



Hyattsville Middle School Construction Update Meeting | May 8, 2023 Questions & Answers

Can you go over the Community Investment Program information again?

The Community Investment Program will begin after the beginning of the school year. At that time, school leadership, with input from the school community, will identify any additional needs or wishes for the building and allocate the Community Investment funds accordingly.

Where is the baseball/softball field? Is it in the multi-purpose field?

The field will be permanently striped as a U-12 soccer field but can be used for other sports, including baseball or softball. Additionally, there will be netting around the athletic field to prevent any balls from going into the neighboring properties.

Will there be an opportunity for incoming elementary school students and their families to tour the building?

The school and PTSO are currently in the process of planning an event for current and incoming students and families to see and tour the building. More information will be shared at a later date. There will also be an orientation date for all students prior to the beginning of the school year.

Can you show us where the creative and performing arts students will rehearse and create?

On the building's first floor and in the Specials wing, there are performing arts spaces. In those spaces will be art rooms, STEAM labs, a black box theater, dance, orchestra, choral, and drama rooms. There will also be a keyboard room, practice rooms, and storage spaces.

Will lockers be provided for all students or based on an application process?

Lockers will be provided for all students. There is no application process.

Will this school be open in the evenings for teen activities and other community activities? We just heard about a new DeMatha building that will be open for community activities in the evenings, and that seems like a good idea.

As with all PGCPs school buildings, the new building will be open for reservations from the public. For more information on the reservation process, visit www.pgcps.org/plant-operations/facility-use.

When can local elected officials tour the building?

Currently, school leadership and Board of Education members have had the opportunity to walk and tour the new building. Additional tours for elected officials and other groups will likely occur after the school is completed and all FF&E is installed.

Is this school building LEED-certified?

The building will be LEED equivalent.



The media center looks open to the whole building. Will there be a full-time staff member in charge of that space, or will students be able to take books freely?

There will be a circulation desk in the media center for students and staff to check out items. Exact staffing decisions are currently under consideration.

Is there any low visibility but effective security equipment that will prevent guns from getting into the school?

As a part of the school's design, perimeter cameras and heightened fencing have been added to the site. The school will also be equipped with a secure entrance vestibule and a one-touch lockdown system. For information on additional, operational security measures, please contact the Office of Safety and Security Services.

Will there be gendered group toilets? Or all gender-neutral facilities?

In the academic wings, all restrooms are gender neutral with ceiling-to-floor partitions in between the stalls. In the cafeteria, there are gendered restrooms.

Can you remind us of where Orem is on the list?

Orem Middle School is a part of the Educational Facilities Master Plan. The Board of Education will be discussing the school in their June meeting.

Will there be a community health center within the school?

There will be a community health center connected to the school, only accessible from outside of the school.

There is a nearby school district that will install metal detectors in all middle and high schools. Will PGCPs consider it?

Unfortunately, the Blueprint Schools Program is unable to answer this or make this decision. The Board of Education is responsible for decisions on the inclusion of metal detectors.

Can you screen the trash, recycling, and compost areas so the neighbors won't have to look at those?

There is a brick CMU wall enclosure to block off the waste area.

Why was that center built onto HMS? Didn't that take away some space from HMS?

The center did not take away any space from the school. The health center was an initiative from the county to ensure that all students have access to health services. There is currently a Request for Proposal out by the Office of Health to seek providers for the center.

There is so much talk about the mental health struggles of our young people coming out of this pandemic. are there confidential counseling spaces in the new building?

There is a counseling wing of the building beside the academic wing with its own reception area, offices, and a conference room.

Is a sidewalk being added to Oliver Street as part of the site development?

No. Due to grading and stormwater management requirements, the Program was unable to add a sidewalk to the Oliver Street side of the site.



Will this facility try to reduce its trash output and move as much waste to recycling and composting as possible?

Yes. PGCPs is currently enacting a climate action response plan in all facilities throughout the district. Additionally, HMS is a green school with a detailed recycling program.

Is the building net-zero ready (roof structural loads that can support PV)?

Yes. The buildings will be ready for solar panels, which will likely be installed in the spring of 2024. There will also be EV infrastructure in place.

During the late summer, will you be holding any summer bridge programming at the school for vulnerable students?

No. HMS will not be a site for summer school this coming summer.

Will we get to have dances at HMS?

Yes, all activities currently available at HMS will be available at the new building.

Can students go off campus for lunch?

No.

When will students find out their teachers?

Students and parents will receive their teachers and classroom assignments at the end of the summer.

Can students skate to school, and where can they put our skateboards so they don't get confiscated?

School leadership is considering a plan to provide a storage location for skateboards.

Can students ride and park e-scooters at the school?

There is a bike rack on the front side of the school to park and lock bikes and e-scooters.

Can students help with the mural?

The muralist will make and share that decision.

My friends have been saying that the school won't be done in time. What should I say?

The school will be delivered on time. On August 28th, the new Hyattsville Middle School will be open.