



St. Michael's  
University School

Richmond Road

# CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Community Summary



## Introduction

---

The St. Michaels University School Richmond Road Campus Master Plan outlines a vision, guiding principles, and direction for future development of the Richmond Road campus.

St. Michaels University School (SMUS) is an independent, not-for-profit day (Kindergarten to Grade 12) and boarding (Grades 8 to 12) school located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The school offers a rigorous academic program following the British Columbia curriculum and is a member of the Independent Schools Association of British Columbia, The Association of Boarding Schools, and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools. SMUS was formed in 1971 when University School (founded in 1906) and St. Michael's School (founded in 1910) amalgamated. Since then the school has become one of Canada's leading independent schools, with a diverse body of 1,000 students, outstanding faculty and a global reputation for excellence.

## Why a Campus Master Plan?

### A World-Class Campus

The St. Michaels University School (SMUS) Campus Master Plan (the Plan) outlines a clear vision and resonant guiding principles for future development of the Richmond Road campus. The directions contained in the document will guide the development of world-class facilities, memorable open spaces, safe circulation, and leadership in sustainability.

### Alignment with Floreat

The Plan is not a blueprint for development. Rather, it provides a framework for strategic decision making about the form and character of future built placement, open space and movement networks on campus.

The amalgamation of St. Michaels School and University School in 1971 led to successive waves of building and refurbishment which have resulted in the campus as it is today. While the overall character and quality of the campus supports the school's formal academic pursuits and positively contributes to 'the hidden curriculum' of character

development, the Plan presents the next evolution of the campus, building upon the Richmond Road legacy to align future development with the priorities set forward in Floreat, St. Michaels University School's 2020-2030 strategic plan.

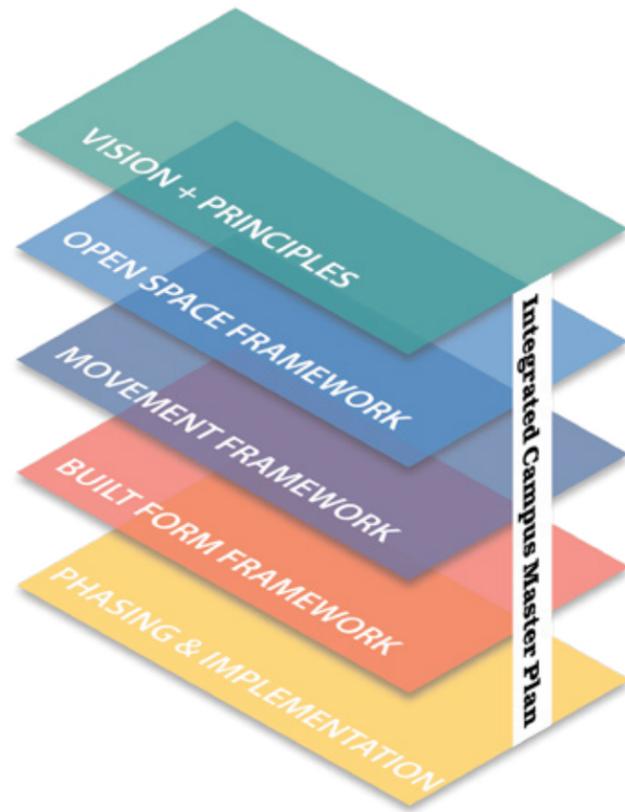
The Campus Master Plan is intended to be a living document, written and structured to provide SMUS with a flexible decision-making framework to accommodate opportunities and needs as they emerge over a 10-year planning horizon.

### Responding to the Needs of Our Community

The Plan builds on the consultation and community engagement process of the Floreat strategic plan. The Campus Master Plan responds to the priorities we heard from hundreds of voices in the SMUS community.

## The Richmond Road Campus Today





## Campus Master Plan Structure

### Vision and Principles

The Plan is driven by a vision and set of principles developed through the engagement of the SMUS community and leadership. They form the 'north star' for the campus as it is developed.

### Frameworks

The vision and principles have led to a design concept that is organized by a set of frameworks. The frameworks provide recommendations for built form, open space, safety and sustainability to steer the evolution of the Richmond Road campus.

### Phasing and Implementation

The Plan is complemented by a phasing strategy for initiatives in the short, medium and long term. This section is about bringing the Plan to life.

## Vision and Principles

### Campus Master Plan Vision

In 2030, the campus will reflect almost 125 years of academic excellence to attract students and staff from around the world. It will continue to be where students become inspired to learn, apply the skills of leadership that prepare them for life, form enduring friendships and create memories that keep them coming back as alumni.

### Campus Master Plan Principles

#### The Campus is Inspirational

- Learning is put on display through campus signage, transparency into classrooms and in spaces that can accommodate cross-school gathering
- Campus buildings and open spaces make use of high-quality materials and finishes
- New buildings and open spaces have a respect for the school's heritage

#### The Campus is Our Classroom

- Applied learning opportunities are fostered in designated open spaces
- Campus open spaces accommodate outdoor classes

#### The Campus is Our Hearth

- The campus provides a mosaic of open spaces to accommodate the diversity of campus users
- The campus makes use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to support a widespread feeling of safety
- The campus is designed using universal design principles

#### The Campus is Future-Forward

- Campus landscape prioritizes climate-sensitive and indigenous plantings
- Campus buildings demonstrate a commitment to sustainability leadership
- Walking, cycling and transit are supported as sustainable transportation options

#### The Campus Celebrates Legacy

- Heritage assets are honoured and adapted for contemporary use
- The story of SMUS is woven into the campus open spaces and built form
- The campus is able to host alumni and celebrate their contributions to the school

#### The Campus Strengthens the Community

- The campus design provides a welcome face to the surrounding neighbourhood
- SMUS's satellite spaces extend an invitation to the community
- Neighbours have pride in SMUS's presence in their neighbourhood

# Campus Master Plan Priorities

The Campus Master Plan priority projects are directly tied the strategic objectives of Floreat to meet programmatic and experiential needs. These projects will be a catalyst for the overall implementation of the Campus Master Plan and represent the first stage in SMUS's next evolution.



**Middle School Expansion**



**Heritage Gallery and Courtyard**



**Science Centre STEAM Expansion and Quad**

# Middle School Expansion



*Artistic rendering of the proposed Middle School Expansion*

Engagement with students, parents and staff revealed a need for improved Middle School learning facilities and social areas; Middle School students need a special place on campus. The Campus Master Plan proposes an expansion of the Middle School building to the south to provide ample classroom areas, as well as a new Learning Commons, a STEAM lab and a large community space that welcomes all to the school. Within the foyer, Middle School students will have their own space to mingle, socialize and complete group work. The foyer lets daylight stream in through multi-storey windows while providing views out to the field. It feels connected to the rest of the Richmond Road campus while at the same time being a space tailored to this unique age group.

As a result of the expansion to the south, the Middle School basketball courts and picnic tables will need to be removed. The Middle School's outdoor spaces will be relocated alongside the campus's two most prominent movement corridors – the Promenade and the Mews – so they are integrated into the academic fabric. These spaces will extend the heart of the Middle School outdoors. Sheltered by deciduous trees, the Promenade knoll (bottom right of the above rendering) provides a space for socializing, reading, and eating lunch. The grassy area to the north of the Middle School can function as a play space, be converted to a small basketball court or act as a demonstration garden for teaching. Together, the knoll and the courtyard provide distinct open spaces in scale and proportion for Middle School students.



Artistic rendering of the proposed Middle School Expansion

SMUS alumni take pride in their shared history. The Heritage Gallery and Courtyard project seeks to instill this same pride for future generations. School House, Brown Hall and the Chapel, which was built by students, form the heritage core of the Richmond Road campus. The Heritage Gallery will display a rotating showcase of mementos from The Wilson Archives and can be used as a multipurpose space for informal study, long table dinners, alumni events and receptions. The Gallery's doors can be opened completely for a fluid north-south relationship between the Promenade, the fields and the Mews.

An intrinsic component to the Heritage Gallery and Courtyard project is re-establishing Brown Hall's original building footprint and providing entry from the Promenade. In doing so, the service yard between the Chapel and Brown Hall can be redesigned as the Mews, a delightful east-west pedestrian connection that is framed by the heritage structures.

## Heritage Gallery and Courtyard



Artistic rendering of the proposed Heritage Gallery and Courtyard

# Science Centre STEAM Expansion and Quad

SMUS is committed to providing the best education in Canada. Parents, students and future employers are asking for focused STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programming from Kindergarten to Grade 12. This is translating into a global movement towards open and flexible classrooms that allow for collaborative and immersive learning that is typically associated with post-secondary design studios, laboratories and workshops. The Science Centre STEAM Expansion (SCSE) is proposed as SMUS's first step towards dedicated STEAM educational facilities on the Richmond Road campus. As one of the Campus Master Plan's first projects, it will be a demonstration of a design that connects students with 21st-century learning, as well as the interconnection of STEAM subjects.

The SCSE will be oriented to provide views to the field, School House and the Quad. The northern frontage should be two storeys in height to avoid channelizing the Mews and to keep an appropriate scale. While contemporary in form, the exterior materials and datums should be reflective of the existing campus buildings to retain a cohesive campus character.

As a building, the SCSE has four goals: (1) showcase STEAM education; (2) provide state-of-the-art STEAM classrooms; (3) provide informal learning spaces for spontaneous collaboration and discovery; and, (4) bring vitality to the Quad.

## *Showcase STEAM education*

The SCSE will be designed with a central atrium that overlooks the Quad and School House. The atrium is the epicentre of activity in the SCSE and should be configured with opportunities to showcase student projects and learning outcomes. Showcase elements can take the form of digital signage, display cases, and windows into labs and design studios.

## *Expand state-of-the-art STEAM classrooms*

Expanding state-of-the-art classrooms to meet a growing demand for STEAM curriculum is a central component of Floreat. The SCSE should maximize classroom space by providing an underground storey that is daylit by the atrium and an outdoor rooftop classroom.

## *Provide informal learning spaces for spontaneous collaboration and discovery*

Learning extends outside the classroom. The SCSE is envisioned to have social areas on each floor, including the atrium, that can support impromptu study sessions, collaborative work and socializing.

## *Bring vitality to the Quad*

As the formal heart of the campus, the Quad should feel active throughout the school day, even in inclement weather. The SCSE's atrium acts as an indoor extension of the Quad with movable seating and tables.



Artistic rendering of the proposed Science Centre STEAM Expansion

# The Richmond Road Campus Vision



## Acknowledgments

This document was developed for St. Michaels University School in collaboration with the DIALOG consultant team, with input from a broad range of stakeholders from SMUS. The consultant team worked hand in hand with the SMUS project team including Mark Turner, Head of School, Andy Rodford, Deputy Head of School, and Rita Lord, Chief Financial Officer.

In addition, we acknowledge the contributions of the following groups:

- SMUS Board of Governors
- Campus Master Plan Steering Group
- Facilities Committee
- Senior Leadership Team
- The District of Saanich
- SMUS faculty and staff
- SMUS alumni
- SMUS parents
- SMUS students

## Follow Our Progress

If we are truly to flourish, it will take all of us joining together as a community in support of the school's Mission. As we enact the Campus Master Plan over the next decade, there will be many opportunities to learn more about our priorities and get involved. The Floreat website will be regularly updated to report on our progress with the Campus Master Plan.

[floreat2030.ca](http://floreat2030.ca)

## Supporting the Campus Master Plan

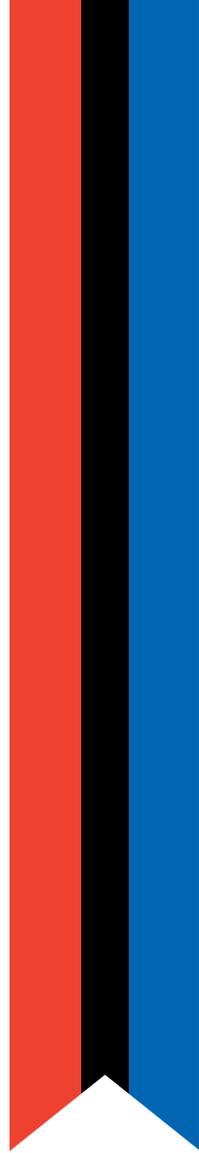
Philanthropy is key to the sustainability of our school and the success of Floreat. We have already launched a once-in-a-generation capital campaign to raise the funds to support the overall Campus Master Plan, as well as the Junior School Annex. We will communicate more details to the community in the months ahead.

If you would like to know more in the meantime, please contact the Advancement office by email at [advancement@smus.ca](mailto:advancement@smus.ca) or reach out to Adrienne Davidson, Director of Advancement & Campaigns, at 250-370-6112.

## Stay Connected

Email: The school sends out a weekly e-magazine, the SMUS Weekly. In addition to news and notifications, it regularly includes updates from the Head of School and the school's leadership. You can sign up to receive the SMUS Weekly at [smus.ca/weekly](http://smus.ca/weekly).

Social Media: SMUS has a vibrant community on social media. You can join the conversation through Instagram, Facebook and Twitter at [@yoursmus](https://www.instagram.com/yoursmus).



floreat  
2030



St. Michael's  
University School

50 | SMUS  
Jubilee