of Eck MacNeely Architects, the firm that designed those projects.

“Ted has an architect’s mentality,” says Paul MacNeely, a principal at Eck MacNeely. “The first time I met him in 2003, he talked about the importance of creating an environment where students felt safe and where the environment was focused on teaching. His vision and thoughtfulness have percolated through all of the work that’s been done on campus throughout his time there.”

MacNeely recalled a time when he and Koskores were walking on the walkway around the Teardrop and the head of school inquired about replacing the asphalt with pea stone to reinforce the notion that students are in a different environment when they’re at school. Snow removal considerations nixed the pea stone idea, but the message was clear.

“I thought that it was remarkable that he was thinking at that level,” says MacNeely. “It was nice for an architect to hear.”

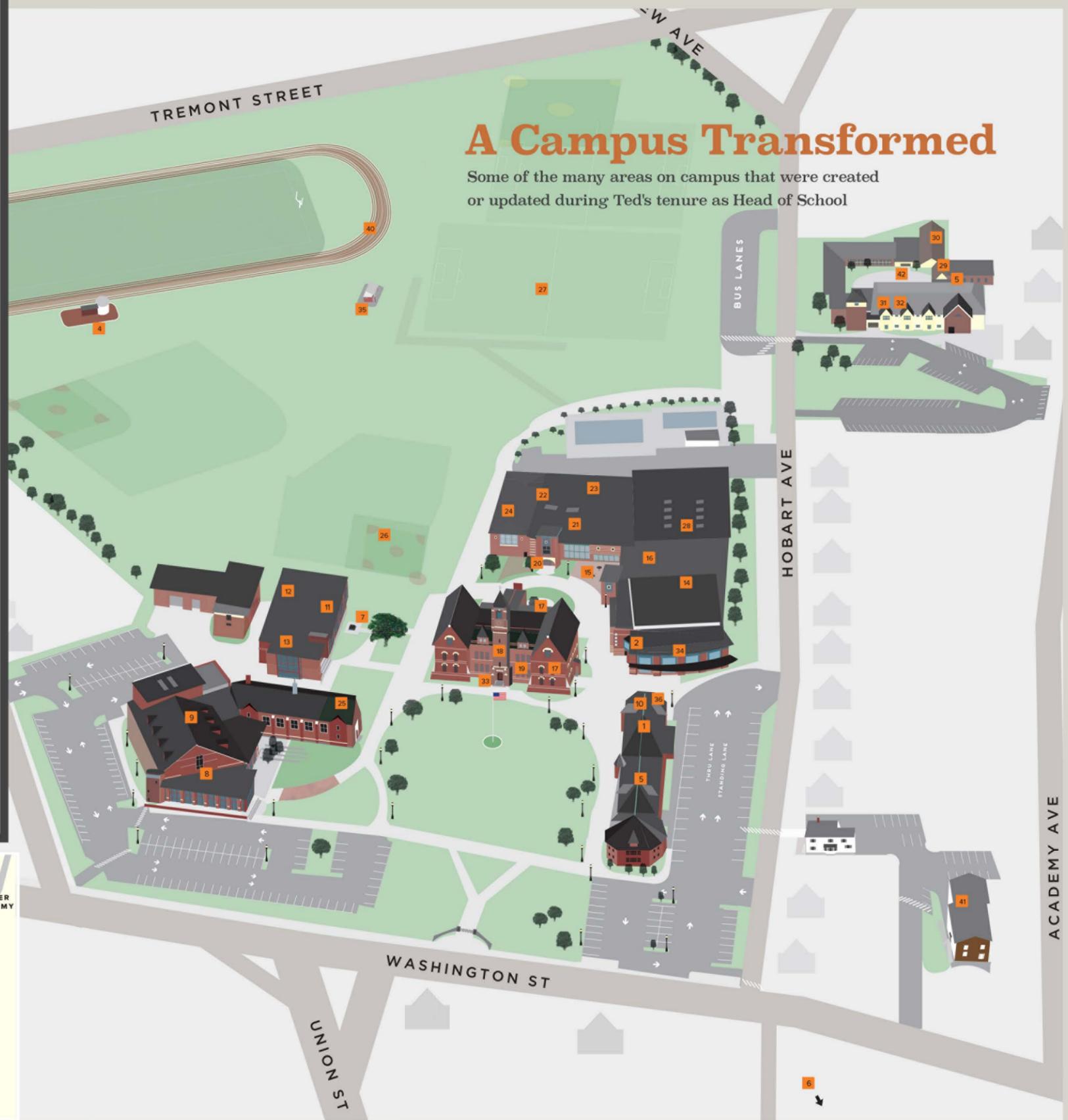
Jeremiah Eck, a founding partner and principal, agrees. “Campuses that we admire most across New England and even the country are those that show cohesiveness of style and space,” Eck says. “Given the many constituencies that are part of all academic settings — administration, faculty, staff, students, board members, etc. — it’s not hard to imagine that it can sometimes be hard to reach such a consensus, especially when it comes to a building project.

“Ted’s masterful effort over many years was to build that consensus, inspiring and creating a much more cohesive and beautiful campus than when he first arrived.”



Jeremiah Eck (left) and Paul MacNeely (right) of Eck | MacNeely Architects.

1. Glover Building Addition (2004)
2. Fish Center for Physical Fitness (2005)
3. South Athletic Campus (2006)
4. Cahall Observatory Upgrade (2006)
5. Hale Learning Center (2007)
6. Fernand LaChance House (2007)
7. Jared Branfman Sculpture Garden (2007)
8. Center for the Arts (CFA) (2008)
9. Hale Theater (2008)
10. LaChance Physics Lab (2009)
11. Southworth Library Renovation (2010)
12. Benelli Writing Center (2011)
13. Thayer Gallery Renovation (2011)
14. Memorial Gym Renovation (2011)
15. Hale Courtyard (2011)
16. Hanflig Technology Center (2012)
17. Brickyard Renovation (2013)
18. Admissions Office Renovation (2013)
19. Pulsifer College Counseling (2013)
20. Cahall Campus Center Renovation (2013)
21. Second Floor Tiger's Den (2013)
22. Student Commons (2013)
23. Campus Store Renovation (2013)
24. Cahall Dining Hall Renovation (2015)
25. Upper School CDL (2015)
26. Softball Field Renovation (2015)
27. New Turf Fields (2016)
28. Alumni Gym Renovation (2016)
29. Thompson Hall Renovation (2016)
30. Grade 6 Wing Update (2016)
31. Middle School Library Renovation (2017)
32. Middle School CDL (2017)
33. Main Building Renovation (2018)
34. Fish Center Renovation (2018)
35. Hospitality Pavilion (2018)
36. Glover Computer Science & Robotics Wing (2019)
37. Thayer Sports Center (TSC) (2019)
38. Valicenti Rink (2019)
39. Hospitality Center (2019)
40. Track Renovation (2019)
41. New Alumni House (2019)
42. Thayer Academy Middle School Transformation Project (Planned 2021-22)



A Campus Transformed

Some of the many areas on campus that were created or updated during Ted's tenure as Head of School