



# **Colin L. Powell Academy**

## **Construction Update Meeting | January 12, 2023**

### **Questions & Answers**

#### **What will the hours be for this school?**

We do not have the bell schedule at this time. The PGCPs Departments of Academics and Transportation are in the process of determining the most appropriate bell schedule based on available transportation and feeder school bell times.

#### **Why were more middle schools added to the boundaries list?**

The capacity for the middle school (grades 6-8) portion of Colin Powell is 1200 students. The building was designed to take all of Isaac Gourdine's students and relieve the overcrowding at Accokeek Academy and Oxon Hill Middle School. The boundaries were adjusted to reflect this.

#### **How will the school address overflow parking into the community?**

There should be no overflow parking in the community. There will be between 225 and 245 parking spaces available on-site, with additional parking available at the bus loop

#### **How will addresses be verified to ensure compliance with the boundaries?**

According to PGCPs administrative procedures on school administration, families are required to provide updated proof of residency when their students change schools. When Colin Powell opens, since all students will be classified as "new," everyone will need to provide updated proof of residency to register.

#### **What will happen to the rising 7th Graders that attend Potomac Landing Elementary School in November of 2024?**

Current PLES 6th graders will attend Accokeek Academy for the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. In the school year 2024-2025, those students will have the option to either stay at Accokeek or move to Colin Powell for their 8th-grade year.

#### **Will an Autism Program be available at this school?**

Yes. The school was designed to have an autism program.

#### **What will happen to Isaac Gourdine's building?**

The district is still determining what will happen to the Isaac Gourdine and Potomac Landing buildings after the students move to Colin Powell. If the district determines that there is no use for the buildings, whether, for swing space or otherwise, the buildings will likely be demolished.

**During the last meeting, the community advocated for the school to open in January 2024 following the winter break to allow for adequate time for teachers and staff to prepare their classrooms and for the students to have an easier transition. Based on the current plan, students will begin to attend the new school for two weeks, have Thanksgiving break, return for 2-3 weeks, then have Christmas break. I think it will be less anxiety stricken and more productive to have this transition occur following the Christmas break. Is there someone here to address this?**

The CEO made the decision for the student to move in on the Monday after Thanksgiving break, November 27th. The building will be ready for occupancy on November 8th, with moving activities beginning then.

**Will tall trees be planted behind the parking lot to protect the residents behind the schools from the bright school lights and as a sound barrier from the school bell?**

There will be trees planted around the site. We have requested that the contractor plant more mature trees native to the area. Regarding lighting, the program is required by the county to submit a lighting plan for the site, with all lighting being focused inward toward the school as opposed to the surrounding areas. All sounds put out from the building will be tested to ensure it does not carry too far from the building itself.

**I understand that a new Principal will be chosen; however, for the upcoming school year (2023-2024), will the current Principals and administration be at the school for the 2023-2024 year along with the chosen Principal?**

Yes, at this time, the plan is for all students, teachers, and staff, including the principals and administrations, to move over to the new building along with the new principal for the 2023-2024 school year.

**If Issac's enrollment is 700, what is the enrollment from the other feeder schools?**

While we do not have exact numbers right now, we expect the largest feeders besides Isaac Gourdine and Potomac Landing to be Accokeek Academy, Fort Washington Forest Elementary, and Oxon Hill Middle School.

**Will all students in the Autism Program at Isaac Gourdine transfer over?**

The district is currently looking at splitting the autism students in the southern portion of the county between Colin Powell and Drew Freeman Middle School. A more exact decision and information will be communicated within the next month or two.

**Will there be a separate side within the school for elementary and middle schoolers? Also, will this school be a technology-based school?**

Yes, elementary school students will be in the 3-story tower in the back area of the school, and middle school students will be in the 4-story tower in the front area of the school. The school will be fully wireless for technology, and all classrooms will have smart boards with similar technology available in the collaboration spaces. Additionally, the building will have a STEAM lab with 3D and laser printers, woodworking and a maker space, a media center, and an innovation lab with a test kitchen.



**How will bus-rider students be handled if they are not currently eligible for transportation but will be eligible at Colin Powell Academy? Sorry if I missed this information earlier.**

Transportation is in the process of determining transportation eligibility based on the new boundaries. They will be on at a later date to share more information.

**Will transportation be shared in Nov 2023? If not, will it change in 24-25 School year? Will the ES and MS operate with different start and end times initially? In the 24-25 School Year, will the Elementary school day be extended to meet the Middle School required minutes?**

Bell schedules and transportation are currently being determined by the Academics and Transportation offices. More information will be shared on both topics as it becomes available.

**Will recruitment for teachers be based on technological expertise and experience?**

We would assume so. However, all recruitment decisions and requirements are made by the PGCPSS Office of Human Resources.

**With the influx of additional homes in this portion of the county, it appears not enough student space is available because PG County has been behind/neglected in school upgrades and buildouts to keep up. Is the county maintaining a baseline of homes being built and the increased space for these students in the future?**

In the southern portion of the county, there is an under-enrollment of students, hence why some schools are being consolidated. The Office of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries works with the county Office of Parks and Planning to keep up with the population throughout the county to make sure there is enough space in schools for an influx of students.

**I thought that you mentioned that Gwen Park, Potomac Landing, Rose Valley, and Oxon Hill would feed into the school. What is the enrollment from those schools?**

The capacity for Colin Powell is 2000 students, 800 on the elementary side and 1200 on the middle school side. The Office of Pupil Accounting is currently working on enrollment projections based on the new boundaries and feeder schools. More information will be made available at a later date.

**Will uniform policies remain in effect until Colin Powell Academy decides on uniforms?**

Uniforms decisions will be made by the new principal when they are brought in.

**When will schools know which students will transition to Colin Powell in November of 2023? Especially considering some grades can finish their last year despite changing boundaries.**

In November 2023, only Isaac Gourdine and Potomac Landing students will move into the new school. All other students will begin feeding into the school in 2024.