



Colin L. Powell Academy Project Update Meeting | September 14, 2023 Questions & Answers

Will these slides be shared with those who registered?

The presentation and meeting recording will be available on the Colin Powell project website at www.pgcps.org/offices/capital-programs/projects/colin-powell.

Will there be panic buttons in all classrooms?

Yes, all school doors are equipped with lock buttons to secure entry.

What is the estimated time for car drop off?

The school doors will open at 7:45 am.

Are clear backpacks going to be required?

Yes, clear backpacks will be required for the middle school students (grades 6-8).

How long will we be waiting in the car line to drop off your child? 30 minutes or more?

At this time, we anticipate the wait to be 20-25 minutes.

My neighborhood is "walking 2 miles". There is no bus assigned to us. When will we receive the bus information?

Please check SchoolMax to see if you are listed as a car rider. More information on signing up for the car rider system will be given in the upcoming weeks.

How are you adjusting the traffic on Fort Washington Rd to Livingston Rd to minimize backups? Currently, it's backing up without the additional traffic.

We will not be adjusting the traffic patterns. As Principal Lattimore stated, parents will be given instructions on the pick-up and drop-off procedures and traffic patterns, which will avoid additional traffic back-ups in the area.

Do we know if there will be a uniform policy, and if so, do we know the colors?

Currently, we are voting on all aspects of the school policies and identity. Students will continue to wear their respective uniforms from their original schools until a decision is made for the new school.

How does SchoolPass track the children?

We have two different systems, SmartPass and SchoolPass. SmartPass is our hallway monitoring system. It allows us to know when students are not in their classrooms, which is especially important in an emergency. There is no GPS tracking with this system. It simply gives us information on where the student should be (i.e., the bathroom or the nurse's office). SchoolPass is for the car-riders system. This system helps us, especially with dismissal. It tells us when the parent has arrived in the pick-up line and when to bring the student out.



How can nearby community members who do not have students learn about school events and activities?

Every Sunday, the school will distribute a newsletter with information on upcoming events and additional Colin Powell Academy news. To sign up, visit the Colin Powell Academy social media pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or if you are a parent at the school, visit Class Dojo.

Are the children walking through the halls with their laptops? In reference to the hall monitoring software.

No. The students will have laptops for instruction but will not be logging into SmartPass. The teacher will mark when the student leaves and returns and where they are going in SmartPass. Think of the system as a digital hall pass.

Are there panic buttons or blue lights in the outside areas, especially near the protected wildlife?

There are not. As we move into the maintenance period, we will continue to evaluate and determine if additional security measures are necessary.

The new school is my boundary school for Collin Powell. How can I get her registered at Collin Powell?

For this 2023-2024 school year, the only students attending Colin Powell will be those who started the year at Isaac Gourdine and Potomac Landing. All students within the boundary will attend the school starting next school year.

With the school pass, if multiple people pick up the child on different occasions, does everyone need to have a badge on the car to be scanned?

Yes. We will share more information as soon as we solidify plans with the system company, but the understanding is that everyone picking up the child will need a badge.

Is there any chance that the bus pick-ups/drop-offs will improve with the move to the new school?

Yes, this is the goal of the Transportation Office. As you know, we are facing a bus driver shortage right now in the district. We plan to hire more drivers as the school year progresses so that we can fill the gaps in bus routes. That said, we anticipate the route times will improve once the population moves into Colin Powell.

We currently have a bus route that is consistently late. Can Transportation speak to efforts to get things running on schedule?

Yes, this is the goal of the Transportation Office. As you know, we are facing a bus driver shortage right now in the district. We plan to hire more drivers as the school year progresses so that we can fill the gaps in bus routes. That said, we anticipate the route times will improve once the population moves into Colin Powell. Additionally, we are working on ways to improve the communication with parents. For now, please use the Stop Finder app and ensure your email is updated in SchoolMax.



Are the upper and lower levels physically divided/separated?

Yes. The building is split into two towers or sides: the elementary side and the middle school side. The two student populations will remain separated at all times.

How will we be ensured the upper class remains separated from the lower class, e.g., keeping pre-k and 1st graders away from the bigger kids?

The building is split into two towers or sides: the elementary side and the middle school side. The two student populations will remain separated at all times.

How many resource officers will be available on a daily basis? Will there be crossing guards and or traffic monitors, lastly - what is the tactical capability of the VII district with respect to an active shooter situation

There will be two (2) security assistants stationed at the school who are overseen by the PGCPSS Office of Safety and Security Services. In regards to active shooter situations, all officers in District VII have received thorough tactical training in active shooter situations and are fully prepared to respond in the event of one. Unfortunately, the county's Traffic Safety Division is unable to provide crossing guards at this site due to a staffing shortage.

Will MNCCP be working out of this school for after-school activities?

No, MNCPPC will remain in their space at Potomac Landing.

If we are typically bus riders but might occasionally pick up, will we also need a tag?

We recommend that, if there is a chance you will be picking up your bus rider on occasion, you sign up for the SchoolPass systems and pick up a tag.

Will there be van pick-up areas for after-school programs?

Yes, the vans will be in the same area as the car pick-up area and will be enrolled in the SchoolPass system as well.

How will the integration of the Rose Valley students and staff be handled?

Rose Valley integration will begin next school year and will be like the typical beginning of the school year. All students and families that fall within the Colin Powell boundary will be sent a notification in the spring and receive all the information necessary on the transition to Colin Powell.

We live near Rose Valley, and he's at school as a walker. I drop him and pick him up. When will we receive bus information for the new school?

Bus information will be sent next year before the 2024-2025 school year begins.

If there are walkers, are there going to be Crossing Guards? For those who might be riding public transportation, will there be additional Public Buses? And if you see parents parking on Swan Creek and Ft. Washington Rd, who do you report them to?

Due to staffing shortages, no crossing guards will be assigned to the school for now. We have no say over the creation of additional public bus routes, that is, WMATA. WMATA has not yet created additional routes or buses for the school. As for reporting parking on Fort Washington Rd. and E. Swan Creek, we are still working that out and will send more information at a later date.



Who is the best person to email about federal grant opportunities for additional safety features for outside areas?

You can email Jason Washington at jason.washington@pgcps.org.

Do we need the SchoolPass if we are only dropping off.?

No, SchoolPass is only for pick-up.

Will students who live in Clinton and go to Fort Washington Forest Elementary be attending this school?

This depends on the student's address. If the student's address falls within the boundary for Colin Powell, they will attend the school.

Have you already announced an open house date?

At this time, we do not have specific dates as we are waiting for approval for potential remote learning days around move-in, but we plan to have the open house during the Thanksgiving break weekend.

Will there be opportunities for the community to volunteer at the school? Also, how can the community support the school?

Thank you so much for your question. <https://offices.pgcps.org/volunteer/> provides the details and requirements for volunteering.

How can I find out if a bus will pick up my student?

Please use InfoFinder at www.infofinder.com/ifi/?cid=PGCPS5UR2GLJ6U. Find your address, and the site will show you the nearest stops. If not, please use our TRS system at www.trs.pgcps.org.

Looking at the schedule to complete work, are there dates being identified for your students, parents, and community members through the new building ahead of the move?

The move school will be shared within the next few weeks once it is approved.

Are there any plans to match middle schoolers with younger kids in a mentor-like program?

Right now, our focus is on bringing our populations together and functioning as one school. In the future, we absolutely plan to have events and opportunities for the two levels to interact and come together. More information will be shared when that time comes.

Will 7th-grade students who transitioned to Accokeek Academy transition to Colin Powell when it opens?

This transition is currently being considered by Academics and Pupil Accounting and will be addressed at a later time.

For daycares that drop off and pick up students, do they follow the car riders line?

Yes.



Is the number of crossing guards based on student population? We only have one at Potomac Landing, and it seems like a low number.

The number of crossing guards assigned to a school is determined based on a variety of factors, including population size, traffic patterns, surrounding neighborhood layouts, etc. However, as noted, the lack of crossing guards at several sites is due to a staffing shortage at the county level, which they hope to alleviate by next year.

Do we know what Potomac Landing will become after the transition?

At this time, we do not. That decision will be made by the Board and Superintendent House.

What is the target date for students to occupy the new building?

November 27th, 2023.

Will there be a few days of asynchronous learning for students in November to allow staff and teachers time to move their things and set up their classrooms at the new school? Or will you have to work/move over the holiday?

Thank you for your question. Plans have been shared with our executive leadership for review and final approval. We will continue to meet with Principal Lattimore to finalize and share the plans accordingly.

Is there a way for parents to volunteer to be crossing guards?

Thank you so much for your question. Principal Lattimore shared that she is open and eager to partner with our parents and community members. Please find the requirements to volunteer. <https://offices.pgcps.org/volunteer/>.

How will early pickups work for doctor appointments or emergencies?

I suggest pickup no later than 1:30 pm.

Will all of the students in the different programs who currently attend Rose Valley be moving to the new school next year? There are currently students who attend a program at Rose Valley specifically for their special program, but Rose Valley is not their boundary school.

If this is regarding the autism and special education programs, students in those programs at Rose Valley will be relocated to Colin Powell, which will offer the same programs next year.

Is the plan to have students do asynchronous school from home while the staff prepares the classrooms?

Thank you for requesting clarification. A plan has been shared with our executive leadership. All final decisions will be shared and communicated accordingly.

What are your basic protocols for non-students entering the school?

All visitor will be required to enter through the secure vestibule into the main office, where they must sign in and have their government-issued ID scanned.

Will the new dress policy be provided to parents?

Yes, all details regarding the transition plans, open houses, and expectations for uniforms will be shared with parents.



Talk a little about the clinic and who will have access outside of the school population.

There is currently no identified vendor for the clinic, so we are unsure of the services that will be provided. As for access to the clinic, there will be no access to the school from the clinic and vice versa. Anyone entering the clinic, including students, must enter from the clinic's separate entrance.

Talk about your security cameras and how they will be monitored.

Earlier, it was shared that the security cameras are live 24/7. They are not only monitored by the school administration, but PGCPs School Security and the PG County Police Department can also have access.

Will the new school still use the Class Dojo for communications?

Yes, Class Dojo will be used at Colin Powell.

Will the school have metal detectors?

Thank you for your question. At this time, Colin Powell Academy will not have security-enhanced detectors. The district is currently securing the devices at our high schools and some middle schools. It is the plan to have them through a tiered plan.

Will mental health care be provided at the clinic?

This depends on the vendor. Any services provided at the clinic will be decided upon and communicated by the vendor once they are selected.