

# De La Salle Santiago Zobel is set to extend campus in Vermosa

Karl Angelica R. Ocampo

"ST. LA SALLE is an innovator during his time because the language for the students was in Latin but he said the children will learn more if it's in their mother tongue and that was French, and so he started using the vernacular for teaching. This is the same thing with using this type of education, the language of technology, they're (students) so familiar."

One hundred and four years after the Lasallian brothers came to the Philippines, De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) president Brother Bernard

"Bernie" Oca, FSC, still likens the school's new pedagogy into their founder's most inspiring story. As a response to the needs of 21st century students, DLSZ has renewed its thriving partnership with Ayala Land, as it builds an extension campus in Vermosa, Imus, Cavite to cater more students in southern Mega Manila.

Spanning across Dasmarinas and Imus, the six-hectare estate and seed fund donated by the estate conglomerate is set to form the concrete foundation of both the beginning and continuation of



the learning-centered type of education for DLSZ, as they usher into a new curriculum and setting. With the merging of "blended learning" (the incorporation of use of technology into the curriculum) and Vermosa's modern facilities, expect that students will be "well-prepared for



any program of the university of their choice" while doing away with the traditional school setting.

The partnership is set to compli-

ment both the school and the prized estate of Ayala Land, aiming to present a holistic community for residents and students alike.





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**Brother Bernard “Bernie” Oca, FSC, President of De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ)**

school but a preparation for college,” Bro. Bernie shares in an interview.

The DLSZ-Vermosa campus, bound to open next year in time for the first batch of K-12 senior high school stu-

dents, will be a trailblazer in technology-supported learning in Philippine education. The school emphasizes that the extension in Vermosa will help develop the child with skills that are necessary to

succeed in the 21st century, as they will train the students to solve real problems by delimiting the lessons inside the four walls of a typical classroom.

“What is very exciting here in the new school is that we want it to make the children find what they’re very very good at and then to be able to do that anywhere and learn anywhere outside the four walls of the classroom. So for example, if they’re very very good in Math, they have regular academic courses about that but there will be a lot of time and just concentrate on training for Math. If they’re good in robotics, then they’ll have a lot of time practicing and developing their robots. If they’re good in dance then they’ll dance and if paint they will paint; if they are athletes they will be very very good athletes,” Bro. Bernie shares as he talks about their vision for the DLSZ-Vermosa.

### **Vermosa Sports and Lifestyle Complex**





### Vermosa Sports & Lifestyle Complex Artist's Perspective

The future senior high school students of DLSZ-Vermosa will be the first to enjoy the sports and lifestyle complex that comes with the modern suburban community offered by Vermosa. It is the first in the country to include an Olympicsize pool designed for international competition, a 400-meter track

and field, a motocross and bike skills trail, and a sports science lab in a community. These facilities can be used by the students at certain times and will remain a priority despite its availability to the public.

Both Ayala Land and DLSZ keep their fingers crossed that with these

state of the art facilities, DLSZ's athletes will represent the Philippines in both local and international competitions. Jay Teodoro, Ayala Land Division Manager and Estate Head of Vermosa, tells that the Sports Science laboratory will be operated by coaches and trainers who have proven track record working with highly successful athletes. In fact, one of the coaches is a partner in a similar facility in Hong Kong and was responsible for training an Olympic bronze medalist and gold medalist in the cycling world championships.

Teodoro describes the sports and lifestyle complex as an "athlete training facility primarily catering to the growing triathlon market and related sports such as marathon, swimming and cycling." To date, the Sports Science Laboratory is the most advanced in the country.

While definitely a modern community, Vermosa will still stay true to its commitment of providing an environment-friendly neighbourhood with gardens and open spaces. Certainly, De La





DLSZ Grade School Building Artist's Perspective

Salle

“It will be very good, at least the way I think, that the senior high school be in a different campus

because they will not feel this is just an extension of high school but a preparation for college” — Brother Bernard “Bernie” Oca, FSC

Could not have chosen a greener location to complement its advocacies and official logo to annex its campus in Cavite.

Even the students attest to the

Lasallian values to which Bro. Bernie regard as their advantage to other schools, along with the brand they carry as a La Salle school.

As DLSZ’s president, the brother takes pride with the stories of generosity by their students. He hopes that they would be able to produce and develop more students that will help the nation while also living by their faith.

True to the Lasallian tagline “Igniting the spark,” De La Salle has proven itself to be one of the best schools in the country. With the brand it carries, the prime location it is situated and the students it produce, DLSZ-Vermosa will only bring more laurels to the already accomplished institution.

To date, the partnership of Ayala Land and DLSZ started in 1978 . This collaboration has been longstanding and fruitful, contributing to the creation of a vibrant and progressive community in Southern Metro Manila.

“Vermosa will stay true to its commitment of providing an environment-friendly neighbourhood with gardens and open spaces. Certainly, De La Salle Santiago Zobel could not have chosen a greener location as an extension to its Campus in Ayala Alabang.”

— Jay Teodoro

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