

BOLD

ambition

The Campaign for Harrisburg Academy





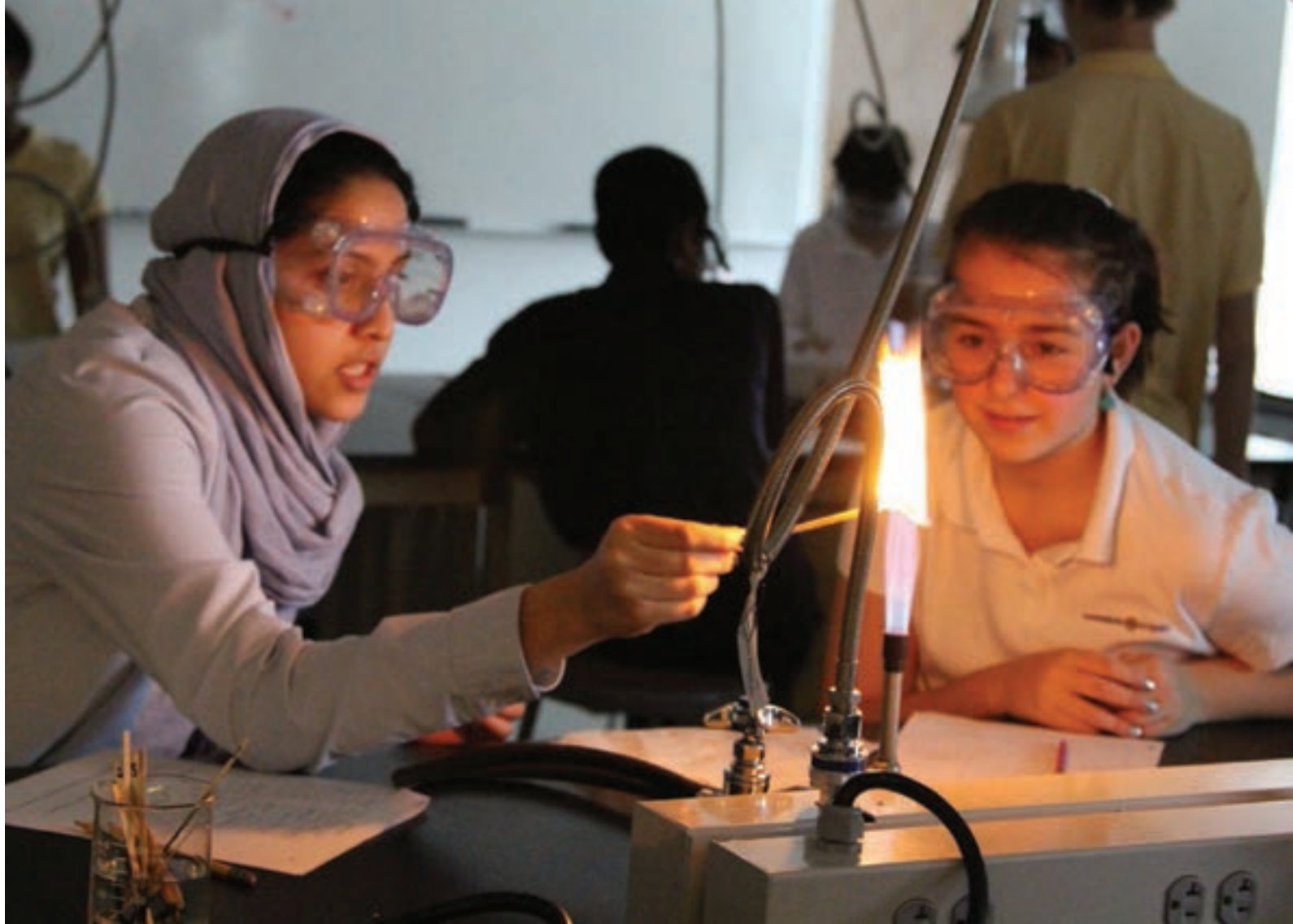
BOLDambition

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND PROGRESS:

Leading the Way with Bold Ambition

Aly Darwish '17 builds a robot during Upper School robotics class. The popular course was new for the 2014-15 academic year.



Sara Safiullah '17 lifts a wooden splint off the surface of her lab table and cautiously places it over a gas flame. Immediately, the flame shoots upward, giving off a golden glow. Safiullah and lab partner, Shula Bronner '18, grin in excitement. Then Bronner picks up a different splint from the pile of 10 and extends its tip into the fire — this time, the flame is pink.

According to Dr. David Buckthal, he performs this experiment with his students a third of the way through his chemistry course to teach about electron configuration. They are learning the specifics of atomic structure and why electrons are so important to that structure, and when they deposit the tips of the splints — all pre-soaked in various metal ion solutions — into a flame, each gives off a unique color.

Buckthal's students are hard at work in the bright and spacious chemistry classroom, using new gas jets and exhaust cones to safely perform their experiment. The space is one of four renovated Middle and Upper School science laboratories and one new classroom constructed in summer 2014 as part of Bold Ambition: The Campaign for Harrisburg Academy. This comprehensive campaign,

the school's most significant fundraising initiative since 1998, is a multi-year effort to raise \$8.5 million for facilities, the endowment, and the Academy Fund.

The new lab spaces, funded through leadership-level gifts from Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co., Inc. and others, allow for the Academy's science faculty to design multi-day, in-depth exploration of biology, physics, chemistry, and robotics. Academy students are better able to participate in active, hands-on learning applied in real-life situations because of it. But the science classroom renovations are just the beginning of this bold ambition, which will re-define the Academy's physical plant and enhance the collaborative culture of the school.

BOLD BEGINNINGS

"When I was 11, the Academy built a new auditorium, gymnasium, and science lab," said Ellen Caldwell '80 (mother of Paige '21). "It was so exciting, as a student, to see these wonderful changes! I had science class in the new lab the following year and it felt great to enjoy the new space. Now, as a parent, I feel eager about continuing to make changes that will impact the students and faculty in a powerful way."

Sara Safiullah '17 and Shula Bronner '18 complete an electrons lab assignment in Dr. David Buckthal's chemistry class.

Students have been enjoying the bright and spacious classroom space renovated during Phase I of the Bold Ambition campaign.



Visit
BoldAmbition.org
to learn more
about the
campaign and
get involved
in the
excitement.

"Although I was not present for the renovations in the 1990s, I have been able to see, firsthand, all the changes made to the facility as well as the evolution of an Academy education," she continued. "It has been 18 years since our last capital campaign, so now is our time to be bold!"

"We have been talking about a major campaign for a number of years," said head of school, Jim Newman. "To accommodate active learning, we knew we wanted larger spaces with movable desks. We also had a sense that so much of today's learning takes place outside of the classroom, so we needed to think about common spaces in the Upper School to enable student collaboration. With music and art being such strengths of our liberal arts-focused school, we also considered our future needs in these disciplines."

"We started these discussions thinking long-term about what needed to be accomplished and then worked our way forward with the support of our Board of Trustees and campaign steering committee," Newman said.

The Bold Ambition campaign traces its beginnings to 2010, when the school's leadership first engaged Murray Associates Architects P.C., a 70-year-old Harrisburg architectural practice that specializes in the education industry, to create a facilities master plan for the Academy's academic and athletics campuses. During this point in time, the Academy's Development Office also sought input from its administration, faculty members, trustees, parents, and alumni to determine the school's most important renovation and new construction needs. The group completed this facilities "road map" in 2012.

The next step for the Academy's leadership was to develop a three-year strategic plan to guide decision making. Completed in 2013, *Growing the Academy Advantage* outlined several key components, including a commitment to building upgrades and supporting the upgrades through a new, large-scale fundraising effort.

With additional input and support from The Woolbright Group, a consulting firm specializing in capital campaigns for independent schools, Newman and the Academy's Development Office staff drew up a campaign case statement and presented the plan to the Board of Trustees. Then, everyone worked to amend it based on financial and logistical considerations. The Bold Ambition campaign — the third component of three very important strategic initiatives that represent nearly four years of time and careful planning for the Academy — was finally born.

BOLD AMBITION UNDERWAY

The Academy's Board of Trustees voted unanimously in December 2013 to proceed with the Bold Ambition campaign, agreeing on the focus of their efforts: \$5.5 million for facilities renovation and new construction (with a focus on science laboratories, performing arts space, and Early Childhood classroom space); \$1.5 million for increasing the Academy's endowment; and \$1.5 million for the Academy Fund. Efforts to expand the Academy's endowment and Academy Fund started immediately, through growth of The John Harris Circle leadership giving society, active development efforts with alumni and their estate-planning considerations, and determination to extend relationships with local foundations. The most exciting of the three — physical plant upgrades, starting with the Middle School and Upper School science laboratories — began six months later.

As families gathered across the street for Closing Ceremonies at the Radisson Hotel in 2014, COR Constructions Services was already bringing heavy equipment on-site, installing temporary hallways, and knocking down walls. Ten weeks of heat, sweat, and debris later, the 2014-15 academic year opened with the completion of Phase I of the Bold Ambition campaign and the Cleveland Brothers Science Wing.

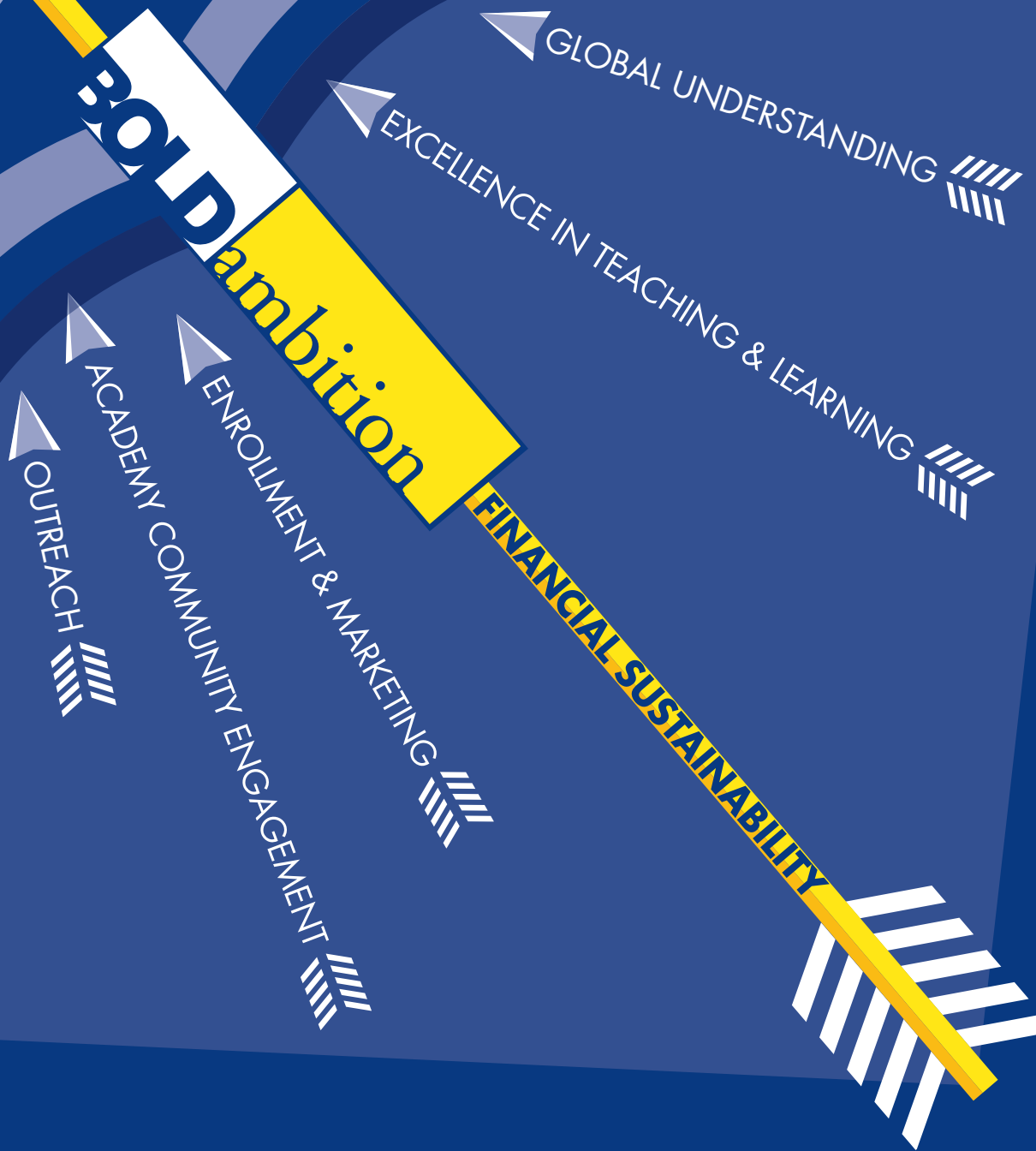
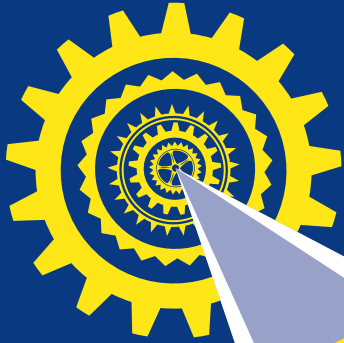
"The new space is really nice and definitely very user-friendly," said Jen Klemunes, 6th and 7th grade science teacher. "All of the counters and the sinks are great, and it's so nice to have space to prepare my materials. It used to be very tight, and now it's efficient and functional." At the end of the academic year, Klemunes' countertops housed supplies for several different lessons, including: a mass of toothpicks and raisins to test which geometric shapes are the strongest and best able to hold a baseball; a full skeleton for reference during a lesson about bones and muscles; and a large group of microscopes to look at several types of human cells.

Middle School and Upper School robotics teacher and director of the Center for Technology & Entrepreneurship, Becky Coutts, also appreciates her big, open classroom.

"Upper School and 6th grade robotics is very collaborative, with teams of two-to-three students each," she said. "It's been nice to be able to move the lab tables and have lots of floor space. They are challenged to program their robots to move around and do different tasks — having space to do this, and all of the counter space on the outside of the room for robot storage, too, has been great."

HARRISBURG ACADEMY **ON TARGET.**

THE 6 GOALS OF OUR "ADVANTAGES" STRATEGIC PLAN





US SCIENCE LAB DEMOLITION BEGINS

JUNE 10, 2014



FRAMING OUT WALLS IN AN US SCIENCE LAB

JUNE 30, 2014

JUNE 24, 2014

REMOVING THE ROOF AND WALLS/MS SCIENCE LAB DEMOLITION



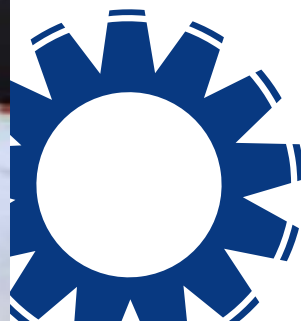
BOLD LEADERS

Harrisburg Academy is grateful for the early support of several leadership-level donors to the Bold Ambition campaign. Their generous gifts helped fund the renovation of the science laboratories, which now comprise the Cleveland Brothers Science Wing, and the endowment of Harrisburg Academy.

Richard & Marilyn Abrams

**Anonymous,
current parents**

Roberta Baldwin estate



**MS AND US LAB
TABLES AND EQUIPMENT
ARRIVE AND ARE INSTALLED**

JULY 10, 2014

**US SCIENCE LAB
DRYWALL IS
INSTALLED**

AUG 7, 2014

AUG 25, 2014

**LAB SPACES
UNVEILED AT BACK-
TO-SCHOOL PICNIC**



Ellen Osler Caldwell '80

Mark Caldwell

**Cleveland Brothers
Equipment Co., Inc.**

**Marie Graupner
Elias estate**

The John Crain Kunkel Foundation

**Steven Sorem & Jean
Woodworth-Sorem**

Marian Spong estate



Benedict Dubbs, AIA LEED AP and owner of Murray Associates, too, thinks the Academy was successful in its efforts to create a more collaborative space, but from a different point of view.

“One of my favorite elements in the new science laboratories is the big classroom windows,” he said. “The introduction of natural light in the Upper School hallway has made it a very different space. We always thought, architecturally, that the Upper School kids saw their peers, but the Lower School kids walking by now have the ability to visually connect with their peers, too. There

is an atmosphere at the Academy that creates mentorship among students of different ages, and this really is a way to change how students are educated by how they engage with each other, with this window into their environment.”

BOLD PERFORMANCE CONTINUES

In January 2015, the public phase of the Bold Ambition campaign began, with Newman and Board of Trustees president, Seth Mendelsohn, announcing campaign plans for the next three years. The message was met with great excitement across the Academy community, Newman said.



Then on March 3, the Academy's trustees approved Phase II for facility renovations — a three-part project to renovate and create new performing arts space. At this time, construction is well underway for part 1 of the project, the McCormick Auditorium Commons. This part includes renovation of the foyer adjacent to McCormick Auditorium and the hallway leading to the band room, and construction of a new hallway that will connect to the music suite [see right]. After part 1 concludes in August, the school's leadership will commence with parts 2 and 3, beginning this fall and with a tentative completion date of August 2016, funding-dependent.

One of two music classrooms that will be built during the performing arts phase (Phase II), part 2, of the Bold Ambition campaign.

PERFORMING ARTS PHASE, PART 1:

McCormick Auditorium Commons and Hallways

Scheduled to be completed August 2015

We will renovate the foyer adjacent to McCormick Auditorium and the hallway leading to the band room; we will construct a new hallway that will connect to the music suite.

PERFORMING ARTS PHASE, PART 2:

The Music Suite

*Scheduled to be completed Spring 2016,
funding dependent*

We will construct a new music suite, whose footprint is where faculty and staff now park behind our Middle School science rooms. The music suite includes two large instruction rooms, four smaller practice rooms, and instrument storage. The music suite will connect to the new hallway built during summer 2015 and the MS/US Library.

PERFORMING ARTS PHASE, PART 3:

MS/US Hallways and Lockers

*Schedule to be completed August 2016,
funding dependent*

We will overhaul our two Middle School and two Upper School hallways, including new lighting, flooring, and wooden lockers. We hope to engage our students and alumni to "sponsor a locker." All who participate will be recognized through installation of a nameplate on their sponsored locker.



"I think the music suite will engage the building in a different way," Dubbs said. "We are trying to find things that will increase cohesiveness across the building and pull it together by developing 'points of interest' through interior brick or ceiling treatments. It's important to have a destination to take visitors, and they will be coming into a major strength of the Academy through the school's McCormick Auditorium Commons and new performing arts spaces."

"It will be a fun space, and virtually everyone in the school will use it," Dubbs continued. "Like the science laboratories, the spaces themselves will take on a much more functional role and allow the faculty to do things they haven't been able to do with students up to this point. The Academy's music program is phenomenal right now, but this change will elevate it to a totally different level. I only see it getting better," he said.

"I think this change will cause the music department to become a nucleus for creativity and innovation," said Michael Gamon, head of the Academy's fine and performing arts department. "With the additional instructional space, performance space, and studios, students will finally have the venues to explore and express music to their potential. The new performing arts space underscores that music is for everyone, that it builds community, and that parents, students, and teachers are all integral to learning and innovation."

OUR NEXT BOLD STEPS FOR THE FUTURE

"Completing the first two phases of the capital portion of our campaign — science lab renovations and performing arts spaces — will position us very well to complete the third and future ones," said Kevin Muirhead, head of Early Childhood and Lower School. The most important component of Phase III, construction of an Early Childhood Center, is also related to space and organization.

"Our faculty can't wait for the opportunity to have more space," he said. "A major element in the environment we seek to create for our emerging learners is the space to accommodate both individual and group discovery. My faculty performs small miracles each day in the space we've got... these renovations will have a direct impact on the teaching and learning at our school and will enable our teachers to take student success to the next level."

Plans developed by Murray Associates call for a new 10,000-square-foot wing constructed to house the Academy's entire Early Childhood program. Besides larger instructional space — classroom size will increase

by nearly 40 percent — the new wing will take into consideration the unique needs of the Academy's youngest students. It will be sited on the ground floor and facing eastward to provide separate and convenient access for parents during student drop-off and pick-up.

The benefits of the new space will also impact the Academy's Lower School students and teachers. Plans call for former Early Childhood classrooms to be renovated and absorbed into the Lower School, increasing classroom size and providing a new science laboratory, technology laboratory, and conference room. To facilitate easier student access, the Claire Reynolds Joyce Lower School Library will also relocate upstairs to the heart of the Lower School.

"In many ways," said Newman, "completing all three capital phases of the Bold Ambition campaign will see a 25-year vision realized. In the 1990s, school leadership strived to create separate and meaningful instructional space for each of the Academy's four divisions.

With these major renovations, students will be able to enter the Academy as emerging learners in Early Childhood and graduate 15 years later with experiences that were enhanced by our outstanding faculty and staff, and by the unique learning spaces we will have created for them."

REFLECTIONS ON BOLD AMBITION

The environment in which students learn plays a huge role in the success of the learning process, Newman said, and environment is two things — the physical setting and also the spirit of the classroom. He is excited to be at this point in the campaign because renovated and new spaces will allow the Academy's physical structure to mirror the quality of learning currently happening in its classrooms. "When you have the combination of the spirit created for learning and the right kind of physical setting with a committed and experienced teacher, it's a formula for success," Newman said.

What is Bold Ambition? Newman says it's the willingness to dream big for the benefits of the Academy's students and faculty, and to take risks that are rooted in data. Being bold is to think about those dreams and have the drive and commitment to reach these goals — and to never be willing to settle for something less than the Academy's students or faculty should have.

Visit
BoldAmbition.org
to learn more
about the
campaign and
get involved
in the
excitement.

BE BOLD. BE AMBITIOUS.

Now it's time to get involved.

Find more information, take action,
and help us stay on-target! **LOG ON NOW!**

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BOLD ambition

The Campaign for Harrisburg Academy