

St. James School Legacy

A case for supporting the new campus in Coldstream

St. James School is seeking \$25 million to help create a new campus beside Our Lady of the Valley Church. Construction is planned to begin in 2030, with the school planned to open in 2033. This is a commitment to the future of Catholic education in the North Okanagan.

Current fundraising ask	Planned construction start	Planned opening
\$25 million	2030	2033

A regional vision for Catholic education

Since its establishment in Vernon in 1957, St. James has helped families bring faith and learning together. The existing school serves Kindergarten to Grade 7. Its next home should carry that mission forward, with room for Catholic education and community life to grow. [1]

The proposed Coldstream campus offers a setting where learning, worship and gathering can be planned together. The opportunity is to build for children today while preserving a path for those who will follow.



Early campus illustration. The design and details may change.

The need and the proposed solution

The January case statement describes the limitations of an aging school building and the need for a lasting solution. The project responds to a facilities question considered over many years: how to give Catholic education a home that supports its work well into the future. [2]

A direction shaped by study and community involvement

In 2021, the committee compared renovating the existing school, rebuilding on the present property and building beside Our Lady of the Valley. It preferred the Coldstream site for its educational potential, connection with the parish and ability to keep the present school operating during construction. [3]

Community consultation and concept work followed, including an April 2025 open house. Coldstream's public record lists the Official Community Plan amendment and rezoning application for the proposed elementary school as approved by Council. Design, site arrangements, technical work and further permits remain part of the delivery process. [4]

Phase 1

The first phase is planned to bring daycare, preschool and Kindergarten through Grade 8 together beside the parish. The vision is a purpose-designed home for learning, with shared spaces and outdoor areas that support the school day. The detailed programme, capacity and design will be developed through planning.

Phase 2

A future Grades 9 to 12 facility would give students a path to continue their Catholic education through high school. This second phase is a longer-term part of the campus vision, with its own scope, funding and delivery plan. The 2030 and 2033 milestones relate to the planned first-phase school; a second-phase schedule has not been set.

The community centre

The wider vision includes a community centre for spiritual retreats, banquets, wedding celebrations and parish and community gatherings. It could offer families and neighbours a place to meet across generations. Its design, operating arrangements and place in the phasing plan remain to be developed.

Funding the new campus

The current fundraising ask is \$25 million. Leadership gifts, parish participation and wider community support would help turn the campus vision into a lasting home for Catholic education. The ask describes the amount currently being sought; the final project cost and complete funding plan must be reconciled as the design develops.

The January draft planning allocation

The original case statement organised a \$25 million planning frame into four main uses. The allocation identifies the main areas of work. These are historical, illustrative amounts from the January draft, rather than a current construction estimate or a confirmed cost for either phase. [2]

Planning category	January draft allocation
Site works and servicing	\$2 million
Building construction and building systems	\$19 million
Furniture fixtures and equipment	\$1 million
Professional fees soft costs and contingency	\$3 million
Total January planning frame	\$25 million

A campaign built on substantial gifts

James Lockwood’s business-plan materials propose a campaign led by major and leadership gifts, followed by broader community participation and pledge collection. That sequence gives the project a useful fundraising framework. The campaign needs to connect commitments, cash collection and construction spending in a clear plan. [5]

Potential property proceeds, parish or diocesan contributions, borrowing and community-centre income should be recorded as funding only when supported by the necessary decisions and evidence. They are not counted here as secured sources.

Building and operating responsibly

The capital project and the annual cost of running the school need separate plans. Before construction commitments, the project team should establish the final scope, a reconciled budget, a funding schedule, an operating plan and the conditions for starting work. If resources or costs change, scope or timing should be reviewed before commitments are extended.

Supporters should receive a clear account of what their gifts will fund and how progress will be reported. Gift conditions, recognition and naming arrangements require agreed terms and the appropriate authority.

The planned opening in 2033

Construction is planned to begin in 2030, with the first-phase school planned to open in 2033. The aim is to allow children and staff to remain in the present school while the new home is built, then move into a completed campus.

The opening would coincide with the bimillennial celebration of the Redemption through the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis identifies 2033 with that two thousandth anniversary. A new Catholic school would mark the year with a commitment to future generations. [6]

Planned milestone	The work it represents
Before 2030	Design and programme development, site and lease arrangements, permits, fundraising and financial planning.
2030	Start of construction for the first-phase school, subject to the required delivery conditions.
2033	Opening of the first-phase school and the transition to its new home.
Future Phase 2	A Grades 9 to 12 facility, with timing and funding developed separately.

The dates are planned milestones. Design, site arrangements, further permits and funding will determine the final delivery schedule. The community centre’s place in the programme will also need to be settled.

You can help carry the mission forward

A gift to this project could help give St. James a lasting home, preserve the connection between Catholic faith and education, and create space for families and community life. The school’s history gives this work its foundation. The next chapter calls for people willing to help build it.

Prospective supporters are invited to begin a conversation about the role they would like to play, the intended use of their gift and the arrangements for reporting progress.

Source basis

[1] CISKD St. James profile, checked October 6, 2026. [2] DRAFT 2026-01-26 St James Case.pdf, supplied by James Lockwood September 4, 2026. [3] 2021 option review and August 3 committee letter.
[4] Coldstream application 24-007-PRJ, checked October 6, 2026. [5] Business and Financial Plan draft and September 5 source reconciliation. [6] *Spes non confundit*, paragraph 6.