

Drew-Freeman Middle School Construction Update Meeting | October 12, 2022 Questions & Answers

The building looks smaller than the old building, will there be enough space for students?

The school's footprint is smaller than the old building but is designed for a 1,200-student capacity. The current school population is roughly 850 students.

You mentioned an outdoor classroom. Please clarify.

There will be an outdoor classroom attached to the school. It will be covered with an outdoor sail for shade, have an interactive board, and have the capability for up to 30 students. It is meant to function as an additional learning space.

Will there be an auditorium?

There will be a gymnasium. The gym will have a stage and can accommodate the entire school population.

From the overview, I don't see a track. Are there plans for one? Also, when will the school be ready for students?

There is no track but there will be three playing surfaces – a softball field, multi-purpose field, and an additional multi-purpose field that is the size of a youth-sized soccer field. There will be a track at Suitland.

Where will the bio-retention BMPs be located?

There are a few bio-retention structures throughout the property. Locations include the classroom side of the site at the corner of Silverhill and Suitland HS as well as some on the north end of the site in between the new middle school and what would be the old middle school. For these structures, the community can expect to see a depressed area with mulch and landscaping. Underneath is a media filter that filters to the storm drain.

Please confirm new school opening for August of 2023.

The school will be open for the 2023-2024 school year.

Is it possible for the colors to reflect the school colors (black, gold, white, and grey)?

A muralist has been selected to do an art piece within the school, which can include the school colors. The basketball court will also reflect the school colors and the mascot.

Why was an auditorium not included?

There are no specific performing arts auditoriums in the middle school package as it relates to capital programs. It is not included in the design directives. The performing art auditoriums are directed at high schools, not middle schools.



Will the current Drew Freeman be torn down or used as a swing space?

The current Drew-Freeman has been torn down.

Will this school be open to the Suitland side? Meaning will the high school students have access to Drew-Freeman?

There will be a walkway that is separated by a gate between the two campuses. There will also be a service road that connects the two schools.

Will there be seating provided for the floor besides bleachers for performing arts?

Yes

Is the entrance to the school on Brooks Dr.? What will the traffic pattern for the buses be?

Yes, the entrance will be on Brooks Drive. The bus loop will also be separated from the car loop.

What colors will the uniforms be for the sixth graders?

Please reach out to the school leadership with uniform and programming questions.

Do the designs allow for expansion later?

The school population is lower than the capacity of the building so there is room for growth. If the population exceeds the capacity, there is the opportunity for modulars on the campus site.

Will an extra lane be provided by the county on Brooks Drive?

Brooks Drive is getting widened to allow for a full parking lane on the side and then a bicycle lane. However, no extra lane will be provided. The goal for car drop-off would be to go through the car parking not to be queued up along Brooks Drive.

Is it too late to add a track and field for full outdoor sports activities?

Unfortunately, it is too late to add additional track and field capacity to ensure we adhere to the budget and timeline.