

Your Questions Answered

QUESTION

Why doesn't Castilleja split its campus as other schools have done?

ANSWER

Other schools have opened new campuses when they have grown by over 60% or created entirely new divisions. By contrast, Castilleja is seeking a 6% enrollment increase in our Upper School in year one. If the TDM program succeeds, the Upper School will grow by another 6% annually to a total of 30 percent, an increase that does not justify a second campus. Furthermore, splitting campuses is not the same for an all girls school as it is for a coed school. Remaining on one campus allows for mentorship, an essential element of girls' education. Therefore, we have chosen incremental growth with a cap at 30% rather than larger-scale growth that would require a second campus and run counter to our mission.

QUESTION

Will the garage bring more cars to the neighborhood?

ANSWER

We will not permit more cars because our new CUP limits car trips to campus. Instead, the garage is designed to streamline pickup and drop-off and move parking below ground. Since 2013, when the City asked the school to launch a more robust Traffic Demand Management (TDM) program, Castilleja has reduced the number of peak car trips to campus by 31 percent. Our proposed increase in enrollment is contingent upon continuing our successful TDM program; we will only be permitted to grow if we keep cars to campus below our City-approved limit.



QUESTION

Is Castilleja violating its CUP?

ANSWER

In 2012, Head of School Nanci Kauffman came forward to report that the school was over-enrolled. In early 2014, the City established an enrollment reduction schedule, which the school has followed faithfully.

Your Questions Answered

Continued

QUESTION

How does Castilleja's plan affect its trees and greenspace?

ANSWER

Our reimagined campus will create more open space, with a new park along Emerson that will be shared with neighbors. We will need to remove approximately 35 trees from campus, many of them diseased and drought stressed. Approximately nine others will be relocated to another setting. The remaining 130 trees will be preserved, and at least 50 will be added for a net increase of trees to preserve the rich natural history of our campus.



QUESTION

Has Castilleja engaged the community about its Master Plan and CUP process?

ANSWER

Since 2012, the school has held more than 30 community meetings. This has provided neighbors the opportunity to learn about the plan and share feedback that has been incorporated into the school's proposal.

QUESTION

What is the duration of construction?

ANSWER

Finally, regarding the time frame for construction, we estimate the project will take less than three years to complete. Within that period, the garage will be completed first. As that work concludes, the construction of other aspects of our Master Plan will begin. We are committed to minimizing disruption during the construction phase and therefore are deeply invested in completing the work as quickly as possible.