

A \$2 Million Campaign for Renovations Faith Academy Charter School (FACS)*

*Charter schools are funded by the North Carolina Department of Public Education at 34% less per student than public schools. State money is not available for charter school facilities.



- ROWAN COUNTY'S ONLY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
- A CHOICE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY-MINDED
- TUITION FREE



FaithAcademyNC.org

2022

Continuing the Faith Foundation

Faith Academy Charter School originated after the closing of Faith Elementary School, with citizens of Faith of the strong belief that closing the school would damage the community. Faith School was the center of the community from 1928-2021, earning a stellar reputation in the educational field. The concerned citizens wanted to continue its “Faith Foundation.”

The Faith Academy Charter School Board of Directors was quickly established to form an independent non-profit school with the goals of:

- Creating community-minded leaders by giving students real world problems to solve.
- Providing students a safe, challenging, inclusive learning environment.
- Providing life skills and college and technical education courses for students to be prepared for life following school.

Faith Academy Charter School opened its doors on August 23, 2021, enrolling 500 students in grades K-7, with a wait list of 300. The 2022-2023 school year will welcome 600 students in grades K-8, with a growing wait list of more than 300. The school follows the [North Carolina Standard Course of Study](#), as determined by the State Board of Education. The student/teacher ratio is 20/1.

Students are chosen by lottery to attend the tuition-free school.

The State of North Carolina pays charter schools 34% less per student than public schools. Charter schools receive \$8,500/student for instruction, compared to \$12,500/student at public schools.

The charter school chose The Patriots as its mascot, in keeping with the patriotic pride for which the Town of Faith is known. A Flag Squad consisting of four students raises and lowers the American flag on campus at the start and end of each school day.

A diverse student body focuses on Project-Based Learning. Students are well rounded in classes such as Life Skills, Personal Finance, Theater Arts, and Visual Arts. Sports programs are available for students and are supported by a newly formed Proud Patriots Parents & Teachers Association and Boosters Club.

Before-and after-school care is provided by Faith Baptist Church, Happy’s Farm and Fisher-Saleeby East Rowan YMCA for a fee. Free or reduced-price lunches are provided for qualifying students. Children enjoy meals provided by local vendors.

The school is blessed with hundreds of volunteers. More than 250 assisted in preparing the school for opening. The school was completely painted in three weeks. The doors will be opened again to volunteers this spring, following the pandemic. Gloria Wilhelm is the school’s Outreach Volunteer Coordinator.

It was important to the Board that highly qualified educators and staff be hired. Dr. Sarah Hensley put together a great team of 39 instructional staff: 35 are Certified, 14 of the 35 Certified have Master’s Degrees, 3 of the 35 have Administrative Degrees, 4 are National Board Certified, 16 have Multiple Certifications, 2 are in the Residency Track for Certification and all have four-year college degrees and beyond.



Lead Administrator

Dr. Sarah Hensley has a long, successful career as an educator in North Carolina, having served as a teacher, principal, district administrator, and educational consultant. She was twice recognized as Teacher of the Year and was also recognized as Principal of the Year at the elementary and middle school level.



During her years as principal of Corriher Lipe Middle School, the school was recognized as a “School of Distinction ” and a “Top 25” school in the State of North Carolina. Dr. Hensley attributes her success as an educator to her staff’s dedication, the parent-teacher relationship, and her strive for excellence in every classroom. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Certificate of Advanced Study in Curriculum and Teaching, Master of Education, and Bachelor of Arts.

Dr. Hensley believes there is something truly special about the community of Faith with its long tradition of community spirit and continual support for Faith Academy Charter School.

Dr. Hensley publishes a monthly newsletter, The Patriot Press. It can be found on the school’s website, faithacademync.org.

Board of Directors

Faith Academy Charter School is governed by an independent, non-profit Board of Directors, consisting of members or former members of the Faith community, as follows:

George Wilhelm, Chair
Gene Miller, Vice Chair
Tim Williams, Secretary
Liz Morrow, Treasurer

Janna Griggs
Chris Sease, Attorney
Nick Lefko

Dr. Sarah Hensley, Lead Administrator
Gloria Wilhelm, FACS Advisory Committee/Outreach Volunteer Coordinator

*The Board of Directors meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m.
Meetings are open to the public. Minutes are posted on the school’s website.*



Equipment Need

The Board of Directors will use the \$2 million raised in Phase I of the capital campaign to pay off debt incurred and/or needs as follows:

■ **Purchase of Faith Elementary School.....\$300,000**

The new public charter school keeps a community school in Faith. The Board of Directors purchased the existing Faith Elementary School property from Rowan Salisbury Schools.

■ **Furniture.....\$350,000**

The board purchased new, COVID-19 cleanable furniture for students and faculty. for the entire school.

■ **Purchase of land for expansion\$385,000**

With limited available property for sale, especially property adjacent to the existing school, the Board purchased approximately 25 acres of property directly across Gardner Street from the existing school for a new K-8 school. The existing school will be renovated for a high school. A Faith resident owned the property.

■ **Playground Equipment\$ 50,000**

The Board plans to purchase new equipment for the K-8 site. The existing playground equipment at Faith Elementary was unavailable for purchase.

■ **Modular Rental/Placement\$250,000**

Our charter school opened with an enrollment of 500 students, kindergarten through 7th grade the inaugural year of 2021. The present school would not hold the entire student body; therefore, we leased a modular unit of 10 classrooms to house grades 5, 6 and 7. The modular unit is a temporary structure. We will need another unit for the 2022-'23 academic year to serve grade 8.

■ **Four Buses.....\$ 16,000**

Our charter school welcomes students from throughout Rowan County and beyond. More than 800 students applied for the 500 positions that were allowed by our charter in the inaugural year. To serve all children who were accepted during the lottery process, the board purchased buses from other school systems for students who need transportation.



■ **Library Needs** \$ 60,000

Plans for a state-of-the-art library and media center are underway, including computer centers and technology to support collaborative learning. Learning labs will include progressive immersive learning, Board games and equipment for podcasting with green screen technology for broadcasting are being planned.

Our media center has a large collection of resources that supports the curriculum and encourages the enjoyment of reading for all grade levels. A community campaign to obtain new and gently use books has resulted in nearly 10,000 books donated to date.

■ **Technology Needs**..... \$200,000

Plans are underway to provide Chromebooks and Apple iPads for each student. Faith Academy Charter stresses teacher/student learning, with technology as a tool, recognizing the importance of technology in the lives of all our students in a virtual age.

■ **Cafeteria Needs** \$150,000

The Board purchased all new dining furniture and has plans to purchase kitchen equipment as needed as the schools continues to grow.

■ **Miscellaneous Needs (Improvements/Repair)**..... \$239,000

The existing school requires new roofing, windows, and solar panels to lessen our carbon footprint. Other requirements include updating plumbing with restroom renovations, lighting and other electrical work, flooring, offices areas and classrooms, bathroom facilities, a band/chorus room, and increased security. Plans also include a new gym.

TOTAL..... **\$2,000,000**



The Faith Community

Faith is a proud community of 864 citizens, known state-wide for its patriotic Fourth of July celebration attended by 35,000. The celebration began more than 75 years ago, with President George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara visiting in 1992. The celebration has raised more than half a million dollars for civic causes. The 6-day celebration grew out of a big community picnic, called the Soldiers Reunion Picnic, to honor veterans.

Faith has three thriving civic groups, the Faith Civitan Club, the Faith American Legion, and the Faith American Legion Auxiliary. All three groups exist to serve our community, especially our school.

The town is a mile in length, located on Faith Road in eastern Rowan County. The town was incorporated in 1903 with J. T. Wyatt recognized as the town founder. He is credited with giving the town its name. He was an entrepreneur, a newspaper man, a magistrate and a businessman associated with the once thriving granite industry. He once lived in the Faith Legion Park area and is buried in Faith Lutheran Church cemetery. Mr. Wyatt is quoted as saying, "Let's call our town Faith for our great faith in the granite industry and faith in three young churches thriving here, Shiloh Reformed, Faith Lutheran and Faith Baptist."

Local businesses are located all around Faith, with Intertape Polymer Group (IPG) on Main Street as the main industry. Gathering spots are our famous Yosties, the Faith Soda Shop, and A and L Mini Mart.



Giving to the Capital Campaign

Faith Academy Charter School is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Affiliate. Gifts may be given in memory or in honor of family, friends, or events.

Gifts may be given online at our secure donation page, www.FaithAcademync.org/Donate or by completing the Faith Academy Charter School Commitment Form enclosed in this booklet.

Donations may be mailed to Faith Academy Charter School, PO Box 182, Faith, NC 28041.

For more information, please contact:

Tim Williams, Chairman of Continuing the Faith Foundation

twilliams@faithacademync.org

704.754.3108



Levels of Giving

Chancellor Team.....	\$100,000 — \$200,000
Superintendent Team	\$ 50,000 — \$ 99,999
Administrator Team.....	\$ 25,000 — \$ 49,999
Teacher Team	\$ 10,000 — \$ 24,999
Graduate Team.....	\$ 5,000 — \$ 9,999
Patriots Team.....	\$ 2,500 — \$ 4,999
School House Team	\$ 1,000 — \$ 2,499
<i>(300 giving \$1,000 pays for the school building)</i>	
Middle School Team	\$ 500 — \$ 999
Elementary School Team (Patriot Pennies Campaign)	\$ 250 — \$ 499
Faith Foundation Team.....	\$ 100 — \$ 249

* Graduating Classes of Faith School are encouraged to meet and pool funding to make the most impact together, giving gifts in honor of your class.

* Extended families, siblings who graduated from Faith School are encouraged to meet and pool each family's gifts for the most impact together, giving gifts in memory or in honor of entire family units.

* Individuals or groups are encouraged to give in memory or in honor of former teachers and/or administrators of Faith School.

Areas Available for Giving

30 Classroom Areas — \$10,000 gift	Total - \$300,000
<i>Pays for the purchase of the school</i>	
5 Specialty Areas — \$25,000 gift	Total - \$125,000
<i>Cafeteria, Auditorium, Gym, Office Area, Ballfield</i>	
School House (300+ Team) — \$1,000 gift from 300	Total - More than \$300,000
<i>Pay debt on School House property purchase</i>	

Capital Campaign Phase II Plans

Each year, the Board of Directors plans to add a grade level to Faith Academy Charter School for students to progress through the same community school from Kindergarten through 12th grade by the academic year 2026-'27. Students will follow their same cohort of friends throughout their elementary, middle, and high school years.

Our Phase II Capital Campaign will include the building process. Construction of the new K-8 building will begin in the spring of 2022, directly across from the present school. Students will be moved to the new school, and the older building will be completely renovated for high school students.

Phase II is estimated to approach \$20 million. A land plat and architect's rendering are posted on campus.

The new school will include 36 classrooms, including:

- 20 regular classrooms on the first floor, as well as a full-sized gymnasium and stage area with storage for both areas, with locker rooms for students, as well as concessions and storage. Specialty classrooms will include a multipurpose room, a music room, conference room, offices for all personnel, an Exceptional Children office, 2 EC classrooms, and an EC testing center, office areas for a counselor, resource officer, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nurse, music, and art. There will be 2 restrooms for men and 2 for women.
- 24 regular classrooms on the second floor, for grades 5, 6, 7, and 8, to be accessed by stairs in all four corners of the building. An elevator also will be available, as well as specialty classrooms, including theater arts, 2 Exceptional Children classrooms, staff workrooms, science, life skills, and art. There will be 2 restrooms for men and 2 for women, with 1 each located on each end of the building.

An old quarry will serve as a backdrop to the new building with plans to make this area into a nature preserve for students and the community. It will be a beautiful educational area for science, biology, ecology, and green area labs study. The quarry is full of history and is a bygone way of life for many in the Faith area whose families were associated with the quarry industry.



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PO Box 182
1000 School St.
Faith, NC 28041

FaithAcademyNC.org

George Wilhelm
gwillhelm@faithacademync.org
704.798.2687

Tim Williams
twilliams@faithacademync.org
704.754.3108

Elizabeth (Liz) Morrow
emorrow@faithacademync.org
704.796.3795