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Education

Meredith Dunn School launches capital campaign for building expansion



A private school is seeking about \$4.5 million for a 23,000-square-foot expansion.

COURTESY MEREDITH DUNN SCHOOL, LICHTEFELD INC.



By [Piper Hansen](#) – Reporter, Louisville Business First
Jun 26, 2024 **Updated** Jun 26, 2024 4:24pm EDT



A local private school has launched a capital campaign to fund an expansion of its existing schoolhouse.

The Meredith Dunn School is seeking about \$4.5 million for a 23,000-square-foot expansion, said Head of School Rebecca Roberts, who assumed the role earlier this month. She hopes construction will begin sometime during the 2024-25 school year and for it to be complete by next summer, so students can use the facilities starting at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

The new building will be attached to an existing gym the school built in 2012, where students currently eat lunch. It will extend into a field behind the school and house a new entryway, centralized media room, self-contained lunchroom, music room and six additional classrooms for middle schoolers.

The expansion project, called "Connecting Today By Transforming Tomorrow," will help launch the school and its students into 21st century learning styles, Roberts said.

The school is located at 3023 Melbourne Ave. just off Hikes Lane and serves students in first through eighth grades who have language-based learning disorders like dyslexia, auditory processing disorder and others.

"We have a lot of love here and a lot of history here, and you really do feel that when you walk in the building," Roberts said. "But, we also want to make sure that we are forward thinking and that we meet the needs of our students in this rapidly changing world, in this era of technology. So as the face of education changes, so will the face of our building."

Roberts said Lichtefeld Inc. is the architecture and engineering partner on the project. That company's VP of operations, Mark Lichtefeld is a former school trustee, according to [the school's 2019 Form 990](#), which is the most recent filing we could find on record.

[As previously reported by Louisville Business First](#), Lichtefeld was founded in 1918 as a home remodeling and repair company. The fourth generation family-owned business

specializes in design and general contracting and develops commercial and industrial facilities in the Louisville area.

Roberts said the school is "well on its way" to meeting the goal and already has about \$1.5 million in commitments. Roberts said so far, donations have come from foundations, community members and school community leaders.

Meredith Dunn is one of the area's largest independent schools, according to LBF research. According to the Form 990, the school had just over \$3.27 million in assets. That same LBF research shows there were 190 students enrolled at the school for the 2023-24 school year. Tuition is over \$17,000 a year, according to LBF research. The school's website says each student received a \$2,000 aid gift and 35% of its students receive other financial assistance.

Roberts became head of school at the start of June after teaching eighth grade. She has been working as director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment since 2021. According to the Form 990, a previous head of school made an annual salary of about \$111,000.

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