

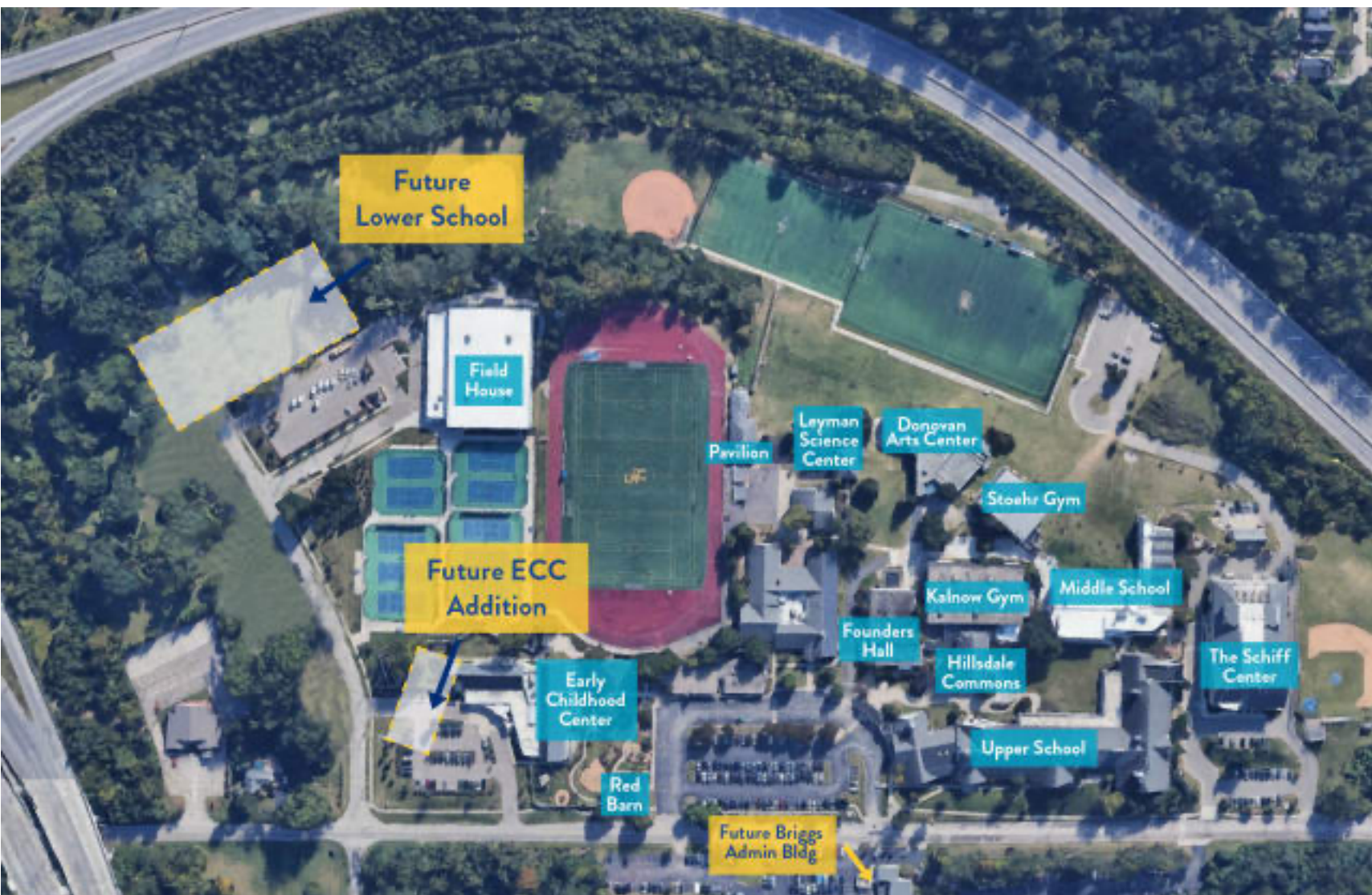
May 6, 2025

Dear Seven Hills Families,

I am writing to share with you a series of exciting developments and updates related to campus unification. Coupled with last week's announcement about Seven Hills' [sale of the Doherty Campus to Springer School and Center](#), I believe that the news below gives us a lot to celebrate as we close out the first year of our "unification trilogy."

“A Campus within a Campus” for our Lower School

Over the course of the year, we have heard a clear desire from parents, students, and faculty members alike for the new Lower School to feel like a "campus within a campus" and a "community within a community." To fully realize this ideal, we will be locating the new Lower School at the green and wooded north end of the Hillsdale Campus.



A Location that Best Serves our Children

We see so many benefits to this new location. Building to the north ...

- Creates a "**campus within a campus**" and a "community within a community."
- Sets the Lower School in a green and wooded area of campus that will give students **easy access to nature and to our new outdoor education program**.
- Offers a much larger building site and hence a more **gracious and light-filled building**.
- Provides enough space to include a **Lower School cafeteria** in the new building, hence creating a more comprehensive experience for the students.
- Offers proximity to **athletic facilities**, which will be integrated into the Lower School program, including the Field House, the tennis courts, the track and upper field, and the cross country course.
- Positions the Lower School **close to the Early Childhood Center**.
- Alleviates Hillsdale traffic congestion by providing a **separate road for Lower School drop-off and pick-up**.
- Makes it easy for parents to get out of their cars and **walk their children into the Lower School** in the morning.

I believe that this new location offers the best of a stand-alone Lower School like Doherty and a PreK-12 campus like Hillsdale.

I'm grateful to the Board of Trustees' foresight and leadership over the decades, which led to our acquiring the land at the north end of campus, and to the many creative thinkers — on the Board and administration, among our architects and consultants, and within our parent and faculty communities — who helped us to identify and align on this exciting new plan for the Lower School.

Construction Implications and the Plan for 2026-27

There is an additional benefit to building to the north: this entire project can take place in a self-contained way, without disrupting other activities on campus and without initially requiring that the Lotspeich, Briggs, and Meckel buildings come down. In light of this, we are unwinding our earlier plan of moving Lotspeich students to Doherty in 2026-27. Instead...

- Doherty pre-kindergarten and Lower School students and teachers will **remain at Doherty until 2027**.
- Lotspeich pre-kindergarten and Lower School students and teachers will **remain in their buildings until 2027**.
- Students will move into the expanded Early Childhood Center and new Lower School building in **August 2027**.

I am sorry for any disruption caused by this change to the 2026-27 plan. We have seized on the opportunity to build in a way that will be most beneficial for our students both in the short term and for years to come. Of course, we will still create many experiences through which students will connect with each other across campuses over the next two years.

The Doherty Lotspeich Lower School

I'm excited to share an initial image of what we will be calling the **Doherty Lotspeich Lower School**. Set at the north end of the Hillsdale Campus against the backdrop of a grove of 300-year-old oak trees, the building features classrooms, "specials" rooms for classes such as science, Spanish, and the arts, a library, a cafeteria, common spaces, and more.

The rendering below is an early-stage representation of what is possible in this space.



The expansive and green north end of campus allows us to construct a building that offers so many of the elements that students, teachers, and parents have identified as being important to them, including:

- Spacious classrooms,
- Natural light,
- Places for students to come together as a community, and
- Easy access to the outdoors, including to both playgrounds and to nature.

Moreover, in keeping with our commitment to student health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability, this will be Seven Hills' first **LEED Certified building**. I'm confident that the Doherty Lotspeich Lower School will set the standard for primary education for decades to come.

Unification Town Hall

I'll be sending out at least one more update in the next week or so, and I would also like to invite you to attend our Unification Town Hall on May 22 at 7 p.m. in Founders Hall. Thank you for your support and partnership over the course of the year. I'm proud of everything that we've accomplished together and excited about what the next few years will bring.

Best,
Matt

Matthew Bolton, Ph.D.
Head of School



The Seven Hills School
Hillsdale Campus: 5400 Red Bank Road, Cincinnati, OH 45227
Doherty Campus: 2726 Johnstone Place, Cincinnati, OH 45206

513.728.2400
<https://www.7hills.org>
<https://gostingers.com/>

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