

Penn Christian Academy ~ Butler, PA

PROJECT GROW AND EXPAND

Cindy Dodds, Executive Director



Project Summary

Penn Christian Academy currently serves 335 students in Preschool through 6th grades. There has been a 140% increase in enrollment since the fall of 2006 (over a 5-year period), resulting in the need for more space. This project was designed to:

- capture the concept or process that led to the growth,
- facilitate continued growth,
- provide a structure to raise the capital funds needed to build additional facilities to accommodate the growth,
- and begin the process of adding middle school programming to the current school.

Project Results

The school gained a better understanding of the key development processes that led to their growth so that it could be replicated.

Over one million dollars in capital funds were raised to enable the first phase (Science Lab) of a series of building projects to begin. Groundbreaking was on June 4, 2012.

The process of expansion to offer middle school programming began. Curriculum was developed, some resources were purchased, and the facility is in the final design phase.



What We Learned

First, understand and commit to a process for growth and development. Persevere through the challenges along the way.

Second, develop a team of leaders—committed to the mission—to provide the vital leadership needed to fulfill key development initiatives. You can't do it alone.

Third, get to know the constituency, get them onboard, and keep communicating with them.

Fourth, be prepared for obstacles along the way. If you build a facility, get your permits in order. Understand that most construction work costs more than you planned and will take longer than you thought. Provide a contingency fund for these kinds of obstacles.

Finally, prayer and discernment along the way is essential. Enlist the help of Godly people and consult with them often.

