



Nampa Christian High School *Nampa, Idaho*

NAMPA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL is realizing a dream come true with a new high school building designed to accommodate a growing student body and provide students with state-of-the-art amenities.

"The existing property was getting crowded," Kevin Rex, the high school principal, told the Idaho Press. "We felt blessed to get here when we did."

Nampa Christian School can be traced back to the early 1900s, when the Treasure Valley – the lowland areas between Vale, Oregon and Boise, Idaho – were dotted with small Christian schools. In the 60s, three of these schools in Nampa, located about 20 miles from Boise, merged to form what is now known as Nampa Christian School.

Through the years, the K-12 nondenominational Christian school added buildings to accommodate its growing population. But by the turn of the century, the some classes were being held in portable units. It became obvious that another building was needed. The school wanted to build a new high school and move its middle school students into the existing high school building so that everyone could spread out.

The school identified property about two miles from its existing campus, where architects with Building God's Way (BGW) created a plan that could be built in phases as more funding became available. The first phase included an 80,000-square-foot, \$10.5 million high school building with hallways and 21 classrooms wrapping around a centrally located gymnasium, which would remain unfinished until more funding became available. The unique layout with classrooms wrapping around the gym would offer energy efficiency.

Phase two of the master plan involved finishing the gymnasium and building a separate outdoor athletic complex and athletic fields, as well as completing several additional classrooms.

Phase one of the project would allow Nampa to increase its enrollment from about 240 to 400, and phase two would allow for enrollment to increase to as many as 580 students.

The interior of the high school was designed to look modern and be not only beautiful but also functional and sustainable. It includes a large lobby area with wide hallways, full service classrooms, and a high-tech kitchen and cafeteria.



The gym, once completed, would be state-of-the-art with accompanying locker rooms. In the interim, the school would continue to use the gym and athletic fields at the old school for competitions.

The exterior of the building was designed to blend in with the beautiful Nampa, Idaho, scenery. Architects designed it with soft coral stucco exterior accented with brick for a natural look and feel.

The school began a capital campaign and pulled in about \$7.5 million. Construction began on phase one in 2006 with a goal of opening in time for the 2007-2008 school year. Construction issues prevented the school from reaching its target opening date, but did not impact daily operation at the school. Instead, students and staff were able to move into the building in January 2008.

Though the school opened later than planned, students were not disappointed. In fact, then-senior-class president Brittney Downs told the Idaho Press that students were "excited to be the last class from the old school and the first class at the new school."

A year later, the gymnasium was completed and dedicated.

Since then, Nampa hasn't stopped focusing on its goal to complete the second phase of the project. This spring, the school will break ground on its new athletic complex and fields.

"This really isn't about athletics. It's about developing the whole individual," superintendent Eric Forseth told the Idaho Press.

The new \$4 million complex will sit on 20 acres and will include new softball and baseball fields, a football field inside a new track, and accompanying bleachers and concessions. The complex is expected to be completed by 2015 or 2016.

Nampa's vision does not stop there. Once the athletic complex is

completed, the school hopes to focus on adding an auditorium and a professional technical building to the campus, a project that will help the school achieve its goal of providing spiritual, academic, physical, and social development of its students. **CSP**

Building God's Way (BGW) offers a network of services exclusively to Christian Ministries. BGW has worked with hundreds of churches, Christian schools and colleges nationwide and has become a recognized leader in the areas of church design, church architecture, and church building and construction, www.bgwservices.com.

★ FAST FACTS ★

School: Nampa Christian High School

Location: Nampa, Idaho

Grades: PreK-12

Project Goal: To build a new high school building to accommodate a growing student body

Size: 80,000 square feet

Cost: \$10.5 million

Challenge: Building the new building and campus amenities without going into debt

Solution: Building the project in phases as more funding became available



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Nampa Christian High School

Nampa, ID

a BUILDING GOD'S WAY project

Owner
Nampa Christian High School

Project Size
15,690 SF

Project Scope
Gymnasium
Locker rooms
Classrooms
Cafeteria

Completed
January 2008

Contact
Eric Forseth,
Superintendent
208-475-1705

Nampa Christian High School's new building offers students a positive atmosphere in which to build their educational experience. Nampa Christian School is a nondenominational biblically based, learning community that partners with Christian families to develop a Christian world view, promote academic excellence, and prepare students (PreK-12). This design required our builders and architects to supply all the amenities for each age group.

Set in a beautiful area of Nampa, Idaho, this school blends well with its environment. The soft coral stucco exterior accented with brick give it a natural look and feel. The modern interior is not only beautiful, but highly functional and sustainable. Large lobby area, wide hallways, full service classrooms, state-of-the-art gymnasium with accompanying locker rooms as well as a high-tech kitchen and cafeteria make this a key design in school architecture.

