



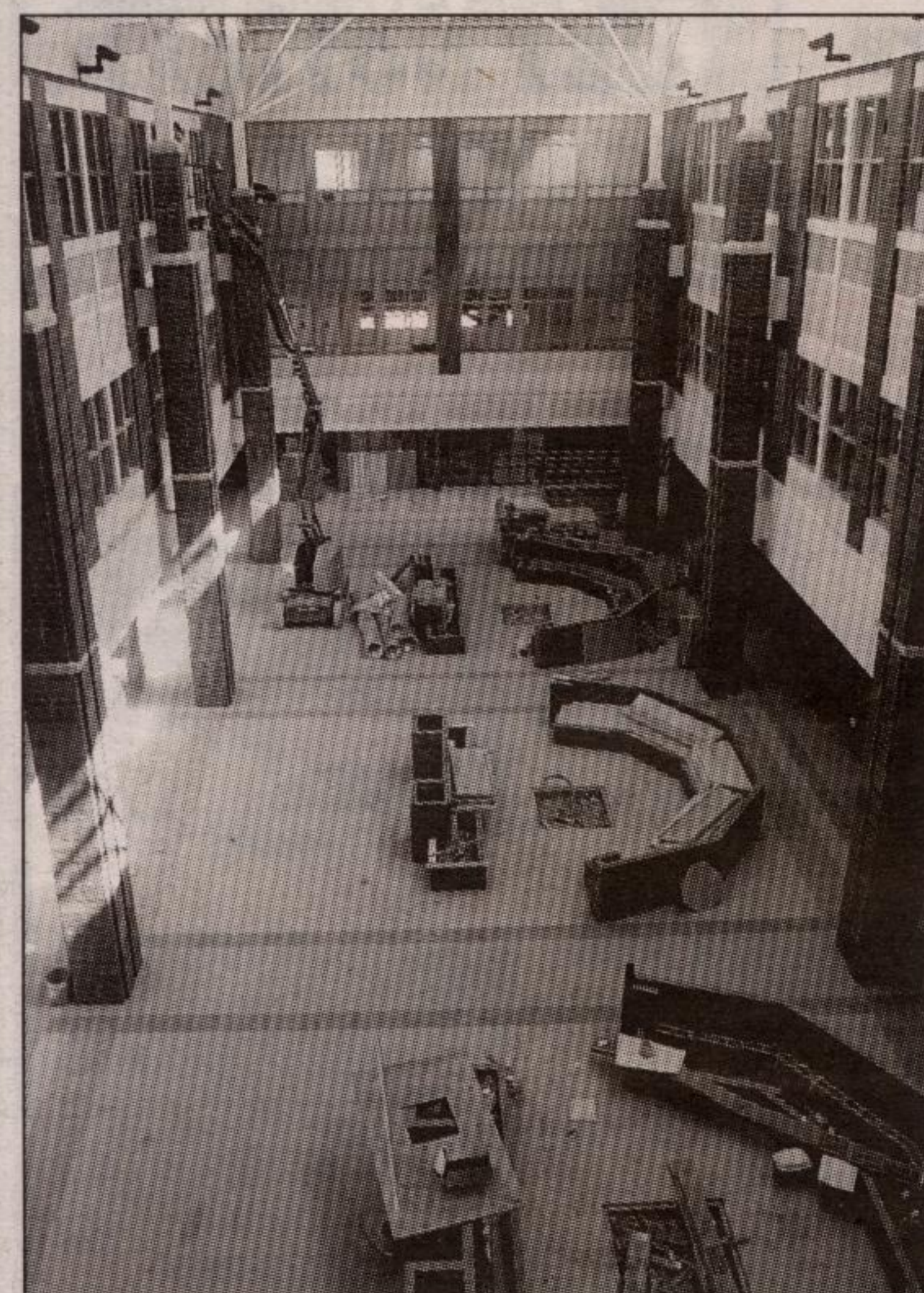
Christ the King, Georgetown's new, and first, Catholic high school as it appeared in September 2001 (left) and how it looks today.

Photos by Ted Brown



Christ the King students Jaime Broadbent and Jeremy Letkemann sit in the school's completed atrium. Below, an aerial view taken a month ago before three trees were added.

Photos by Herb Garbutt



Christ the King New Catholic high school opens

For once, Grade 9s weren't the only students having to face the challenge of finding their lockers and classrooms on the first day of school.

When Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, Halton Hills' first Catholic high school, opened its doors Tuesday morning, everyone was on equal footing when it came to finding their way around.

"It's very big," said Grade 9 student Felicia Fasulo. "There's lots of light. It's not gloomy. It's shiny."

The fact the school was shiny meant all went well with the final cleanup as crews hurried to get the school ready for its first day. Christ the King, located on Guelph St. between Maple Ave. and Mountainview Rd., is the new home for 630 students and has a staff of 55, including 39 teachers. Approximately half of the staff has come from Bishop Reding in Milton, among them vice-principal Jim Locke. Nijole Vaitonis, a vice-principal at Notre Dame last year, will be the school's first principal.

"It's exciting," Vaitonis said of opening a new school. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the students of Halton Hills to create a new Catholic learning community."

"It's big but it's easy to get around," said Jaime Broadbent, a Grade 9 student who got a chance to check out her new school at an orientation last week.

And though fellow Grade 9 student Laura Broadley had the usual reservations about being the youngest student in the school, the transition will actually be easier for this year's Grade 9s. First of all, there will be no senior students this year. Halton Hills students in Grade 12 and OAC will finish their high school careers at Bishop Reding. Secondly, the school population will be smaller with only three grades attending the school. The school is built for as many as 1,131 students.

Students have been impressed with what they've seen so far.

"The gym is huge," said Dan Rankin. "It has to be seven times bigger than the one at Holy Cross."

The triple gym is just one of the impressive features of the 165,000 square-foot school, which also includes:



Jeremy Letkemann, Dan Rankin, Jaime Broadbent, Jesse Washbourne, Laura Broadley and Ian Butcher are among the 630 students who will attend Christ the King this year.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

- a 357-seat theatre
- a 120-seat chapel with stained glass windows
- 30 general use classrooms
- seven computer labs equipped with Pentium 4 computers
- six science labs
- media arts and cosmetology labs
- four tech rooms including wordworking, mechanical, automotive shops and a cosmetology room
- two music rooms
- two visual arts rooms
- a food and nutrition room
- a graphic communications room

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Cafeteria manager Nancy McFadden of Aramark Campus Services passes plates to Dan Rankin and Laura Broadley in the school's cafeteria.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

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