



Suitland High School Project Introduction Meeting | April 5, 2022 Questions & Answers

What will happen to the trees that are located inside the middle of the building (the “Quad”)?

All trees will be removed to make way for the new construction. Rest assured that many new trees will be planted on the site. In fact, there are strict requirements for planting that the project will comply with.

Where is the TV studio located?

It is located on the first floor within the CVPA portion of the building.

When will the construction begin, and what is the expected completion date?

Contingent upon permit approval, we anticipate construction beginning this summer. This project will be delivered in 3 phases total over 54 months. Phase 1 - Summer 2024, Phase 2 - Winter 2025, Phase 3 - Summer 2026

Is this the largest state of the arts HS in the County or the state of MD? An 800-seat theatre is huge.

It is one of the largest high schools, but not the largest in the county.

Are the elevators 508 compliant?

Yes, the facility is fully accessible. There are three elevators.

Will the auditorium be used for graduation ceremonies?

The PGCPSS staff will determine this after completion of the school. The auditorium is a viable candidate to hold graduations, but PGCPSS and school leadership will make the final decision.

What is the current seating capacity of the current auditorium? How was 800 determined?

The current auditorium has approximately 1,000 seats. 800 seats were determined to be appropriate for the new auditorium since there is a second theater on site and there is the ability to simulcast into the dining commons.

Are we keeping the tennis courts?

All existing facilities will be removed. The new facility will provide new tennis courts.

Are classrooms split by grade or subject?

This will be a programmatic decision to be made by school leadership and staff. Currently, the classrooms are organized by grade, with the 9th-grade classrooms on the second floor and 10th - 12th-grade classrooms on the third floor. There are some subject-specific classrooms, such as science classrooms, but the majority of classrooms are set up as general education. School staff will organize and separate these classrooms at a later date.



Are the buildings going to be LEED?

The building is required to comply with the Maryland High Performance Building program which sets LEED Silver level design as its goal. The new building will meet LEED Silver criteria at a minimum.

Will the CVPA students have to walk outside to get to their academic classes?

No, all spaces are accessed from within the building.

Are the buildings made of mostly glass? How does that work in inclement weather conditions, for example, thunder and lightning?

The exterior walls are more than 65% solid. The glass portions are designed for environmental considerations.

Is there an auditorium separate for the CVPA program?

The CVPA program will use the auditorium for larger programs. However, they have a 375-seat theater within their portion of the building.

Will the outdoor track be accessible to the public before and after school hours?

Our goal is for the track to be accessible for community use. However, scheduling and availability of the outdoor track and athletic fields will be left up to the athletic director and other school leadership. There is a Facility Request link on the Capital Programs homepage, which can be used to request the use of any facility in the county.

What technology will be put in the auditorium?

The auditorium will have a full lighting and sound system and full rigging. It will essentially be outfitted as a professional theater.

Will you wait until the neighboring Drew-Freeman Middle School is completed before beginning the Suitland project?

We are projected to begin construction this summer prior to the completion of the middle school.

What type of energy efficiency and environmentally friendly specifications can you share about the building and the campus?

The project must and will comply with the Maryland High-Performance Building Program, which sets LEED Silver design standards as the basis. We are working to make this project as energy-efficient and environmentally friendly as possible. Specifics, unfortunately, cannot be shared publicly at this time.

If there are two construction projects going on at the same time, what is the expected impact on traffic? Silver Hill and Pennsylvania are both very congested during rush hour.

The two projects are in completely different phases of construction, which means that the traffic interruption will not be nearly as much as if the projects were in the same phase. There will, of course, be some increase in traffic, as with any construction project, but we have taken measures to mitigate it, such as onsite parking and separate construction site entrances that will not be on Silver Hill Rd. or Pennsylvania Ave.



Which space will be able to hold the entire student body?

Assuming you are asking about the auditorium, it holds 800. Overflow can be accommodated in the Dining Commons. The entire population can be accommodated in the competition gym - bleachers and chairs on the floor.

We have over 2000 students, but everything mentioned fits at most 1500 students. It doesn't seem there will be enough space for all the students.

The entire population can be accommodated in the competition gym - bleachers and chairs on the floor.

Will the CVPA students have to walk outside to get to their academic classes?

No, all circulation through the building is on the interior.

How many will the auditorium seat?

800. Overflow can be accommodated in the Dining Commons.

What is the approximate time (month and year) when the students will be in the new building?

Per the current construction phasing plan, students will stay in the buildings they are in now for the first two years of construction. In the summer of 2024, academic students will move to the new northern building, and the CVPA students will stay in their current building while the southern half of the school is being built. During winter break 2025-2026, the CVPA students will be moved into the newly completed southern building, and their old building will be demolished in preparation for the construction of the fields.

It was mentioned that the freshmen have a "wing." Will all their classes be in that wing?

Academic spaces for 9th-grade students are located on the second floor of the high school.

What will the main office space and guidance spaces look like, and where will they be located?

The "main" office is in the high school portion of the building. Guidance is in the high school as well. The CVPA portion of the building also has an administrative area.

Will this be a keyless entry building or swipe card access?

Staff will have this capability, but students will not.

Is the auditorium separate from the main building like it is now?

No, it is connected to the high school.

Will the cafeteria be able to fit the whole student body or just portions as it does now?

The cafeteria is designed to hold a percentage of the student body. We have planned to seat 450 - 500 students over three lunch periods.

Are sports going to be held at different schools while the new school is being built?

Yes, football and any sports that use the stadium will be held elsewhere. Basketball and sports that use the gym will not be moved until we reach the point in construction where we must demolish the gym.

Compared to the current building, how much larger will the bathrooms be in the new building?

The new bathrooms will be generally larger than the current ones pursuant with the new ADA accessibility standards.

This is a pretty large campus. Will it be handicap accessible, and is walking the only way to get from point A to point B?

The entire site is handicap accessible as required per code. There are elevators on-site to assist those with a handicap. However, walking will be the primary method of getting from point A to B (i.e., there will be no shuttles).

Will electric charging stations be added to the parking areas?

These are budget-dependent.

How will after-hours lighting work?

Exterior lighting is on a time clock and photocell control system.

Any details about the cosmetology facility?

Cosmetology is located in the CVPA portion of the building. Commercial and performing arts cosmetology will be taught.

Is the school fully accessible from the inside, or do you have to go outside to get from one building to another?

No, all circulation through the building is on the interior. The building and site are ADA-compliant.

Will any students be displaced during this project? If so, will there be a transitory building?

Students will occupy the existing buildings during construction and then move into the new building as each phase of the building is completed.

The large sitting stair is a great opportunity to gather and collaborate. Will a ramp be implemented/intermixed into the stair arrangement so that those in wheelchairs can access this grand design gesture?

There is space at the top and bottom of the stairs that will accommodate wheelchairs. There is not enough space for a ramp.

Is hiring Suitland residents a goal?

This is an initiative we are currently working on, and will be providing more information in the months to come.

What date is this planned to start?

Construction is planned to start this summer. We do not have an exact start date, but we predict it will be sometime in June.

What are the plans for bringing the existing structure up to the same building standards as the new construction?

The entire existing facility is going to be demolished and replaced with a new facility.

How/where will the construction team enter the campus?

We are currently working with traffic control to determine the best plan. However, we anticipate that for Phase 1, the team will enter the site from Brooks Drive. For Phase 2, school and construction traffic will enter Silver Hill, and finally, for Phase 3, traffic will enter from Brooks Drive.

Will there be sufficient space for students to travel from the main building to CVPA during construction? We will have a safe and secure corridor to maintain foot traffic for the students. Is the main office and guidance in the same "suite," or is guidance located in a different area?

Guidance will be in an area separate from the main administrative suite but still on the first floor in the central area.

Will there be any solar-powered sources for things such as outdoor/indoor lighting?

The photovoltaic system is connected to the building power system and feeds the overall system.

Is there a pool or indoor track in the new building?

There is not.

When will you zone the area so no one can use the back area?

The areas of the existing fields and adjacent areas up to Pennsylvania Avenue will be secured with perimeter fencing during the summer of 2022. The areas north of the aforementioned region will be secured with perimeter fencing during the summer of 2025.

Are restrooms conveniently located for teachers? Will the teachers' lounge have teacher workstations?

Bathrooms are located throughout the facility for adult staff use. The teachers' lounge does not have workstations, but there is seating such as couches and tables with chairs.

Will parts of the old building, such as bricks and gym planks, be available for a possible fundraiser for alumni?

We will definitely look into how we can make this happen.

It would be wonderful if the artwork on the buildings could be photographed and produced.

This is being discussed.



So, no tennis courts?

There are four courts adjacent to the baseball field.

Will the students currently participating in the electrical or construction programs be able to participate in the construction as a part of their academic studies?

Turner-Corenic JV and PGCPs are creating opportunities for engagement for the community and student bodies, ranging from safety stickers and site fence design competitions to internships and site tours. The goal will be to create an inclusive environment for the school and community, weaving them into the fabric of the project throughout the life of the project.