



# Coatesville Area School District

## Middle School Transition Q & A!

### **1. How did the District come to consider a 6<sup>th</sup> grade center and a separate 7/8 Middle School?**

The District had assembled a Master Facilities Planning team in 2016-2017. The team consisted of teachers, parents, community members and board members. The team came together following the feasibility study that was completed on all CASD facilities. The feasibility study outlined the current condition of each facility. Upon completion the Master Facility Planning Task Force was created to review the feasibility study and to recommend a long-range plan that would include the improvements to our facilities. The Master Facility Planning Task Force brought three recommendations to the Board and the Board carefully reviewed each and subsequently accepted and adopted the preferred plan of the Master Facility Task Force. The adopted plan included a 6<sup>th</sup> grade center and a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school. A copy of the plan can be viewed [here](#).

### **2. Why a 6<sup>th</sup> grade center?**

The Task Force considered a number of configurations but found that the creation of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade center not only had facility use merits (based on the size and location of the beautiful Scott Middle School), but also had programmatic advantages for students. Members of the Task Force referenced other Districts who also had used 6<sup>th</sup> grade centers and found value in bringing students together, as a class, early in their career. This not only builds a sense of comradery but also allows pre-secondary schooling structures and study habits to be cultivated prior to entrance into 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade center structure also allows students in our District to come together in their first year post elementary, and to matriculate from grade six through graduation and a class.

### **3. Scott is bigger than North- so why not have the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders there?**

It is true that Scott, as a total facility, is larger than North. However, there are fewer full-size instructional spaces available in Scott than there are in North. While we do not share our facility maps publicly (for reasons of security), these maps have been carefully reviewed and administrators. In addition, administrators and various board members have walked both buildings and actually counted the classrooms. Unlike North Brandywine Middle School, Scott Middle School is a multi-level building has an extensive ramp system in the building. That ramp system consumes a portion of the square footage.



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## **4. What will the class size be?**

We have continued to maintain a 25 student per classroom goal. Of course, there are times that based on sections available and level of courses chosen, that the number will fluctuate. Generally speaking, our class sizes will be as they were last year in the middle schools.

## **5. What courses will my child take?**

Course selections for students will be the same. Students who desire to challenge themselves with high level courses in preparation for high school AP courses, will continue to have the opportunity to do so at both the 6<sup>th</sup> grade center and the 7/8 Middle Schools.

## **6. What will the schedule look like?**

The schedule in both schools will be similar to the current schedules in the middle schools. The administrators have taken feedback in which a request was made for teaming. Administrators will be considering the use 'teams' in both buildings. Teams provide teachers with the opportunity to get to know a small group of students well. Teams are housed in wings, or select spaces, in the building. In a team situation, students travel with their team (or a subset of the team) and teams typically transition at different times so as to ensure that students transition at different times of the day. This reduces hall traffic.

## **7. What has been done to ensure that the building can handle the number of students entering?**

The Administration worked with the District architect to ensure that the facility, bathrooms, and other spaces would be sufficient to service the number of students who will be in the building. This included a specific review of bathrooms, cafeteria spaces, classroom spaces, and other mechanical systems. The architect also provided the Board with their opinion that the school could legitimately hold the students projected to attend. In addition, and in an effort to be responsive to the concerns expressed about the bathrooms, the District will be having our District plumbers complete a total inspection and review of the bathroom fixtures and functions through the summer. The District will continue to have the plumbers do weekly inspections and follow ups for the first 5 weeks of school to ensure that the bathrooms are in proper and good working condition.

## **8. What repairs are anticipated and currently being done for next year at North?**

The building will be receiving new paint in the halls, auditorium and select classrooms. Asbestos abatement had begun previously under the direction of the former Business Manager and will continue to be done until all tiles are removed. The Asbestos removal



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was being completed by PRISM who is certified to do such work. They have worked closely with the EPA to complete work and provide evidence of testing to ensure that the environment is safe for students and staff. All work completed is done in full compliance with the EPA standards. The building is also receiving new floor treatments in the rooms where asbestos floor tiles have and will be removed. The floor treatments will include honing, staining and polishing of the floors. The building will also receive cabinet upgrades in selected rooms. The cabinet upgrades will include the use of gently used cabinets and where possible and practical, refurbished existing cabinets. Modular facilities that have carpet will receive replacement carpet as needed. Student lockers are being examined and cleaned, and while many of the lockers already have 'inset locks', those that do not are being added. Finally, an examination of rooms that do not have cooling systems is being conducted to determine what cooling system would best meet the needs of those rooms, in a fiscally responsible manner. We will continue to provide updates on the facilities throughout the summer.

## **9. What repairs are being considered for Scott Middle School?**

The Scott Middle School is a beautiful school and has already had several repairs this year. Earlier this year, the roof was repaired and the auditorium received wall repairs, new paint, and lighting repairs. The Scott auditorium is a beautiful space. Scott Middle School does not need the HVAC considerations of North, as it is already an airconditioned facility. Scott Middle School will also be receiving new paint in hallways and other spaces as needed.

## **10. How many principals will be in each building?**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade center will have one principal and one assistant principal. The North Brandywine Middle School will have one principal and two assistant principals.

## **11. How many guidance counselors will be present in each building?**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade center will have one guidance counselor. The 7/8 Middle School at North Brandywine will have two guidance counselors.

## **12. Will there be mental health support in both schools?**

Yes. The District has 7 certified mental health specialists (MHS) that serve children. Services are based on need, and the MHS schedules are generated based on student need.



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## **13. Will there be scheduled transition days/opportunities for students & families?**

Yes. There will be multiple opportunities for students and families to visit and tour the buildings before school starts. Notification will be sent via school messenger to inform parents of the dates and times.

## **14. When will students receive schedules?**

Students will be receiving schedules in early August in the mail and at specified transition opportunities. More information will be available as the summer progresses.

## **15. How will transportation be impacted?**

Transportation has completed much work on the bus schedules and began the process very early. While the length of bus rides is generally related to the distance between a student's residence and the school they are attending, the transportation department works diligently to limit the time students spend on buses. Understanding that the District spans more than 70 square miles, students who live on the outskirts of the District, often have longer bus rides. The transportation department attempts to use a 45-55 minute range for the longest rides. The transportation department continues to work through the summer each year to minimize bus rides. The same will be true this year.

\*\*\*\* Stay tuned to this page for updates as the summer progresses\*\*\*\*