

ISD 318

Elementary School Updates



FAQ

We are proud of our district's commitment to high-quality education and look forward to an exciting new chapter for our elementary students and early childhood families. As we look forward to the opening of the new elementary schools and a renovated Cohasset Elementary, we've gathered answers to your most important questions.

Q: Which school will my child attend?

Throughout the summer and fall of 2019, the district invited community members, parents, and staff to work with the Transportation Department and Administrators to make a recommendation for new school boundaries and potential bus routes to the School Board. The recommendation will come before the School Board in December.

Definitions and policies will be shared with parents in January. There will be an implementation period of two years, after which the Board will return to the public for feedback and suggestions.

Q: Will the new schools offer art or other electives?

In our current elementary schools, we have been limited in the number of electives (also called specials) we can offer to students due to a lack of available space and scheduling constraints. Our new elementary schools will include two music classrooms; two full-size gyms, equating to four teaching stations; "wet" labs suitable for such activities as science and art education; and makerspaces designed for flexible, creative work.

The Board received input from parents and from the Program Design committee. Principals will be examining schedules and recommending programming that takes advantage of these spaces while accommodating budget restraints.

Q: Where can I learn more?

We post regular updates and pictures, along with the latest news at isd318.org under the Facility Plan tab.

Q: Who will the principals be?

The School Board approved creating 12-month lead principals for both the Grand Rapids and Cohasset schools. Due to the large size of the Grand Rapids schools, they will also have 10-month assistant principals.

The interview process for those positions will take place in December. The interview committee will include directors, principals, teachers, and an elementary secretary. Information will be shared with families and staff when the process is completed.

Q: When will teacher placements be announced?

Administrators and teaching staff created a process for staffing the new schools in 2018. Teachers will choose their new building based on seniority and grade level openings. Teachers will not be able to move between grades based on seniority unless a position opens due to retirement or resignation.

The process of staffing the new buildings with teachers will take place in March 2020. Announcements will be made to families in the Spring, but students will not be assigned to teachers until Summer 2020.

Q: What will the schools be named?

A Naming Committee made up of parents, teachers, principals, support staff, and community members will present a survey to the community to gather input on names for the new schools. The naming must fit within the ISD 318 Policy 899 Naming of Schools and Facilities. The committee's recommendation, along with the community input, will be presented to the Board in late February.