

To prepare students for lifelong success through excellence in education



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To: Board of Directors  
 From: Robert O'Donnell, Vernon Bock, Randy Brown, and Ed Poprik  
 Re: Playground Planning Update  
 Date: November 18, 2019

Following our update to the board on Nov. 4, we have received a large number of questions from a Board member and three elementary parents. Since that update, we have been gathering as much information as possible to increase everyone's understanding of the playground planning, as well as plan for the final proposal.

The timeline for our plan remains the same. We intend to present a final proposal to the Board on Dec. 2 and request approval of those plans on Dec. 16.

Due to the volume of information gathered, we have chosen to present this memo in a questions and answers format.

### ***Spring Creek***

#### **What swings are being installed currently on the playground?**

Two of the three swing sets are being installed now. The final set will be installed during the summer phase, resulting in a revision to the cost estimate.

#### **Why is a play area right next to kindergarten classrooms?**

The site is limited, which has caused the project team to evaluate a variety of solutions to achieve suitable designs. The master plan design suggested that more of the courtyard be used, with more equipment and play area occupied. Based upon concerns heard, we're proposing at this time that less of the courtyard be used.

### ***Radio Park***

#### **What will additional play structures be and where will they be located?**

Our hope is that after eliminating the dome climber, we can add one or two play structures into the final plan, which will be presented in Dec. 2. We hope to have an update from the design team for you on Monday evening. The final decision will hinge upon area required and site constraints.

**The Dynamo DX-1200 is for ages 2-6. Is that correct?**

No. The alternate equipment listed on the cost estimate has been substituted. That piece is the Cone Spinner #0911, which is for ages 5-12.

**Would making mulch contiguous avoid the need for an embankment?**

No. The site's topography requires an embankment to ensure a flat, accessible playground.

**Will the new slide be built into the existing embankment or part of a new landscaped hill?**

The new slide will be installed on a landscaped hill of dirt, grass, and plantings as part of the Phase I area. We will not be doing any construction outside of the bike path as part of this project.

**Will there be a path to the garden?**

No, we do not see the path as part of the playground project. The new path will be addressed by the district after the playground project is complete.

***Corl Street***

**Is there an accessible path to the playground?**

The playground is accessible from the path that leads from the basketball court along the side for the playground.

***Overall questions that apply to multiple or all three projects***

**What kinds of wood are used in the wood items and what is their lifetime?**

The species and manufacturer, and therefore the warranty, will be fully decided in the construction documentation phase. Right now, we have a mix of black locust (robinia) and douglas fir or red/white oak, depending on availability. Properly installed and maintained nature play components will last 20-30 years.

**What are the slides made of?**

They are comprised of metal.

**What is the difference between schematic design and design development? The initial contract specified that we would have schematic designs for all the playgrounds.**

Schematic designs show elements (equipment/features), layout and suggested materials while design development builds upon schematic design with material and equipment specifications, preliminary details, and coordination with the civil engineer's work (i.e. drainage system, grading, stormwater, etc).

**What is "design development," and how does it affect the timeline?**

In the public bidding process, "design development" is the point at which the owner approves the design of the project. The design typically includes two dimensional plans and could include elevations or renderings depending on the nature of the project. Based on this approval, the design professional is

authorized to begin the process of developing construction documents. The construction documents are used for building permits, bidding, and installation. The construction documents include blueprints and specifications, which depending on the project, could take 3 to 4 months to complete.

**What were the responses to the parent and teacher surveys?**

The survey responses are attached.

**What do log stepper slopes look like?**

They are cut logs that are installed vertically so they can be used as round steps.

**Why was Kompan chosen over other manufacturers?**

Metcalf choose Kompan for the project's preliminary "basis of design" documentation. Assuming the project is a public bid, we'll consider other manufacturers as well.

**How many children are out at recess? How many can be using equipment?**

Depending upon the grade levels present, typically 45-77 children at a time are at recess. The equipment's capacity could be addressed better by Metcalfe; however, this is information which they would have asked principals at the beginning of the process. Although Metcalfe's architects have been working with a budget constraint, they have not discussed a concern about a lack of equipment to meet student demands, as there are activities which take place off the equipment as well.

**How much of the playgrounds are accessible? Other than surfacing, what factors make them accessible?**

Each component on the playgrounds will have an accessible path. All engineered wood fiber (EWF) areas will be fully accessible for children using mobility devices. Each school will also have an accessible harness swing and at least one group swing. Where spinners are provided, they will be accessible. Transfer stations will also be provided to the embankment slides, log mounds, and log scrambles. A transfer station allows a user with a mobility device to transfer into or onto a feature. The rod forest areas have paths or entry points with enough room for children in wheelchairs or mobility devices to enter into the forest and share in the experience. The large rope climber and parkour obstacle course have ropes that attach to the ground and serve as transfer stations providing children of differing abilities with an easy climbing challenge.

**What is the proposed surfacing like? Is it loose or solid?**

All playground surfacing would be accessible engineered wood fiber (EWF). While technically loose, EWF consists of small pieces that compact, making an accessible surface.

**Will the new playgrounds have areas of mulch?**

No. They will have engineered wood fiber (EWF) surfacing instead.

**For Corl Street and Radio Park, why not prioritize access paths?**

Accessibility has been prioritized. Each playground feature or piece of equipment is required to have a cushioned surface surrounding it and extending out in all directions at least 6 feet. The EWF surfacing doubles as the required cushioned surface and the accessible surface.

**In light of the high priority of increasing accessibility, what would it cost to make the remaining current playgrounds accessible?**

If the question is to provide greater accessibility without changing the equipment, or at least all of the equipment, we have not investigated this option.

**How was the figure of \$250,000 for each playground developed?**

Numerous factors came into play to arrive at this budget. The district's current financial obligations, previous playground costs, and accessibility requirements helped shape the final number. Also, in deciding against higher budgets, we took into consideration that the master plan calls for eight more playgrounds to be built in the coming years.

**Will we need extra district personnel for maintenance?**

We do not anticipate the need for additional personnel to maintain the planned playgrounds based upon expected labor demands.

**What would it cost to do the full plan (Phase A and B) for these three schools?**

The estimated full cost for Phase A and B from the masterplan document for each of the three schools ranged from \$500,000 to \$650,000 including design costs (which our current estimates contain).

**What are the high/medium/low cost estimates?**

Our current cost estimates can be considered in the low to medium range, with the high being the addition of Phase A and B. Obviously, there are higher cost pieces of equipment as well, but we are presenting what is reasonable to meet the play needs for our students. The administration has not requested nor worked on the high/medium/low model because of the time constraints related to completing the work required for this phase.

**How do the playgrounds and Memorial Field compare with price per child?**

A comparison on a per-child basis has not been completed for playgrounds or Memorial Field. Keep in mind, playgrounds are being designed for comparable experiences, which dictates some fixed costs that do not vary by number of students.

**Can the play areas be supervised by our current number of recess staff?**

Yes.

**How would new playground maintenance costs compare with current playgrounds?**



The following chart, as shared previously, shows comparative maintenance costs.

**Maintenance Costs of Loose Fill vs. Engineered Wood Fiber\***

Item	Loose fill (current)	cost per 1,000 ft2	Engineered wood fiber	cost per 1,000 ft2
Maintenance raking**	0.375 hrs per 1,000 ft2; 3x per week	\$878	1.0 hrs per 1,000 ft; 1x per week	\$780.00
Total raking cost for 6 years		\$5,265		\$4,680.00
Top off cost***				
- materials	\$0.037 per ft2	\$37	\$0.11 per ft2	\$110.00
- labor	0.25 hrs per 1,000 ft2	\$4	0.5 hrs per 1,000 ft2	\$7.50
6 year cost		\$164		\$235.00

*\*for comparative purposes only, cost data is from 2000*

*\*\*assuming \$15 per hour labor cost*

*\*\*\*Loose fill top off frequency is 1.5 years, engineered wood fiber frequency is 3 years*

**Why the \$50,000 fee on \$250,000 construction cost? Metcalfe's contract stipulates a 16% fee.**

The \$50,000 figure represents an estimate of all of Metcalfe's costs. For clarity, the 16% fee is Metcalfe's baseline compensation. Additionally, there will be reimbursable costs and travel expenses on top of the fee.

**What type of construction contract will we have? Can it be Metcalfe again?**

Construction contracts will be with firms who install and sell the equipment. Metcalfe would not bid on this work.

**Do the cumulative changes made from "nature based" to "hybrid" playgrounds still provide increased benefits of nature play?**

Since the master plans were completed, the designs have shifted to incorporate more traditional equipment; however, each playground retains a mixture of nature play components that encourage unprescribed, open ended free play. The future phases of the playground work will build upon this and incorporate additional nature based experiences. The iterative process of engagement with stakeholders yielded a more equipment based Phase 1. But even while including more equipment, we have tried to choose items that still endorse open ended play.

**Why can't we take the plans we have and go out to bid with equipment providers and experienced playground companies and say we want these features to get quotes?**

Pennsylvania School Code requires public bidding of any construction project over \$20,600, so these projects cannot be procured via quotes. Complete construction documents must be generated and a public bidding process conducted.

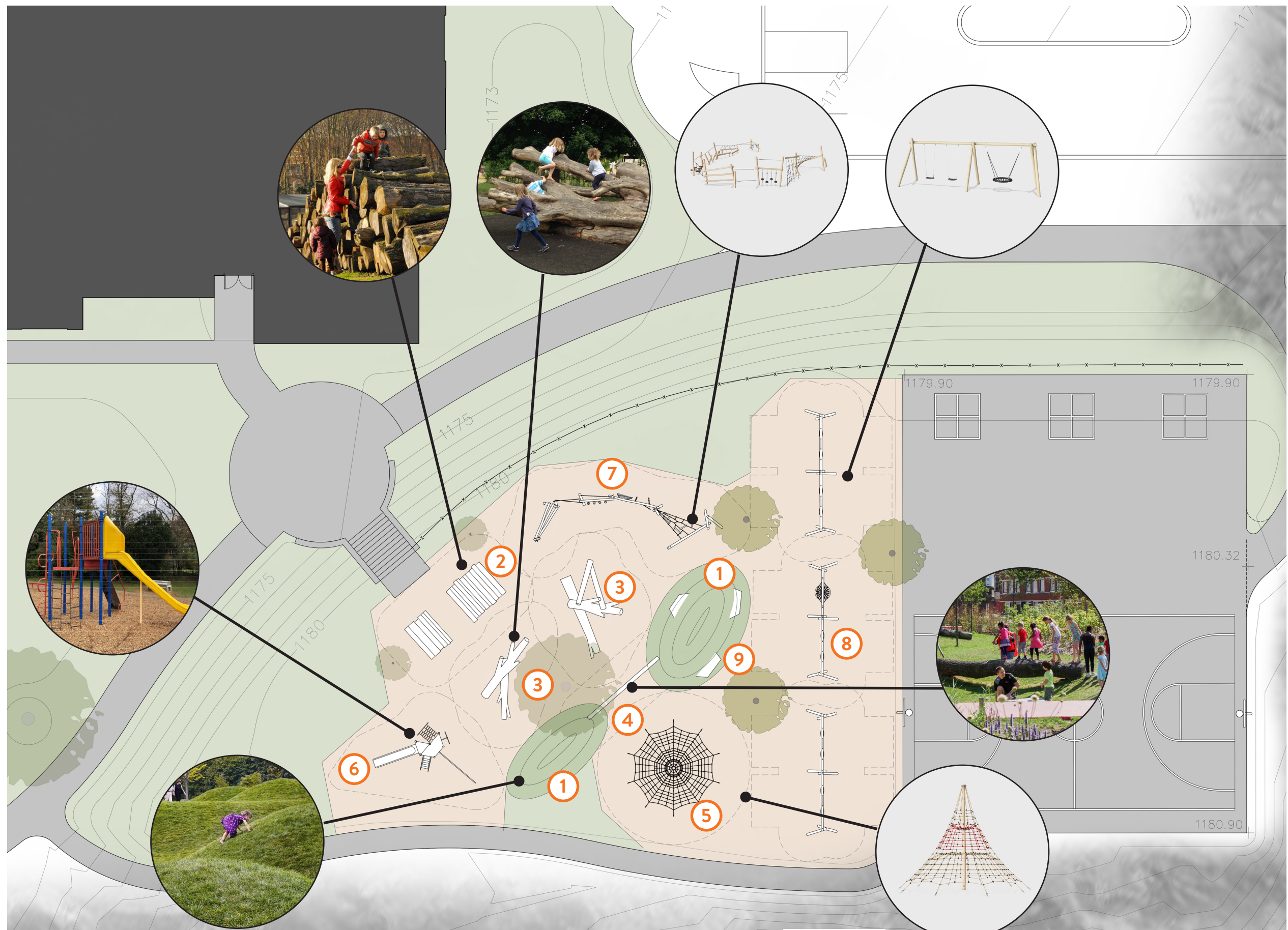
**What is a contractor bond and why is it necessary?**

Again, required in our other projects, contractors must provide a bid bond and a performance bond for the project, the cost of both being included in their bids. The bonds are held by the district in the event that the contractor does not complete the work or there are other disputes.

**What types of things would require use of contingency funds?**

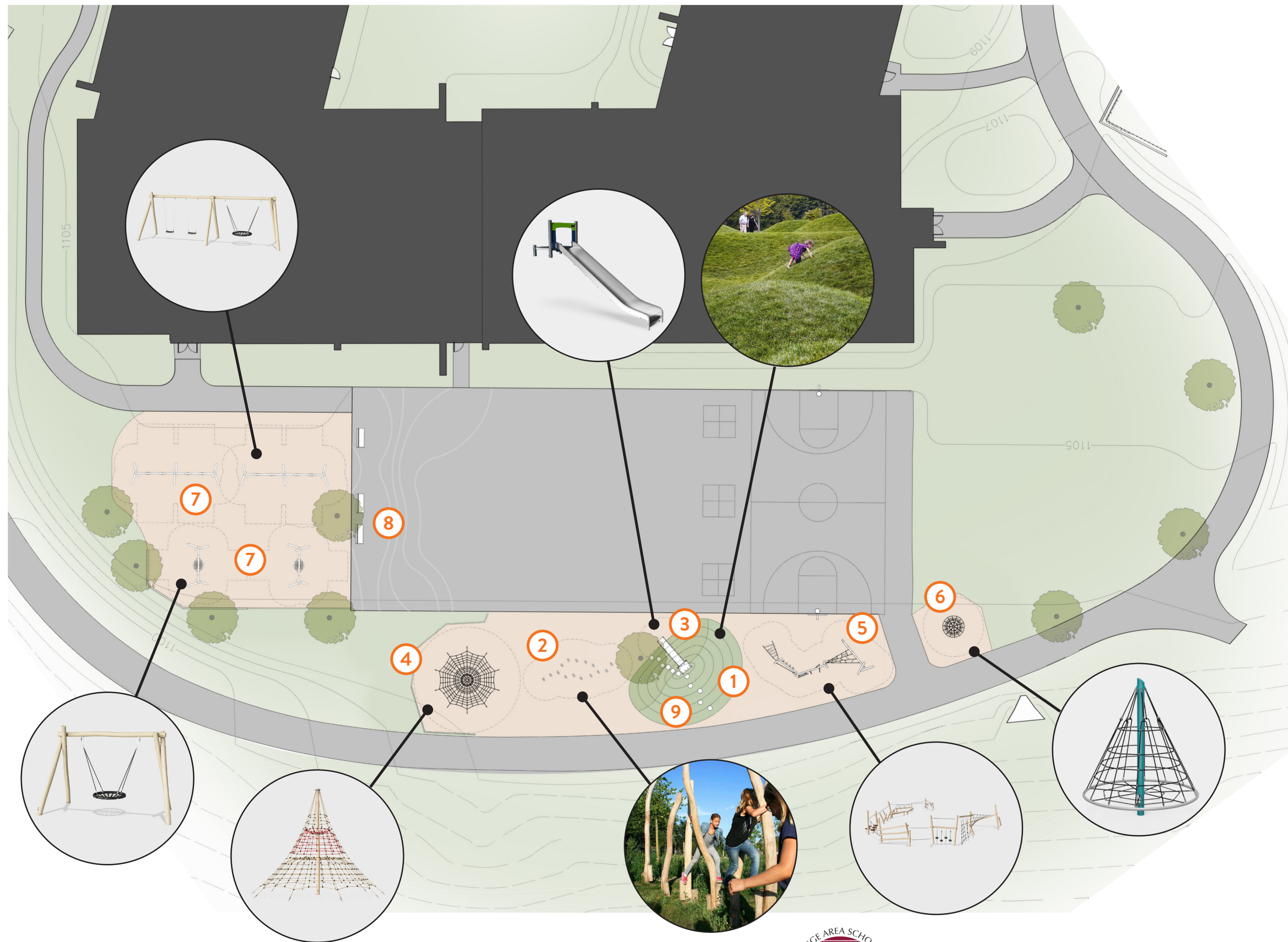
Just like in our building projects, contingency would be used for unforeseen conditions, bid day costs higher than estimates, etc.

- 1 Landscape Mound**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Creativity
- 2 Stacked Log Mound**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Creativity
- 3 Log Scramble**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Creativity, Collaboration
- 4 Balance Beam**  
- Mental Health, Emotional Regulation
- 5 Climber**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit
- 6 Climber with Slide (Reused)**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Creativity
- 7 Parkour**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit
- 8 Belt and Group Swings**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Communication, Empathy, Social Cues
- 9 Stone Slab Seating**  
- Mental Health, Emotional Regulation





- 1 Landscape Mound**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Creativity
- 2 Rod Forest**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit
- 3 Embankment Slide**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit
- 4 Climber**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit
- 5 Parkour**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit
- 6 Spinner**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Creativity
- 7 Belt and Group Swings**  
- Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit, Communication, Empathy, Social Cues
- 8 Shaded Seating**  
- Mental Health, Emotional Regulation
- 9 Log Stepper Slope**  
- Critical Thinking, Confidence, Vestibular, Proprioceptive, Ability to sit





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## **What is your favorite play memory? Where was it? What was special about the space or the people you were with?**

Being able to run and swing and climb. It was always a happy place to be . Carefree and fun.

playing football in a large backyard

My favorite play memory was playing imaginary games with neighbor children and brothers and sisters. It was in a backyard. The space was green with bushes and trees and grass.

Friends

areas where you could play whatever you wanted with your friends rather than something organized.

ball field games involving large groups of kids - flag football, sharks and minnows, etc. ; When adults helped supervise the games we students had a lot of fun!

Having a lot of space to play, playing in nature, loved playing with classmates

It was fun to have spaces for imaginative play.

Spinning on the merry-go-round

playing basketball with friends and teachers

The see saw and the swings I can remember talking (and singing!) on each with my friends.

Kickball with classmates--elementary school (blacktop--yikes!), we had fun doing something together and we were able to play every day

My favorite activities at school and at home were group games; especially kickball and softball and dodgeball. I played these at school at recess and at home in our yard or at the community park. I also enjoyed 4 - square and football. When I unable to join in a group game, my favorite activity was swinging on the swings (and climbing trees at home).

My play house. Family and friends were with me.

Playing on the swings and climbing equipment with friends

On the school playground with my friends. Eating lunch and playing games outside in the pavillion, shaded from the sun, outside but inside!

Basketball and wall ball. It was on the playground. It was a great space that was devoted just to those activities.

I enjoyed playing with friends in my backyard. We played tether ball, climbed trees, whiffle ball, and jump rope. We played in groups with my siblings and with kids in the neighborhood.

Playing kickball, football, and basketball with the neighborhood.

climbing and running

Play kickball with my friends. Baseball field with bases - elementary playground.

I love being outside. The swings were always my favorite.

Playing in a homemade fort!

Playing house in a fort with friends and my sister. I always enjoyed playing games where we pretended to be grown ups.

merry-go-round, elementary school, best friends

Nature-based creative building with natural materials and chopping up plants to make concoctions with my sister beside a small stream under 2 great white pines in the wild open spaces surrounding the homestead where we grew up.

I always enjoyed jump roping and playing games like kick-ball and as I got older just enjoyed hanging with friends

Exploring the woods behind my house. I was with neighborhood kids and we would create "clubhouses" and decorate with items from nature. It was my favorite place to be as a kid.

My happiest memories of recess center around a space that smaller groups of kids could play less competitive games in - jacks or make-believe or reading

Climbing trees with my cousins, playing in creeks with my siblings, and playing in the woods or little wooded areas behind our house with neighborhood friends. It was in nature and open ended and allowed us to imagine different worlds.

Summer, parks and rec, college students, playing mancala, then starts raining but we played on because we were under a pavilion

Using the swing that my father built for me.

Places that you can crawl under/inside. A fort like enclosure. I think numerous ones would be ideal. Not just one or two. They can be designed so adults could see what is going on inside with various small to medium and larger openings. Think of a brush/hedge line where undergrowth grows thick but if you wiggle below the growth a cavern like opening emerges inside. A wigwam shape. And made to look like a natural enclosure.

Imaginative play with my best friend. We used the forest to create whole adventures!

On the playground climbing bars in elementary school. It was fun to see how far we could get on these bars and cheer each other on.

I used to play kickball every recess with my grade. My school had a rather large section of flat blacktop (separate from the basketball court) where we could play. It was painted to have a "field" on it with bases, etc. This was also a fair distance from the school so we could kick without worrying about if we hit a window. Many of us in the grade would play together- boys and girls. We didn't have "access" to this blacktop until 3rd grade, but we asked to play on an open field during 2nd grade because we liked to play this daily. We were granted permission (my school had separate playgrounds and areas for K-2 and 3-5).

I have lovely memories of playing alone, building with colorful blocks and pretending all kinds of different scenarios in the spaces I would create. One day it was a miniature zoo, the next a museum, then a hospital. I loved the vivid colors and being able to use my imagination to make the space how I wanted. I also remember a fantastic playground my grandmother took us to because it had a large replica of an airplane that was amazing to climb on and pretend with other playground friends.

Doing "gymnastics" on the bars on the playground with friends

My favorite play memory was at Boalsburg Elem. School-playing hop-scotch with friends and other hop-scotch lovers! I also loved to swing !

My favorite play memory is a club house that was connected to the play set at a local park near my childhood home. The club house provided incredible opportunity for imaginative play. Sometimes the club house was a home where we played house. Sometimes the club house was a restaurant. Other times, it was a grocery store. The possibilities were endless and we had so much fun opening and shutting doors, window shutters, having pretend babies or cash registers. The great part was that it was connected to the play set, so we could use that as an extension of our imaginative play.

My favorite play memory has to be a huge wooden playground I use to play on when I visited my grandparents. There were numerous tunnels, lots of bridges, and a variety of places to hide.

Swings, I love the swing, going high, wind blowing in my face, my hair flying out behind me. The swing with seats though, not the bendable swing seat that shapes like the letter "U" As an adult, when I sit on the U shaped swing, it cuts into my thighs. I believe that the larger kids probably feel the same way. Hard seats are so much more comfortable. Often kids with autism, ADHD, and other anxiety disorders love to swing. Of course we could use the ADA swings too.

My daughter's favorite was playing on the large rocks at RP. She said that many problems were resolved between the peers on the rocks. She also enjoyed the long swings and the USA state maps.

the woods behind my house. It was private and belonged to my brother and I not adults

Walking along a forest trail with my dad and brother. My dad would hang birdhouses in spots along the trail, and we would check them periodically for signs of use. The forest had some babbling brooks that would change in fullness as the seasons and weather changed. I also loved when extended family members would join us swinging on the swings in our yard.

On the swings. place for quiet play

Playing with friends in neighborhood yards. Just being with friends.

Slides at my elementary were my favorite. They were built into a hillside so it was always a quick route from the top play area to the lower area. We had no idea we were exercising to get back to the top up the hillside each time and the fact that you had to run up the hillside to one of the two long slides meant there was rarely a wait in a line.

Playing on a tilt-a-whirl spinning equipment, on the playground at PFE.



## **What kinds of play memories do you want the kids at SCASD to have?**

Happy, care free and fun.

Fun, no bullying

Enjoying free time with their classmates.

Having fun with friends

kids should get to relax, have fun, exercise and burn off steam on a playground in a way that encourages creativity

Collaborative and cooperative circuit activities that they could complete as teams

Ones that allow creativity and imagination

I want them to get physical exercise and find ways to include others in group play

Feeling that they can climb and run

fun and active, but safe; everyone feels welcome

Non-competitive as well as competitive

a space that lets kids make different choices--some may want ball games, some like to climb, some like to slide, etc; for the younger students, parks like Tudek have play houses, etc, that are always popular anytime we have been there

I want our kids to love to play. I want them to remember creating friendships and feeling free to run and just enjoy their time.

Memories of imaginative play with friends

Collaborative, imaginative play that allows for groups and individuals

A desire to be outside on the playground, physical activity, variety of options, shade.

Places where they will be safe to play football but at the same time not be muddy.

I want them to have positive memories of playing, where they engaged their imagination and had some opportunities to creatively devise their own games with rules. They need to have varied opportunities.

I would like to see every child's needs met. I have had children who enjoy team sports on a field or court, others like individual activities like swinging on the swings, while others enjoy pretend play or being in nature. They should have all opportunities available to them.

not being bullied if they prefer more individual or quieter playing; that activity is fun, that physical fitness is a good thing

Great ACTIVE times with lots of friends.

Ones in which they can interact with and enjoy the natural elements and resources outside their schools.

Interactive with others and making sure physical movement is involved.

I would love for their play to involve using their imagination.

running/walking/talking with friends

More experiences involving interactions with the natural world!

It would be nice that they could all feel like they have had a fun time and have fun stories to share with their families at the end of the day.

Memories of play creating new friendships! One of the most creative and fantastic spots on our old playground (before construction) was a large rock. The kids used it to play pirates, "explore" other lands, they would pretend to be Power Rangers, we even had kids on some days that would take books from the little library that stood next to the rock and sit to read. I think what I liked best about that spot is you would see a large variety of kids hanging out there. It wasn't always the same group of kids. Lots of kids would use it throughout the year for different purposes.

memories that don't involve having to negotiate how teams are made up or who gets to play with whom

Natural, open-ended, cooperative, and imaginative

athletic, positive, play

Fun times with their classmates.

Ones where they can play in small to large groups and have some quiet time too.

Active and Creative. Memories of running around, climbing, creating imaginative worlds!

I'd love for kids to have fun, safe equipment to challenge themselves outside and play together with other students.

Choice- opportunities to play with others in both large and small groups. Options for things to play on. Sharing is always needed, but enough choices that they can make another choice while waiting. Space for open play vs. space for equipment.

Rich, fun filled memories of free time and exploration with friends. It's a social time and a time to make choices for yourself of who you're paired up with and what activities you choose to engage in. It's unstructured and flexible, and I hope we are able to give our kids just enough framework to explore while still letting them use their own imagination to fill in the blanks.

Using their imagination and collaborative play

I want the kids at SCASD to have play memories of playing with new friends and using their imaginations to make up new games!

I would love to see play memories that enable the children to use their imaginations. I don't feel like this happens as much in a time when they have access to so much that is already created for them (i.e. video

games, movies, apps, etc.). I would also like to see a variety of equipment that makes play accessible to every child (i.e. the short child, the tall child, the athletic child, the less athletic child, the risk taking child, the more timid child, etc.).

I want them to be able to look back at their play experience when they are older with a smile on their face.

An innovative way to create a playground that encourages group play. A place that makes more sense to have one than more child enjoying the space.

I want the kids to feel relaxed whether they are highly active or not.

laughter, togetherness, ownership, creativity

Options of physical challenge, vestibular stimulation, fun and serenity.

Having fun in a safe place with friends.

I prefer anything that engages them in physical and imaginative play!

how the play ground sparked fun imaginary play with their friends.

## **What kinds of spaces would make those play memories happen? What are must haves or definitely not?** 50 responses

Shade trees, no mud. Space to run that is safe. Fenced to be safe from cars.

Large open fields, balls, possibly small soccer nets, bases - the basics, not large amounts of money spent on equipment that is often not used

Some trees, open spaces, shady places for hot days.

Must have space to run. NO zipline! So many children have broken their arms on this equipment.

must haves: grassy areas, swings; benches, ares for team sports

If possible, some sensory type areas would be great for our students who truly thrive off of those resources.

The space should emulate nature as much as possible. Equipment should be regularly maintained and checked for safety

good, quality grass and areas to run around, more equipment, more blacktop space

I think there needs to be spaces for more aggressive physical play, like kickball and basketball, but also quieter moments for jump rope. There should be tables or benches for kids who want a break. It is important to have shade when it gets too hot and a windbreak for very windy days.

Large open flat spaces for soccer and football. Monkey bars, domes, etc for climbing and hanging upside down.

blacktop, grassy areas, quiet areas

Well constructed basketball hoops Wiffle balls and bats with a space designated for this Shady areas for imaginative play - especially for our fair skinned students

Seesaws and monkey bars--lots of injuries and hard to monitor until the injury occurs (can't prevent fall ahead of time or feet getting jammed under the seesaw)

We must have open space for kids to play games. We need swings and climbing apparatus for kids to strengthen their muscles and challenge themselves.

Space in a fort /castle / house type structure / space

A field area for group games, and climbing equipment for all ages, swings would be my must haves.

Pavillion, playground equipment - swings, monkey bars, sliding board, etc. MUST have shade to encourage students to stay outside

Separate spaces to play basketball, football in wet months.

While equipment such as climbers, swings, and slides are important, it is also necessary to have green space where students can run and play. We need to remember that there are often many children at the same time on the playground so there needs to be a variety of equipment and play space. It would also be nice to have some areas that are not perfectly flat. Children love sledding down a small hill on a sled during the winter. They love standing on a hill, throwing a football to a group. A track or walkway of some kind would be nice. Hard spaces (black top) are great for hopscotch, jump rope, and sidewalk chalk.

I don't think you need expensive equipment to insure that children's needs are met. Instead, I believe you need to keep all children's needs/wants in mind.

space to play, lots of available choices for those who need to play differently than rambunctious games, space for creative play, want a USA map painted on the blacktop, need hoops, base running areas, would be nice for frisbee golf to be put in

Equipment that is age appropriate, big open spaces, designated baseball field, and a wall to kick balls against!

Climbing equipment, swings, areas for students who would prefer to draw or play a quiet game (covered pavilion), shaded areas, and a walking track (MUST-HAVE) - used for classrooms as well as phys. ed. classes, too

open space, climbing spaces, swinging spaces, balance space, crawling space.

Play spaces that are connected and have different levels so that it allows them to use their imagination and to pretend the structure is many different things: a house, castle, pirate ship etc.

paved pathway for running/walking

Areas with trees among which the kids could safely play (tree spacing such that kids can be seen), venues that reflect a nature connection.

I think more interactive playground structures...shaped like an airplane or a rocket or a treehouse or even large animal structures they could pretend they are riding or climbing on. I also think good areas for a kickball field and soccer field; more mulched or some type of turf area because so many times the playground grassy areas are muddy and cannot be played on for several days at a time so the area of play becomes much smaller..

Needs to include natural play space that the kids make anything they want and play equipment that does the same---it has multiple functions. We need to make our playgrounds inclusive-the old playground made it nearly impossible for kids with physical challenges to enjoy play. Definitely no zip lines! We have discovered how dangerous they no matter how much resistance you give the mechanism.

space for quieter kids to feel comfortable in - some kids just need to decompress at recess, not get dragged into playing on a team or playing in larger groups - definitely a quiet, peaceful area with seating for more than one or two kids at a time

I think Montessori inspired outdoor play spaces would be a good place to start. Room to take risks and cooperate with peers.

shaded/ shelter

No monkey bars. These are the reasons for many health room visits. From causing blisters to falling off and breaking wrists. Be careful what mulch you choose. The current mulch has large pieces and that cause cuts and abrasions.

Must haves are climbing and agility like equipment. No zip line type equipment.

Along with regular swings, slides, structures, I think it would be great to have natural spaces that lend themselves to imaginative play. Stone walk ways, natural elements, Big things to move around... make forts, etc.

Creative climbing equipment.

Open fields, open blacktop (for those muddy days) and play equipment (slides, swings, monkey bars, see saws). Definitely not things that you can "hide" behind (solid walls).

Open space with clear lines of sight for safety purposes. Equipment and space that can be flexible and/or multi use. Brightly colored equipment or paint (hop scotch). Water and sand are hard to deal with- taking time to clean up/ change clothes, etc can be challenging when re-entering the classroom. I think equipment that allows them to climb and have a different viewpoint, and space without equipment for kickball or jump rope is also important. I think space to rest is as important as space to run. Also please consider some equipment that can include wheelchair accessibility.

Must have accessible play spaces for all, would really like to see the kind of "springy" rubberized material under the play structures (e.g., like at Bernel Park) instead of mulch or pavement, that can provide an even surface for students who may have mobility issues.

Some "must haves" might be a hop-scotch place and a 4 square area.

It would be nice to see different equipment and/or spaces that encourage the use of both fine and gross motor skills. It would also be neat if the spaces kept in mind the sensory needs of children. Many children enjoying the sensation of bouncing or receiving sensory input. I know so many families who love the Arboretum for the various tactile, visual and auditory elements that are there for children to see and explore. It would be cool if the spaces were unique in design so that there were coves or areas where students could play pretend. As a teacher, we are always concerned about potential injuries. It is important to keep in mind how k-2 students would use a space/equipment versus how a 3-5 would use that same space/equipment.

Must be expansive and have lots of nooks and crannies for students to get in.

I work in special ed. Kids with wheelchairs are so left out from the other kids. If there is a way to put a special play place under the equipment that these kids could gather and have the opportunity to inter-play with their peers. Some of the pictures of playgrounds in Europe are quite fascinating. Check them out.

spaces with multiple functions, open spaces, not directed play

Must have: Swings, monkey bars, a variety of ladders to climb, tunnels to crawl through, balance beams

Pockets of grass to allow for different play activities; shady spots

Place to play catch/football closer to the school for younger kids.

Equipment and space that can be accessed by any and all are definite musts.

Must have lots of very different play spaces. Give them options of different play.

## **What kinds of activities do you think the kids at SCASD would enjoy here?<sup>49</sup>**

responses

Swinging, climbing. A place to play basketball, soccer and kickball

football, baseball, kickball, soccer, basketball

Children enjoy the playground equipment but also like the open fields. They also like playing around the trees and pretending to camp and build campfires, collecting leaves in the fall, resting in the shade in summer.

Slides, swings, courts for various ball games, football, baseball

walking track, monkey bars, things you can climb on, swings, things that are colorful and unexpected

climbing apparatus, swings (perhaps that can hold more than one kid), open space, natural space to dig in the dirt or sit against a tree trunk

a variety of activities that tap into developmental needs

I think they'd like basketball hoops and climbing equipment

In my experience, each year is a little different. Students enjoying having open fields where they can run and play sports with friends. They enjoy swings and bouncy equipment that they can feel movement. They enjoy flipping and hanging from bars.

ball games (basketball, 4-square, kickball), equipment to climb on, places to sit

Pretending and role playing as well as physical exercise

variety of choices

Open fields, swings, jungle gyms, slides, four square courts, They need to have balls at their disposal.

Group and individual play

Swings, sliding boards, monkey bars, basketball court, walls for wall ball, squares for 4 square.

Spaces where students can use equipment to play hide and seek or tag around. Spaces where sports can be played without interfering with playground equipment.

See above, along with swings, slides, and places to play group games such as kickball.

Kids are creative and will use space as they see fit. We had a group of students make a fairy garden in the hollow of the old tree at Corl Street.

climbing apparatus, space for ball games of all types with ability to be age adjusted, areas for make believe play, attractive and fun

Organized games with balls (wiffle ball, kick ball, football, basketball), fun climbing equipment, and creative space for imaginative play or artistic (like sidewalk chalk)

A bike track or walking track I think is ESSENTIAL.

Climbing, running, organized games, creating their own play/games, gross motor movements

This kind of structure would have lots of possibilities for what kinds of activities they could do.

walking track

Climbing, exploring, anything with a sense of adventure and discovery.

I think activities where they can interact and have pretend play as well as game-type play

Climbers are great because they can become anything and they require a great use of physical activity. The simple swings we had in our playground never sat unused.

some kids want to sit and read quietly or just observe and there may be a longer recess time but we don't - as a district - recognize that some kids need different ways to decompress and relax ..... it doesn't always have to be about exercise and running and playing in a group

I think Montessori inspired environments that invite children to play in different ways would be a good place to start designing ideas and spaces.

year round activities

A large area to run and play tag or throw a ball.

Soccer, football, dance, gymnastics climbing, track.

Everything from sliding down the slide to making obstacle courses, to acting out their favorite imaginative games.

Exploration and teamwork activities

Equipment that they can use while playing in open areas (jump ropes, balls, mitts, etc). I also find many kids just wanting to dig in some dirt. Organized games are popular, but also space between equipment so it isn't too tight.

I work with children who love throwing a football, playing soccer, jumping rope, imaginative play, etc

Still some traditional play structures like swings - can be made accessible to all.

Kids love swings of course, so maybe some "extra swings" would be one activity .Sliding boards are fun also!

I think the students would love to have spaces to climb, slide, and pretend. I think that students would also like areas for organized play like hop scotch, 4 square, wall ball, etc. An open area where students can play and run is also valuable.

I think they would enjoy a big jungle gym filled with different activities.

I see lots of running, tag, climbing and slides. We have toboggans for sledding, so definitely a hill of some kind. Kids love rolling down the grass on a hill. An area to play frisbee, another perk of the airport park. Areas for gardening, our school teaches those ideas, and we have bird feeders too that the kids attend to. Getting back to nature.

Wall Ball or wall for ball play, sitting areas for socializing, four square, open play areas for imaginative play with shapes and colors designed into the playground surface (different colored dots for jumping and tag (the RP large multi colored USA state map was used this way), blue wave lines, straight lines with varying distances apart, lines for relays, etc.), swinging, fire pole for sliding down

choice, imagination, working together, challenges

All above and then some.

swinging, climbing, playing football & soccer; four square on the pavement; having a path to walk in a loop; basketball; sandbox; tables



Bigger climbing tunnels and slides.

How can I answer this? Kids and their desires are unique—we need choice and SPACE that allows them to create their own activity as well as well.

climbing, tunnels, nets to hang out on, interactive like the whispering tube, bouncing type activities.

## **Do you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about the play space?** 40 responses

No mud so a lot of ground cover or wood chips. Fenced in area .

I would love to see various equipment available for a variety of age ranges (that is their size and appropriate for their developmental age), especially our youngest students in kindergarten

please do not have little stones on a playground area, they are a problem -- also make sure that there are clear lines of vision for the adults that are supervising the playground areas

I hope we have enough adult supervision to ensure that every child is enjoying him/herself in a safe and inviting way.

Again, an area to rest (bench or table) and a shady spot for hot days.

It needs to include equipment for all the students in the school.

avoid equipment that only 1-2 students can enjoy at a time

Please include some shade.

Space should not be shared with PE field, as that takes away from PE or recess time/experiences. Maybe--do some research on what the most popular and well-loved equipment is at local playgrounds (Tudek, Spring Creek, etc) to help with decisions?

I worry that kids are losing their independence in play. They need to be allowed time and space to explore friendships and activities. Kids today don't know how to play - especially at home. They need to be free to play outside at school because they don't play outside when they are not at school.

Have a surface to play on when the winter weather or rainy weather prohibits muddy, messy, snow play.

There is quite a lot of variety of play structures on the playgrounds now. However the sandbox has been a source of controversy- spreading germs from where animals might have gotten into it, sand in eyes and bringing sand in to the buildings. I don't think there is a need for a sandbox on the playgrounds.

Handicap accessible, shade. If there's no shade, students want to come inside and we want them to enjoy outside.

I have concerns about drainage issues and muddy surfaces with new playground equipment. I hope that something can be put in place where students don't track mud or mulch inside.

We need places to store equipment outside, such as jump ropes, sleds, and balls. We share a lot of the equipment so having it locked outside, when not in use is helpful.

Thanks for being thoughtful and working to create the best playground for our students. They are indeed blessed!

accessibility for physical limitations, ask the kids

Make sure equipment and playgrounds are handicap accessible.

Areas for storing games, toys, equipment outside with easy access for students and paras while on the playground.

I think it is important to have an open area and trees.

I think a large, multilevel play structure would allow many kids to use the space at one time instead of having to wait their turn. It could allow all age groups to interact together during recess.

a walking track would be beneficial to both students and staff

I would appreciate if we can welcome other wild things into the spaces where we play. The playground is a key place to show how humans can co-exist with the natural world (ex bird nests/houses, wildlife habitats, native flower gardens, native bee nest sites)

Just working to keep the playground a safe area for children to play

Our students have the most amazing, creative ideas. I know I'd be happy get ideas from them :)!

I understand the safety concerns/needs but it would be nice to have trees/ shades area/ pavilion

No sharp mulch

I think it needs to be a mix of equipment that are close in proximity and then some that allow for open feeling and an area to run.

No.

Space is always a factor. Concerned about how much green space we preserve for just an open field. Also making sure there are enough options for kids to be outside on muddy days. A paved walking path around the perimeter is also nice. Be sure to plan for a system of clearing the paved areas when there is snow.

Only concern is accessibility and safety, and that there not be any areas in playground structures that would be hidden/blocking views, making it difficult for effective supervision of students

AT this time I don't have any questions, concerns, or ideas about the play space.

I love that you have reached out for input from students, staff, and parents to make this project meet the physical and social needs of all children.

Could the rubber ground cover be used instead of mulch. Mulch hurts when the kids fall, and it gets in their shoes and gets tracked in. I know its expensive I know. The downfall is though that it gets hot in the summer. OR, the foam playground like out at the airport park.

no

Each school to have a choice or two that a student who uses a wheelchair may access.

Place with shade. It can get very hot in the sun and some students are bothered by the sun more than others. Ensure that play equipment/climbing equipment does not have elevated paths. With the old equipment, students could climb a ladder, run across a bridge and then quickly go down stairs or down a slide. Some students would chase each other across the equipment, causing danger for other students playing on the equipment and sometime causing injury due to falls or crashing into other students.

A school playground should differ from a community park. It should be designed to continually accommodate a large number of students/users.

No

**What is your favorite play memory? Where was it? What was special about the space or the people you were with?**

Swings with friends

my backyards as a child, playing in open spaces and also with friends at school

I remember running around on the playground growing up and playing pretend imaginary games like House or Zoo using the Slides, swings, etc as areas in our play.

Monkey bar. When I can do it, I felt brave and confidence.

swings

Sandlot kickball or baseball in York PA. It was simple and i was with all my friends. Didn't need a lot of expensive stuff - just a ball and maybe a bat and gloves.

There was a huge play boat that even fifth graders would enjoy. It helped with imaginative play. Also the swings.

Foursquare was my favorite activity once I hit 3rd grade. OLV. It was a wide open space with endless possibilities

Slides and Swings. Playing kickball, freeze tag, basketball, talking with my friends

In the yard, all street kids of all ages came together and played, without age discrimination. All age kids had their role to play.

playing massive games of soccer on the school yard.

When I was a child my favorite play place was Slab Cabin Run which ran through my neighbor's yard. It was a favorite because we were free to do what we pleased. It was very open and unstructured.

Monkey bars and spiral slide . Also enjoyed pretending to "dig" for dinosaurs and as an older elementary student we were obsessed with tether ball.

I enjoyed playing at school on the blacktop (4 square, etc.) We used our imaginations and got exercise. I also always loved the swings.

Swinging with my friends and playing on the seesaw. Playing ping pong with my friends and family in my basement. Doing activities that could involve a lot of people, or just 2.

I was outside with nature. There were plenty of trees and wildlife, and I watched it all with intense curiosity.

Building a big model city out of wooden blocks at the science Museum. I could do it in a space where it was set aside and no one would wreck it.

Playing i the woods and creek behind my child hood home, also had a great sledding hill that ALLLL the neighborhood kids would gather at in the winter.

The playground at my elementary school. The playground had lots of.... metal shapes (for lack of a better word?) that were great for climbing flipping, and open ended play. Some were very tall, some were round, square, etc. Probably not safe, but we had a blast and nobody ever got too badly hurt.

Fort LeTort playground. Lots of area to run and hide, high and low. Can hang, climb, etc and allows for lots of kids

Kick ball. We had a lot, although paved, with bases to run and space to play. Long ago at Juniata Gap elementary in Altoona. (since rebuilt)

Sledding down a hill at my elementary school. It was cold and we got to have fun.

Swinging on the playground with neighborhood friends
I enjoyed playing on the dome that was made of bars. You could climb on the top it and use it like monkey bars. You could also use it as a base when playing tag because you had to make it into the middle of it.
Growing up in Texas, we had an annual "Bike Rodeo" where there were different stations / competitions to do with your bike (brought in specially from home), such as bike decoration, who rode the slowest for a set distance, riding through an series of cones, etc. It was on my elementary school's playground "blacktop." Teachers and parent volunteers created an enthusiastic, gender-balanced (i.e., the boys didn't always win) environment for me and my friends. It was so much fun.
My favorite play memory was the swings at the beach. I grew up on the shore, and our public beach had two or three giant swing sets. They are still there today! Every kid in town took a turn on the swings and to find one available on a sunny summer beach day was rare. We loved to swing as high as we could and jump off to see where we landed in the sand. The swings faced the water, so they had this great view out when you swung up into the sky.
My favorite play memory was in a wooded space--playing fort under tree canopies with my friends.
playing on the swings with my friends, slides
Imaginative play in neighbors unfinished basements
Climbing on the neighbor's garden trellis that had boards balanced across the top. It was covered in wisteria vines that provided cover for us when we were hiding from saber-toothed tigers and the like.
Roaming in the woods to find trees, leaves, branches and making forts with friends from the materials we found.
Playing on swings and gym equipment with friends
I used to love playing in and around wooden equipment, situated around trees on my school's playground.
The tall pine trees by my house. I would climb the trees and use imaginary play with friends, creating a magnitude of worlds in my mind. I liked the space because the branches were low and it was as if I was entering a semi-private and mysterious space where we could play.
My favorite play memories actually include little to no equipment. I loved jump roping in the open spaces of the playground and doing gymnastics or playing kickball during recess when I was in elementary school.
Monkey bars!
IN my hometown there was a huge wooden play structure that had a long swingy chain and wood bridge that you could cross from one side to another. I remember the first day I ran across it, no hands on the chain sides. It was the Rite of Passage from little kid to big kid. The risk and the bit of fear and the feeling of success.
Playing in the woods, building forts with friends.
Jungle gym
King of the mountain on a giant snow pile, teams were split up by class
On the merry go round. Small park in my home town.
I loved the merry go round and I wish this town had more of them. Nittany Orchard Park has a nice one.

School. We had so much playground equipment. Giant strides, merry go round, teeter totter, etc. fun memories.
Inside of a metal dome-like play structure we pretended was a castle.
Jungle Gym! I imagined it was so many different things (a cage, a space ship etc.)
jump rope, see-saws and wooden climbers. lots of kids to play with
swinging by myself and exploring nature (rocks, trees, wild plants) in a number of places outside
One: castle on elementary playground, lots of pretend play. TWO: parallel bars that we did gymnastics on- swinging, hanging from, etc. THREE: space to run and play
My favorite memories are all made of times when I was required to use imagination more than the items around me. Boxes that turned into forts, trees that turned into my jungle gyms, sand boxes that turned into the Sahara... Those were the best play memories I have. As for playgrounds - I loved the "Hamburgler Jail" at McDonald's playgrounds when I was a child. Something about that area - up a ladder and enclosed - felt like a spaceship or a submarine or even a playhouse!
Playing ice hockey in a school outdoor rink
Hopscotch at school with friends
The swings with friends
Digging in the dirt, constructing. I loved the open palette of making anything I wanted, so much imagination
Playing make believe in the big global willow in our front yard. At my home growing up. Good places to climb and sit and pretend with my brother and friends.
My dad turned an old row boat into a sand box for us. In the winter we made it an "ice rink" and the neighbor kids came over and played on the ice with me
Group sports during recess in my elementary school's play ground. I was always doing something with a group of classmates, which made things more fun.
We used to love playing on the seesaws on the school playground. We used to spend the entire recess on them. There was nothing out of the ordinary or special about them, I think i was just fun to do together. I used to also love jumprope and four-square.
Playing in the woods with friends. Being in nature
Jungle gyms to climb on
the climber at my elementary school playground - we pretended it was a spaceship
Lots of outdoor space
kickball and jump rope with friends
An old wooden play structure with a bunch of different height vertical 4x4 or 6x6 posts that were bolted together
I loved playing outdoor kitchen/play house with friends. We'd make pretend food with sticks and leaves, and pay all kinds of stories. Also, when I got a bit older, 4-square was a fun game. Also tetherball!
Being in the woods or other natural environments with a diversity of flora and fauna. Interactive and individual play, imaginative environments,

Swings and going through an old pipe (was a very cool tunnel)
My favorite playground memories were on the swings, climbing equipment, and playing kickball. It was special because it involved my friends and I playing together.
Long sliding boards that ran down a large downhill - had to run uphill to get back to the top. The slide matched the grade of the slope. They seemed risky and adventurous without really being unsafe.
Playing in the hayloft at my uncle's farm with my cousins. We could climb and build with the rectangular bales of hay.
Swinging on the swings with my friends and talking.
Jungle Gym - climbing was always fun and challenging
Playing with friends on the playground of a park near home, with enough space to be creative (trees and large rocks) and run (open space) as well as equipment
the playground.
playing at the beach; playing in the woods near my house
Playing in the trees in my backyard with my neighbor. We would climb up as high as we could and imagine different worlds. We would even climb up and sit and read.
There were amazing playgrounds in Berlin, Germany, with different themes. Also, there is a great outdoor playground with climbing boulders at the AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch in New Hampshire.
Large open space playground
I loved the fountains at the playgrounds where I grew up. There are no open splash pads in State College. It would be fantastic to have one.
Anything climbing, I loved them all. I just loved to climb and could use my imagination.
Dodge ball and hand ball. Avoiding getting hit.
Outdoors, playing with friends & family
There was a big tree at the edge of the playground. It was huge with big roots. It was a focal point because there wasn't any equipment but that tree was a school, a rocket ship, a fairy house and a hospital depending on the day and who was playing. This was my experience in first and second grade
tag on the half dome at school
We had a tree house at our school and we absolutely loved it
A simple log "deck" with short walls and window-like holes and a hole in the center like a trap door. No roof. This spot was so full of creative play for me as a kid. It was in a historic park/battlefield area.
Playing in the woods with my sister. The lack of structure allowed us to be very imaginative. Plus, we got dirty
Playing at the local park passing through stone walls with holes in them that you can pass through
Climbing trees!! Having open play spaces in nature is so important!
A playground with various slides and figures to climb on that resembled snowmen, animals, vehicles, etc... requiring different ability levels of gross motor strength and planning. There was a variety of Trees creating shade all around the outskirts with benches and tables for people to sit and observe, talk or create crafts, draw or write. I believe it was a somewhat private playground in Mifflin, PA.
A playground with various slides and figures to climb on that resembled snowmen, animals, vehicles, etc... requiring different ability levels of gross motor strength and planning. There was a variety of Trees

creating shade all around the outskirts with benches and tables for people to sit and observe, talk or create crafts, draw or write. I believe it was a somewhat private playground in Mifflin, PA.
At the "brook path" near the house where I lived from about age 4 into young adulthood. It was special because of the place: wild-ish, with hidden spaces to explore, and not too many grownups.
Variety in the offerings
IN my hometown there was a huge wooden play structure that had a long swingy chain and wood bridge that you could cross from one side to another. I remember the first day I ran across it, no hands on the chain sides. It was the Rite of Passage from little kid to big kid. The risk and the bit of fear and the feeling of success.
The playground, it was designed like a castle and had a bunch of mazes to get lost in with interlocking bridges
Obstacle Courses, forts, Climbing walls, sitting areas with greenery for parents, large slides that adults can go on with kids. Cities like Chicago and Boston. Example is the Maggie Daley Park in Chicago. Lots of interactions with peers and play areas that were different and unique that allow kids to discover themselves and explore. Allowed parents to interact if needed but areas of greenery so parents can relax in natural setting.
The swings! Love the good old swings, although there are never enough on a playground. Many swings are great!
We had a park called Playland where we grew up and what made it awesome was not just that it was a huge park but us kids actually got to HELP build it- we helped soap the screws, spread mulch, etc. It was always fun to know that WE helped to build that park!
Spinning on the ... I think it was called marry go round but haven't seen one in a long time. I also likes the challenge of competition at monkey bars. I enjoyed exploring and house in the tree/ wooded area
Green space to run, play sports, swing on swings, etc
The park by my house growing up. I did summer camp there. I was with my friends from school. It was special because it was in a wooden area with lots of trees, walking paths, benches to sit and talk and read. The equipment was fun for climbing and imaginary play. It was very open ended and simple.
Honestly the merry go round thing that everyone thinks is so dangerous now is my best memory. Definitely not worth the complete erasure from playgrounds it has experienced. Every kid played on it first.
My best play memories were from the woods surrounding my house in Montana - climbing trees, building forts, exploring a creek with friends. It was special because it felt wild and utterly explorable.
Being allowed to go outside and have free play. Hitting the swings, playing kickball and 4D on the grass, watching the birds in the school fountain.
?
Double Swing sets, see saws with a friend
We had two big trees in my elementary school playground. One was the girls and one for the boys. Close enough to see each other, but far enough that we had our own space.
Growing up, I went to Radio Park. The best memories were doing back flips off the swings and climbing the huge tree that's no longer there. My friends and I loved daring each to go higher!
I loved playing in my neighborhood, building forts in giant snow banks (I grew up in Canada), and going to the park that had okay structures that allowed for active and creative play.
Kicking balls around. Lots of open space. Using my imagination to make up games.
Some of my favorite childhood memories involve playing in/with nature (climbing trees, playing tag with trees as base, making moss beds for forest friends, etc.) Making up games with friends and using our imaginations!



I loved playing "Benham Country Restaurant" when I was a kid. We played this in the upstairs kitchen at my house. Most people obviously don't have two kitchens in their homes so this unique setup made it incredibly appealing to friends, cousins, and neighbors. I think the fact that I was able to play this with anyone made it extra special.
Splish Splash water park. I remember loving all the different kinds of slides you could go down, and how, often, you could go down with a partner which made it extra fun! I also remember having a blast playing with my sister, just creating things together and using our imagination.
Playing kickball or football on my school playground. We had so much fun. The space was nothing special, but we looked forward to that each day. I also have great memories of building "forts" in an empty lot in my neighborhood. I think the special thing was we could be creative and we used our imagination
Merry go round
Monkey bars and play structures were exciting to me! The school playground was exciting and fun. As I got older, I really loved playing kickball at recess.
the monkey bars in elementary school. We were able to sit on the top and hang out with friends. Also, a large open field to run and chase each other.
Green flat grassy-space to run and play tag.
Playing pretend with friends, where different pieces of equipment equaled different places (houses, stores, schools) in our pretend game.
Basketball games, from elementary to high school, both the space and the people
my backyard as a child, climbing a tree, using the see-saw and swinging
outdoors with sister riding bikes and building forts out of sticks
Most of my favorite memories involved proximity to nature--being in the woods, climbing trees, etc. Keeping some natural space or trees/grass in the playscape matters to me and my family.
climbing and running with friends
Playing on see-saws
As a grade schooler playing on the massive wooden playground with high walls and a pirate ship type area
My favorite memories are playing on swings with friends swinging next to me.
One special place - playing in the huge wooden jungle gyms in Rocky Ridge park in York, PA. They were amazing and it was a huge treat to play in, on, and around these huge jungle gyms. They had so much to do and were such a treat to play in.
I remember playing in the woods behind my neighbors house. It was so fine to be creative and dream up new areas each day.
There was a woods next to our elementary school playground and the teachers let us go into it and build a little shelter out of sticks and branches with leaves on it. I loved that so much.
Playing tag in the grass area of my elementary school
swings at ferguson elementary
The swings & the kickball field. Being able to swing side-by-side with friends to see who could swing the highest was so much fun. I remember having so much energy after a good game of kickball.

There was a giant wooden playground near my hometown that was amazing. It had lots of nooks and crannies to be creative and use our imagination. There was a GIANT tire swing that was so fun. It was like a huge fort with levels and hidden areas and all kinds of cool stuff. We didn't get to go often because we lived about 30 minutes away, but it was so fun and we would wear ourselves out every time we visited.
Climbing on the dome structure at recess. You could climb on top and sit or hang through
Playing on a playground with many types of equipment
Swinging on the swings and singing Seasons in the Sun with my best friend in elementary. Playing kick ball, basketball and mush ball as a big group. Jumping rope, playing hopscotch and jacks.
Following a brook to its confluence with a very small river by hopping from stone to stone with my best friends. We'd pack as though we were Indiana Jones on an expedition through wilderness. It took us two or three hours to go roughly a quarter mile.
Swinging on the swings, climbing and have a space to run and play kickball are great play memories of mine at the school playground. Having a large, safe outdoor space with classmates made it special.
When I was young, we used to play on a rope swing down at the river. A cool rope swing or tire swing would be super cool at the school!
Climbing on the neighbor's garden trellis that had boards balanced across the top. It was covered in wisteria vines that provided cover for us when we were hiding from saber-toothed tigers and the like.
Playing in grove of pine trees, piling up the pine needles as walls to create houses. Creating "soup" or other meals with leaves, seeds, grass, etc.
sand pit that had a lot of similar toys (several house shapes, shovels, trucks and dolls) so that everyone could play together without fighting over the same toy. a slide that had safety bars so no one could push me and i could slide without fear and trees to climb and sit on where i could chat with my best friend (back in the days, lol). we also had a pirate ship and a spaceship that was the highlight of the playground, but no one watched with care, so they there the impassable domain of the same group of bullies, lol.
swings at the school playground
20ft climbing rope
I loved to play on the swings and having a field for kickball, softball, etc.
I liked challenging obstacles that tested my physical abilities
Climbing. At home and being free to enjoy nature.
Jungle gym; hanging upside down was cool. We also had a very long slide set on a hill; kids loved it.
My favorites have been playing with my daughter at the airport-themed park just up a side road before the University Park Airport
the huge metal slide with wooden steps to climb to the top with spaces for meeting, talking and pretending to hide; feeling of a fortress or something strong and larger than ourselves. the seesaws, swings and simply being with friends outside. one question to ask too is about bad memories; playground time may not have been enjoyable for all.
we played hop scotch / four square outside
Half dome monkey bars
Talking with my friends on the swing set
My favorite play memory involves a summer basketball court, neighborhood friends of different ages, having free reign to enjoy ourselves.

Playing in the woods next to my elementary school playground - special because there were huge trees and we played around the roots and had make believe worlds
Playing restaurant with my siblings at my house. We used what was around to create food to serve (berries, sawdust, leaves, water, mud). And at school, playing jump rope with friends.
Playing lion in the mown grass at school. We made trails out of the grass piles and roamed the "savannah". We made our own fun out of natural materials. That was fun!
Playing Kickball, Four Square, Basketball
Tall jungle gym structure
Playing with my friends in the swamp near where I lived, particularly at a spot where we could swing over a creek on vines hanging from the trees
Playing collaborative games with children in the neighborhood
the slides
There was a playground that was a series of wooden decks and tunnels that felt like a castle. There was lots of room to run, crawl, and hide.
I have a lot. At school: kickball, with my family: going to the local children's park with a ton of playground equipment (swings, slides, climbing things) or the park near my grandmother's house that had a fantastic merry-go-round and big slide
I went to Houserville and I loved the "island" between the basketball court and the 4 square court with the big old locust trees. Sad that those are gone. I also loved playing 4 square and foam bat ball but mostly just running around the open spaces making our own games.
Building forts and creating fantasy adventures with friends. We were able to move about and imagine multiple worlds with things on hand.
Imaginative play (as a pirate) on a big play structure (wood and net back then). It had nooks and crannies, and add-ons (turning steering wheel and crows nest) that prompted imaginative play. This was back in pre-school. Later in elementary, sitting on swings with friends talking, or playing 4-square in the pavement.
I recall playing in the woods than extended along the length of our neighbors properties. While we enjoyed being immersed in the forest and finding new ways to traverse through it - in hindsight we probably most enjoyed feeling that we were in our own space away from supervision. Though we were only a few minutes walk (and likely shouting distance) from our houses.
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I have very sweet memory of my elementary school playground. It was one of those complicated wooden playgrounds with lots of ramps and secret passageways. I remember playing for hours on it -- hide and seek and other games. I remember being so excited when our parents would take us there on the weekends and outside of school times. The community was also very involved in bringing the dream for the playground into action (and because my parents volunteered, I felt extra invested and close to the project from start to finish). It was called imagination station (in Carmel, NY)
jungle gym, 4 people swing
Outside burning energy!
There was a climbing structure at my primary school. It looked like two large hamburgers with tunnel attaching them. We would love to climb on them and eventually just sit down in the 'hamburgers' and chat with friends. I think I loved that we had a fun secret space to hang out in after we had worked out all our energy.

Playing at the school playground during recess! Easterly Parkway Elementary School. It's a great space, large area, but could use updating.

Fields and courts. Climbing structures that invite risk taking. Open fields and courts with balls, sports equipment.

Playground basketball court; open grass for playing sports / games

I can picture a rope swing over a sand box that many kids had fun swinging on from one platform to the other.

In the woods.

Playing by the water in RI as a kid. We were totally unsupervised, when we had problems, we fixed them ourself, when we got scrapes, we went on. We discovered our natural and man-made surroundings through play and practice.

I don't remember the playscapes of my youth because there weren't any, we lived out in the country and played outside in fields or woods. Best memories I have are of my older kids, that played in Sunset Park. THAT's a great playscape. It can be a battleship or spaceship or for playing hide and seek under it. the "lily pad" apparatus, they still jump on it when they're home from college...

## Building forts in the woods

Playing outside in the wooded area adjacent to our grassy playground field. Building "forts" out of tree branches and stones collected from around the area.

basketball, swings, climbers and creeks

There was a multi-level play structure at my neighborhood park and another one at my elementary school. Imaginary play with the multiple level structure was very rewarding. We made up our own games or rules or imaginary settings with the structure.

It was a nearby park we called the "Choo-Choo Train Park" because there was a (play) train we could climb in (and on). It was bigger and there was more to do.



I want my kid to have a similar large group playing experience. I want her to play with more people than her close friends.
interactive with nature
I want my daughter to be able to play imaginatively and interactively with her friends.
Anything carefree that they can do outside
Sense of adventure, fun, carefree days of childhood
Moving and using their imagination with their friends.
Similar. I want them to be able to be creative and be able to run around if they want to.
Happy memories where he is challenged, happy, generally successful, and bonding with others.
Having lots of fun with their friends. Freedom and of course safety.
I want her to have memories of friends and imagination.
Being creative and imagination based.
Climbing, running and enjoying the outdoors. Activities and playgrounds that accommodate, not just the younger or older kids. all ages My son goes to Easterly. It would be nice if the track wasn't pavement.
Anything active and imaginative.
Being able to jump run climb, swing, etc during recess.
I want them to have fun memories with their friends.
Mostly I want them to build positive social ties with their friends, but not feel bound by cliques. I would love it if the spaces were great, flexible backdrops for all sorts of imaginary play. I also want them to feel big, bold, strong, active, creative and happy.
I want my child to have the opportunity to use his imagination when playing on the playground. I want play structures/items that can be 'transformed' into a rocket ship or a house or a fort; not something that is a 'prescribed' object with defined play objects. I remember going out at recess as a kid and even the most basic wood platform turned into something. We did not have 'games' on our play structures and they were not defined spaces, they were designed for opportunity to be physical and move around however our imaginations let us. I want that for my child.
I want my daughter to have similar experiences as stated above--the ability to incorporate nature in play.
Unstructured environments where they can be imaginative and free willed.
I want them to use their imaginations to create scenarios.
Play that allows them creative opportunities - i.e. to build, to draw, to create - instead of static structures designed to be used in a certain way.
Enjoying outside play ground equipment and being active with friends
Those that incorporate imagination and freedom into play, not just structured games and activities.
Those in which they are using their imaginations and laughing with friends.
I want them to have memories of playing fun games with friends and having open space to run, chase, and be active.
Creative, imaginative

The same as the above. I think there should be an element of risk, because that teaches them about stepping out of comfort zones
I want our kids to remember creating/building/exhausting their energy and being rewarded for taking risks and adventure in their play.
Climbing
Fun, exciting, safe, peer interaction
Adventurous!
Things that encourage group play
Outside play! Kickball etc.
Memories that involve group play and the ability to use their imagination.
Imaginative ones.
ones with other children! ones where they learn not to get hurt, and not just where it is impossible to get hurt.
feeling free, feeling able to enjoy themselves with or without another friend and without adult involvement, connecting with nature
Fun recess, lots of physical activity, engaging space to play.
Not just equipment, but GREEN space to run!
I want my kids to learn how to use their imaginations to take them to far off places.
Vigorous physical and open
Fun group memories without much waiting and arguing
I want them to have inclusive play equipment
Opportunities to group play, create their own games, and use their imagination
How to be creative with their play.
I want them to enjoy exploring--both exciting, imaginative spaces but also exploring their own independence.
Imaginative memories
Colorful playground, team work, a lot of running around and trying different games.
Fun with her friends
Being in and playing with nature
Having a place to run and play and learn life lessons that you learn on the playground. How to get along with others and include others.
creative play (imaginative games) with other kids
Play that promotes imagination and many interactions with peers.
Happiness, and opportunity to exercise, safe environment
playing with lots of friends
Feeling accomplished by being pushed a bit to try things that are difficult

Anything that encourages them to use their imagination.
Have fun. I really like the idea of the buddy bench... to make everyone feel included.
Active, fun, imaginative play. I also would like to see both group and individual types of play offered.
Play times where it seems like they are independent of adult supervision or really are independent, opportunities for risk-taking within reason, able to stretch their limits if they want.
a variety of memories because they had a variety of experiences: sports, climbing, pretend play, nature
Ones that are full of physical activity and social cooperative play.
Fun and physically challenging/developing
She played with bubbles and drew with a brush.
being creative & free, enjoying time with friends, exploring nature
Memories of playing outdoors
Fun spaces, with things to climb, as well as facilitate imaginative play.
Ones that peak their imagination and allow for them to gain confidence and independence
Ones where they use their imaginations to the fullest.
To get tougher. It seems like everything has been toned down so much they are becoming weak as a population.
Ones with kids of all ages, ones with adults who aren't afraid to play too, and ones that involved being in nature (a lot!)
More opportunities for imaginative play and social interactions.
tag on the half dome at school
Just an amazing space to play with his friends
To be able to use their imaginations! No "one way" to play with the space or structure.
See above
Active plays like running around freely or playing ball games
I want my child to remember using his imagination while he played and feeling included in a group of friends.
Jumping, climbing, running, hiding, conquering tasks that were challenging, surrounded by friends filled with laughter, screams and imagination.
Jumping, climbing, running, hiding, conquering tasks that were challenging, surrounded by friends filled with laughter, screams and imagination.
similar to the above. I want them to remember a lot of exploration and unstructured play without unnecessary interventions from adults. Also, spaces that encourage creativity and imaginative play.
Laughter, discovery, challenge



The same as the above. I think there should be an element of risk, because that teaches them about stepping out of comfort zones
Imaginative and I want them to want to be outside. A place for them to be a kid and use their imagination
Greenery and nature interwoven with play areas, encourage imagination and wonder.
Climbing, imagining, feeling on top of the world.
I want my kids to look back fondly on the friendships they make, their wild imaginaginations letting them make believe the world they picture for their futures and just the carefree days of childhood.
Same as mine
Lots of green space, variety of play equipment and space to run
I want them to have the opportunity to use their creativity and imagination. I want them to enjoy materials that aren't high technology.
Those that builds confidence.
Memories of gaining confidence to do something challenging/a little scary, lots of fun, a sense of exploration.
The same.
If possible, having some natural landscape for unstructured play along side the sports or standard playground equipment. I would love for kids to engage and interact with nature over recess which might be the most rejuvenating part of the day. Some sort of outdoor natural space that could be explored during recess and also used in class for learning and teaching.
Adventures, challenging obstacles
Sharing. Being able to at least try all the things in the space, whether it's monkey bars or climbing walls or even a swing.
Carefree and safe environment (away from creeps).
I want them to spend active time outdoors, being free to make play a safe and creative time.
Using their imagination.
I want them to also be able to make their own games or put a new twist on a familiar game.
I want my kids to use their imaginations and be creative. I also want them to have a variety of options to choose from on the playground.
Experiences where they can work together with other people to create... Using their imagination to build exciting structures, inventions, games, etc. Also, just simple electronic-free playing outside.
I want them to be able to climb, run, hang upside down if they want, swing, spin, and be kids! Blow off some steam in a safe way!
Fun And active
Of course I want them to be warm and wonderful memories but, most of all I want recess to be a break from the demands of school! It needs to be a time for active play.
Having places to run and interact with peers but also a space to just sit quietly and laugh with them
Physical activity with friends.
Not being excluded by peers. Inclusive play. Stronger guidance in the classroom and from playground monitors to appropriate, kind, inclusive behavior on the playground and elsewhere. (My child doesn't have any physical limitations that prevent her from using the existing equipment, but she endures mean behavior from classmates who say there "isn't enough room", or that my child can't play on a given structure. My child gets treated poorly by

others and the recess monitors do not seem to observe or mitigate this.)
Spaces conducive to gross motor activity (climbing, swinging, running) and that inspires imagination.
Basketball and running
outdoor, adventure-based, play activities where they can socialize with peers
joyful, creative, connected to others and to nature
Unstructured, energetic, free-form, creative, relaxed.
He needs to have space to run!
Being creative on equipment. Having to figure out how to use it not single purpose items
fun, exciting, competitive (like dodgeball)
I want them to have memories of fun times with friends where they can express their creativity and cooperation with others. I want them to find joy in being outdoors and the natural world.
I want them to have special play experience in meaningful places that are also connected to our beautiful natural resources in this area.
Just that they get time to be outside and have unstructured play.
My son loves to explore, jump, race, and climb. I want him to remember freedom, feeling wind and rain and the sound of leaves, discovering new things and surprising himself with his bravery and boldness.
playing with friends tag, jumping rope, basketball, monkey bars
happiness on the playground
I want them to remember being on teams with friends they don't normally play with. I want them to remember fun.
I want them to have unstructured opportunities to get lost in their own imaginations. So much of their school day is structured - how to imagine, how to build, how to think. I want them to remember where their own brains and hearts took them, and who they were with when they went on that adventure.
That they were moving and able to do all the things that the playground offered
Memories of learning to play and having freedom to move and explore
Having fun with group of kids who enjoy the same things.
Active, outside, allowing my daughter to immerse herself in a variety of imaginative scenarios—not a castle tower, but rather a tower that could be a castle, or a rocket's scaffold, or anything else...
Space to run and play games with slides and swings for them to play on.
I would love for a playground that brings together kids that wouldn't normally find each other. Equipment that is so fun, it draws everyone together.
I want them to use their imaginations to create scenarios.
Play in the natural environment. Using sticks, rocks, acorns, bark, etc. to play with creativity.
lots of games with friends
fun, safe, challenging memories
Memories of activity: running, jumping, chasing, etc.

Plenty of options of things to play on. Especially to help build her gross motor skills.
I want playgrounds that are more challenging for older kids. Currently, the kids get bored with the equipment by kindergarten or first grade because it's not stimulating and challenging enough.
The ability to learn and interact with different modalities through play.
fun, inclusive.
diverse options of different kinds of play, open spaces so the kids aren't all forced to crowd together and knock into each other, jostling for the same spaces
having fun. accomplishing physical feats and building confidence (simply climbing something they couldn't before/nothing unsafe obviously). running fast, climbing, jumping; simply being able to let go for a bit.
Fun. Access to stuff the can't get at home
lots of places to run, play organized games, play hide and seek, things to climb on and jump off of
The opportunity to seek "hideouts," for "alone time" as well as open space in the playground, and sufficient time outside to do it.
Playing outside in nature
Opportunities to imagine and create fun memories with friends.
Ones where they feel they belong but can make their own fun. Ones where kids can play together but not have to wait to engage in the fun.
Competitive
The energizing feeling of being challenged and overcoming obstacles like ninja warrior courses
hanging out with kids doing what kids choose to do
Joyful, safe, memories of good friendship
give the kids options...areas to run and jump. swing. throw a football. play kickball
Lots of collaborative and imaginative play.
Lots of outdoor play
making up own games and play equipment for make believe and physical play
the ability to imagine other worlds, other possibilities, the joy of moving and climbing, the fun of collaborating with others.
Playing imaginative games with friends where they create worlds.
The best play comes from a healthy mix of adventure, exploration, imagination, and risk.
Those where they absorb good sportsmanship through the process of competition.
ones where they use their imagination, challenge their minds and bodies, and laugh
connection with friends
Being outside on grass, trees, rocks etc.
I love hearing about the imaginative games that my son plays on the playground with his friends. I hope he remembers that magic of imaginative play.

Enjoying the outdoors - during recess and after school.

Similar. Playing with other children.

Fun and happy ones that also offer a sense of accomplishment and challenge at times. But mostly importantly memories of fun, adventure and friendship.

Creative, interactive.

Adventures. I want them to have options with some risk involved, and options to be apart and quiet.

their own, not mine :)

Having fun with their friends

I'd like them to have joyful memories in which recess was a fun and engaging experience and/or a restful and relaxing one. I don't like to hear about bullying at recess and lack of supervision.

safe and fun

Imaginative play

I want them to have memories of adventure where they can climb, ride, hide and use their imagination.

**What kinds of spaces would make those play memories happen? What are must haves or definitely nots?**

Definitely lots of climbing opportunities, enough equipment for the number of kids

Must be inclusive of all abilities, keep kids as active as possible, incorporate nature/learning in some way

Must have stand alone structures, slides, swings, things to climb and jump on. Both my son and I have broken our wrists on the monkey bars so I would be ok to not have a set of monkey bars...

However, w I felt down from monkey bar. I hope the ground is more soft.

safe, secure with a lot of things to do

I would save the money that goes into buying elaborate play systems or structures and hire hourly college kids that direct and guide team play.

Maybe a playhouse. We love Tudek Park (both areas), the Airport Park, and Circleville Park. Maybe find out what parks are most popular in town and try to replicate what is loved about them.

Monkey bars, climbing walls, basketball, hopscotch and foursquare courts. The kind of equipment currently at PFE is great.

nice swing set & slide structure, shaded areas under trees to read or hang out with friends. Basketball hoops that all ages can enjoy (adjustable hoop height). As much as I am not a fan of sandboxes, my girls LOVE it. so I guess it should have one! The playground should be accessible for all children of any ability status.

Not exactly sure, but some kind of infrastructure conducive to collaborative games, where all ages can engage in extra fun only together.

can the basketball hoops have soccer goals below them?

Some open spaces are important but so are jungle gyms and swings. Her biggest wish is for a tire swing! I am in favor of equipment that helps children work on strength and balance while having fun.

Must have - slides, tire swings and some kind of bar and/or monkey bars.
A tree house? A safe zipline? A rock climbing wall?
Swings, a facility that has levels or rooms that they can play in. Definitely not monkey bars or platforms to jump off of. I also don't like the sliding poles
Tree houses or forts around on the playground. structure with ladders and slides to escape. Some sort of tag or base on the playground for tag - maybe interactive.
There needs to be a variety for a diversity of strength and agility. Also, those that offer a variety of push and pull on the joints and core. The fundamental structures that support sensory integration.
A large area to play and wrap their creativity around. Enough space for ball games. It must be as safe as possible from sources of trouble.
nature based/integrated play would be fun. Love the slide at Country Place Park in Boalsburg!
Toys that can be used for more than 1 thing. Allow for creativity and making them individual to the people using them. No preset design you have to follow. Blocks, legos, magformers all allow for that so something outdoor based
Climbing walls, obstacle courses and play courts.
Monkey bars or climbing structures seem to be a hit. Anything with small spaces to hide and play in.
A variety of choices
Can't think of anything.
I imagine a series of play areas that cater to different types of play -- fields/courts for common sports, an obstacle course like space, a few modern abstract structures, and shaded areas for conversation.
Slides, climbers, bars to flip on
no games like tick tack toe etc. Kids don't play with them in that way anyway-I usually see them using them as something else anyway. I'd like to see structures that enable imagination. It can be a fort or a house or a ship or a rocket. I'd like to see things that promote physical play-balance beams incorporated and bridges and climbing walls/nets/ladders. I'd also like to see a playground that incorporates ALL kids with ALL abilities. A rubber surface so that it's safe but all kids can move around on it and to and from play structures. Also, the structures themselves should allow for all types of 'movers' play on the structure itself. (not just special swings)
A greater opportunity for wooded spaces and/or more room to physically run!
swings, slides, jungle gym, something to climb. need basketball hoops and items for the older students too
Areas that are not overly padded and protected. Spaces where kids feel as if they can play without being constantly watched by parents.
Climbing structures that are non-specific. It could be a space ship or a cave or a giant tree.
Tables with sturdy art supplies and lines with clothes pins to display art, a stage with a few props, sidewalk chalk for the black top, a sand table. Things that allow kids to create while playing.
Playground quiet they can climb on, swings, interactive sports such as basketball
Spaces that allow for lots of climbing, hiding, and imaginative play, among those that encourage interaction.
Spaces that involve nature in some way.
Grassy areas and flat, paved/cement sport courts are a must-have.
Nature oriented
I want spaces that are physically safe and inclusive for all.

The structure I referenced earlier was loosely, probably, a pirate ship, but it had a chain ladder for climbing two separate standing/fort type spaces, a fire pole, the bridge and two slides - one wide and one tall and steep, there were also elements to play on underneath it. I think lot of gross motor and less of those cutesie tic tac toe, do the maze with your finger type structures. More open play and risk taking.
I believe these spaces should interface with the natural world as much as possible - spaces that allow for interaction with flora and fauna.
Climbing structures
Large spaces with large, continuous climbing structures, natural boulders/caves, playhouses and forts, plenty of fields, basketball courts and sports equipment
A connection with nature would be nice.
merry go round, jungle gyms, sand boxes, tire swings
Larger play areas at some schools GWE to play kickball, football etc. more equipment.
Equipment that many children can be on at one time is important. Things like swings, while fun, tend to utilize a lot of space while only allowing a few children to participate.
The dome is a favorite of my children, and I think something with similar climbing offerings (perhaps a rope spider-web type structure) would be nice without the potential danger of falling on metal.
Spaces that encourage imaginative play or are good for games like “don’t touch the ground” would be great!
I think as long as they have space to play outside, the rest of sugar on top.
Tether ball.. my son grew out of his shell because of tether ball outside of SCASD.
natural environments, courts for ball games, a swing set : ) (disc swings are great but regular swings work, too)-- don't be overly concerned about the possibility of kids getting hurt-- kids need to learn to be aware of where they are and the possible risks-- also, keep as much integrated natural beauty as possible
playground with bars, green space, structure for play, monkey bars
Open space, some trees.
Ladders, multi-level platforms, slides, swings are all must haves. I also think a soft surface and shade are must haves. I feel like the more special "extras" we have, the less children will be inclined to make up new games. So maybe not too many built-in games (like tic-tac-toe or marble mazes).
Lots of changes in levels of structures a bit of danger and daring a chance to fall or jump to build confidence
Monkey bars, slides, hopscotch and swings are fun.
Definitely swings, slides, no see saws.
I think more focus on multi use surfaces and spaces rather than specific play apparatus.
I love simple. Let the imaginations grow and do the work. A tree is a blank canvas for adventure. There are so many new playgrounds that seem to try and top the others with all the new technology and keep kids interested in playing. Play should come naturally. Safety is important too.
Must have: surfaces to climb. Places to explore. Nooks and crannies to investigate. Must not have: a boring plastic playscape like so many that we have around town.
I like a few different play areas for kids.
I like to have a few as possible “dark spots” where it is difficult to spot children and where children could gather to make poor choices when grown ups can’t see them
1) safe, 2) engaging brain and body in playful exploration and investigations, 3) promoting team spirit, 4) plenty of choices, 5) enough space for running from one activity to the next

I think places that encourage play together and items that can be used multiple ways.
Open space, natural elements and swings
Things to climb on and that actually involve some risk, life involves risk and confidence is gained when you try new and challenging things
enough space for the number of kids the school is servicing, accessible to everyone
Spaces that promote pairing students/team building so no child is left out
Must haves: swings, climbing equipment, slides. Nots: equipment that is unsafe.
field for ball; no monkey bars
rock climbing walls, slides, balance beams - standard play spaces
Play house! Climbing spots and tunnels/bridges. Castle-like features.
Swings and a play house. Lemont has too much climbing stuff and not enough for kids who don't like to climb. If you could offer other things too that would be great.
A group space for group games (soccer, kickball, football, etc.) and climbing equipment for a variety of ages, swings
Must have climbing structures and swings, jump ropes, balls, would love to see real adventure playgrounds with piles of wood, hammers, nails, ropes, tires etc so kids can build their own structures.
Space for organized sports; structures for climbing, swinging and sliding; open space to play away from sports or structures; trees and sunshades for shade
Lots of open space but plenty of equipment as well. Some traditional playground items and some more open ended/new ones as well.
Climbing bars, climbing walls, tunnels, forts, swings, see-saw
on the playground
minimize single-use items & equipment; incorporate nature into the playground; include items that inspire creativity and multiple uses (like the large rocks currently on the playground). There is tons of research literature on this. See e.g., Hort Woods playground. Exploring nature, making use of natural elements like water, sand, stone, wood.
Green spaces. Many trees. Not too much black top.
Climbing structures with natural elements incorporated. High elements and low elements. A zip line.
Must haves - shaded areas. I hate seeing play spaces that cannot be used because they are literally baking in the sun. Please provide shaded play areas in all elementary school playgrounds.
Walls for wall ball or volleyball practice, please!! Swings, space for group games, organized sport spaces - basketball, baseball, etc, climbing apparatus.
Must haves - swings, climbing structures, fire poles, monkey bars, zip lines Definitely nots - wood chips
Metal spaces filled with spikes. No padded areas.
Outdoors (mostly), swings, slides, things to climb and jump on, places to play hide-and-seek, room to play chase and minimal concrete.



Open spaces with interesting things and less prescribed equipment.
climbing features
Interactive areas things that they can climb on, even a small rock climbing wall
Simple structures with unique, imaginative quirks/bumps/hiding spots etc. Involve natural play too, mud kitchen , logs for balancing. Please keep swings though! Very popular. Perhaps some tables and benches for trading card play/gathering spots.
Free space.
Open spaces without obstacles to cause falls
Nature/science inspired play spaces allow for tons of imagination while also getting physical activity. Must have=safety
Spacious so that they are not bumping into one another when running. Soft landing if falling from something. Colorful. Stays cool in the hot sun. Provides shade to cool off. Chatting benches. A few tables to work at also. Rock walls. Tunnels. Bridges. Slides. Swings. Trees/nature.
Spacious so that they are not bumping into one another when running. Soft landing if falling from something. Colorful. Stays cool in the hot sun. Provides shade to cool off. Chatting benches. A few tables to work at also. Rock walls. Tunnels. Bridges. Slides. Swings. Trees/nature.
Sub-spaces with options for exploration. Places for hiding and building forts. Spaces that encourage open-ended play instead of prescriptive activities. Please, no antiseptic, uber-safe prefab structures in primary colors.
Must-haves: Safe space to challenge themselves, room to explore, variety
The structure I referenced earlier was loosely, probably, a pirate ship, but it had a chain ladder for climbing two separate standing/fort type spaces, a fire pole, the bridge and two slides - one wide and one tall and steep, there were also elements to play on underneath it. I think lot of gross motor and less of those cutesie tic tac toe, do the maze with your finger type structures. More open play and risk taking.
Must have different levels, several different types of slides, does not need to be block-y, looking. Make it interesting visually but fun for kids to create their own space. Must be good with different weather conditions-metal us too hot in the summer and plastic cracks in the winter, wood gives you splinters.
Obstacle courses, climbing walls, sandpits, forts, greenery, picnic areas, large slides that adults can participate with the kids, designated areas for young and older kids, imaginative play spaces where kids are encouraged to explore...similar to how the Penn State Arboretum's Children's Garden where there are musical instruments and caves.
In our old town, there was a park. Benny Russell Park in Pace, FL. It had monkey bars and swing bridges, tunnels, cargo net walls, and slides, 3 towers of different height curly slides all enclosed, a tight rope walk with ropes for the kids to hold onto while they walked. It was a great park. Just good old fashioned climbing and playing.
Variety- stuff for active play or places to let creative imaginations run wild
Exploration tree area
Must haves: trees for some shade, grass, swings, slides, open space to run and play
Spaces that are more natural and simple. Definitely no robots or computers or materials that have only one purpose.
Definitely lots of things to climb. More swings so less waiting for them.
Must haves - a space that gets kids excited to play hard, that presents physical challenges that they can master as they grow.
Keep the grass, limit the impervious surfaces to the basketball, and running track. Keep the swings, build climbing spaces, a large tree house straight out of a Peter Pan story would be a cool idea.
Anyway to have an outdoor garden, actual plants, trees, etc to play in and around? Playground boarding wetland or pond that could later be used for education?

Love the rubber mat type of footing, soft type of equipment, and definitely nothing metal or dark plastic that gets really hot in the sun.
Lots of colors and spaces to hide and share one on one time with a few friends, and wide open areas for all the children to do a specific activity like races or kickball. Definitely no mulch! It gets thrown in eyes!
Room to run, monkey bars, swings, etc. My kids favorite parks in the area are Bernel and Spring Creek, which both incorporate natural elements in the design, so some kind of natural area that turns into an amazing hide and seek venue would be fun.
Some typical play structures (swings, slides, etc.), but also climber and other types of equipment that can be many things. Also some hardscape that have games printed on them (like four corners, etc.)
Must have: plenty of shade trees.
I feel like nature and trees allow kids to learn about and enjoy the world around them as they play
I would love to see a “big toy” or larger piece of equipment with a variety of slices and choices. My daughter is always very drawn to them at parks. I would also love to see plenty of grassy areas that provide kids with room to run.
It would be awesome to have building supplies... Wood, ropes, ways to connect things together, blocks, pulleys, wheels, etc. I would definitely not want there to be electronics like video games and such, but it would be cool if electronics were used to create with. It would also be really neat to have changeable/movable obstacle course elements available.
Must have: field space** for team games, basketball hoops, jungle gym, swings. There also should be some spaces for kids who like more creative play and not necessarily sport type play. Water fountains. **My boys LOVE that a football field was painted on their field space- they think this is the best thing EVER! It makes them love going to school even more!
Plz don't forget the handicap students!
More swings, merry go round
Play structures are very important, accessibility is important. When kids are unsure socially, they need structures that provide something to do even when they are unsure who to do things with. These structures also provide a place to gather that has a purpose! Recess needs to be a time where they have parameters to guide but, do not need to be listening to instruction the whole time. Recess must be a break and a great space to explore and engage with others.
monkey bars are a must, as are swings, slides, and climbers. I would also love to see some sort of bouncing things and/or spinning things (tire swing, spinning cups). I think that a play house would be amazing for imaginative play and also a small stage. I can't think of anything that would be a definitely not.
Large green space.
Equipment with high visibility and easy access by playground monitors so they can correct mean behavior. Keep the number playground monitors in mind when determining the placement of equipment (for example, if there is a given number of playground monitors during a recess, make sure that the playground spaces are equivalent to the number of people available so that monitors can easily watch an area.)
Design playgrounds that are functional in a variety of weather conditions, including wet weather since Centre County experiences a lot of rain and it's vital for children to get outside.
Basketball court and running tracks
equipment that allows freedom of movement and can be used in multiple ways
forests, open spaces, back and front yards...must haves = places for climbing and running and creativity, definitely not = solid blacktop
Speaking for my kids and myself, it's important to have structures to climb. Climbing trees, walls, jungle gyms--the excitement and strength of climbing is important and fun. One of my kids also mentioned the importance of the bench at the current Corl Street playground--the kids value a space to rest and be quiet, when they need to.

I would love Radio Park to still have sledding and space to run without obstacles or trip hazards. Don't overbuild. Play should be creative! Not defined.
See-saw. jungle gyms, tether balls
gym and outside... must have winners and losers- teach kids how to cope with defeat and failure and reward of hard work practice
The spaces would be brightly colored, kids would be able to go to different levels, see at different view points, use different pathways to get from one point to another, have many textures and sounds available, there would be flat paths to ride things with wheels, flat areas to bounce balls, puzzles to figure out, and equipment that kids needed to work together to be able to use it correctly. There would be tunnels, spinners, ropes, swings, slides, steps, talking tubes, drums, monkey bars, and ladders. The equipment would not contain any plastics materials and only be made from natural materials.
I think a combination of embracing the natural environment or scenery like the tiny little Nittany Orchard park with its amazing views or the layout of Spring Creek Park - take advantage of what the space offers. I think combining it with "big" fun play areas that encourage creative play - my boys have both loved the airport themed playground near the airport (off Bernel road).
I think natural elements and areas to move. No organized sport stuff, ie basketball hoops, etc. they already get so much of that.
He told me that he loves little nooks and crannies and also spaces that are high and also "just a little" off the ground. Also, big slides.
Grass area, a court
open space -grass, or soft covering (baseball field)
different areas for different ages
Definitely would like to see more swings than the 4 currently available to them. I hated the igloo as a child, but children love to climb so there should definitely be something for them to climb on. Open spaces to just play a game of tag, or kickball, or any space to just run out their energy.
A space that is more freeform and encourages a variety of play to cater to different interests and moods would be wonderful. The "standard" playgrounds that are in most parks and schools sometimes limit creativity. Open spaces combined with interesting structures that encourage free thinking and running are ideal.
We are at park forest and I think all their stuff is great, we like the climbing structures. Not into the thin balance or jump to small foot stuff space things. Too much of a chance to roll an ankle or worse.
Climbing wall, climbing areas, slides, places to explore
No monkey bars at the elementary school or at least not available to kindergarteners. This year, my daughter broke her arm at school falling of them. She wasn't the only one this year either. Every time someone asked about it, the responses was "Oh, that is so common. My son broke his that way too." The ortho doc who put her cast on said he sees way to many kids who break their arm on monkey bars.
Structures of different heights and sizes and textures for climbing and looking through.
Definitely slides and swings. Careful planning (especially at Corl St) to utilize space well to have a green area. We'd love to have the track back.
I would love the space to be fun, yet super safe! Parents have enough to worry about without having to worry that kids may get hurt at recess. Maybe rubber mulch would be a good addition.
Climbing structures that are non-specific. It could be a space ship or a cave or a giant tree.
Playing in a natural play space instead of a manicured, sterile environment. Must haves could be large rocks and trees. Definitely nots would be artificial turf, artificial rubber surface.
safe swings separated from the rest, to avoid running children getting hit, Spacious sand pits covered from rain/sun, creative climbing playgrounds, running tracks

must have=swings, jungle gym. definitely not=trampoline
Open grass. Sports fields. Functional equipment.
Swings are a must, things to climb
Large swings, ropes to climb, obstacle courses, a vast array of equipment.
Sound, Touch, Different climbing surfaces, ramps/slides/ropes, places to throw balls up/in/and against, balancing activities, plantings/gardens. Must be able to use year-round. Shaded section and surface are important.
jungle gym, long slide, rock climbing wall.
open, bright, clean but soft ground surface, many different activity choices; must NOT have that horrible tan bark that sticks to clothing and ends up in pockets!
i'm not sure. slides, swings, climbing/getting high to get away or to look out for someone.
Freedom to explore learn and grow
open spaces, climbing wall, trees, slides, swing sets, basketball hoops
Open space is a must. I would think it gives children the incentive to use their imagination and allows more age ranges and ability levels to participate.
Keep the natural beauty, incorporate trees, avoid all plastic artificial playground
Space to run & play (green space as well as playground equipment)
Musts: multiple levels equipment, equipment that kind of looks like a treehouse or structure with window openings, doors, seats inside, areas to go in or under to fit multiple kids, swings, slides with SAFE landing pads that are not hard chunky mulch, they din't need more than 1 set of monkey bars-these are too advanced for the physical skills of most lower elementary kids
Must have fields, and paved areas, lots of balls, climbing areas
Interesting structures that motivate creativity and challenging play.
spaces that are more like outdoors than in
On a playground - Bright colors, extra soft/spongy surface to run on, space to run, variety/multiple options
Use rubber play surface
yes to four square.
Play structures with a natural feel with different levels/spaces that feel whimsical and that inspire the imagination.
Swings, ball fields, slides, climbing equipment, etc.
Open spaces for running and creating own games (grass and macadam). Don't just pack in as much equipment as possible - let the kids make their own fun too.
climbing structures, hardtops, grassy fields, sports equipment (balls, jump rope).
Give elements that allows kids to leap from to have imaginative play, like binoculars, different levels, steering wheel, etc.. But NOT be overly prescriptive (not like "this is the airport" and everything relates back to it being one thing).
Must haves: spaces that have the potential for play narratives, that lend themselves to imaginative play, that have scaling challenges where there is something new and risky to try. Definitely not: basic playground equipment or artifacts that have a single use.
Those that encourage team activities.

must have more than meets the eye vs. standard play. design that encourages creativity and possibility (i.e. there's more than one way to go up X side of the playset, etc). I think the best playgrounds also have a great relationship with nature -- trees, large rocks -- the playground space may end but imagination and natural environment lets it continue. must have swings and sliding boards :)
must have: 4 people swing
Open space (not just sport specific field, but multi use). Big Trees, bushes, boulders and simple playground equipment. Pre-made forts, enclosures etc look great but only allow very limited users at any given moment and take up \$. Let their minds create the environment "they" desire.
I think you need open spaces. So many parks are just a central climbing structure now. I think you need open fields with different areas for kids to use. I think simpler is better. It encourages creativity.
Updated equipment!!
Open fields and courts. Swings are nice and climbing structures are also nice.
Lots of climbing and different spaces to explore and have fantasies in. Kids always want to be king or queen of a high space. They love to climb to the top of things. It's fun to climb on things that are "outside" of the enclosed areas or on top of things. Maybe a little risky, but not dangerous. Things that evoke castles are fun. Things that give exhilaration are good. Rocks or pillars to jump from one to the other are also fun!
Something that allows travel above the ground.
Separate areas for different kinds of play, natural areas with trees and canopy, as well as open areas for big running play.
anything that involves a periscope or mirrors or viewing through a (plastic) lens... always ends up not working and looking like crap. every playscape in town has something like this, and none of them work after the first winter. Don't bother. (also the "whispering tube", that's supposed to transmit sound from one end of the apparatus to another... doesn't work). Save the \$ on those add-ins, and put it towards something else more physical. More bars/rings/things that stretch physicality. Older kids love American Ninja Warrior, give them those things. Zip lines and rungs and pegs and things they can't all do the first time. Make them reach. Littles of course just need easy slides and steps, etc. Lastly, don't discount musical equipment. It would drive neighbors and teachers nuts, but see what they have in the Childhood's Gate area of the arboretum, some very interesting noise/musical equipment. Maybe that's off to one side or something but that appeals to less physical children.... lastly, not sure of the value any more of riding toys ("springy" horses, etc). I never see kids on them.
Spaces where imaginative play can happen
Kids need space to run around and engage in free play. Play equipment is nice and certainly adds to the aesthetic of a playground, but there also needs to be ample space for free range play ~ unstructured
Play spaces that are flexible enough to allow for imaginative play. Some spaces that are not single use or just exercise equipment.
My first concern is safety. I have always loved swings and my kids do, too.



Running, jumping, and swimming if possible.

### **What kinds of activities do you think the kids at SCASD would enjoy here?**

obstacle course

Group play that involves all children. Doesn't need to be sports. Can be all sorts of games that, again, focus on team play and collaboration.

big green space for running around, more swings, more imaginative play places/structures.

See above

swings, slides, play structures, playhouses, sandbox

Physical and cognitive team plays.

futsal

Things to climb are popular and definitely things to swing on.

Some kind of obstacle course or advanced playground equipment that really gets them to think - that is not easily mastered would be great or maybe that has multiple outcomes. Also, my daughter really enjoys climbing/nets/tunnels etc. that require encourage balance. Something else that could be cool would be outdoor chess sets or life size jenga etc. Or even a performing ampitheater (small) to encourage creativity and to provide outdoor activities that appeal to non "sporty" kids. A nature trail would also be neat as long as the kids are still visible to the teacher but something they could feel like they are "exploring" but are still safe.

Being with friends, being challenged physically, and a place to have fun.

Swings, domes for climbing, slides, places to make up games on the blacktop

Kids seem to enjoy playing on equipment and pretending the ground is lava. So some sort of large play equipment, with extending climbing walls, and rope swings and allow for the kids to move around, but not necessarily have to touch the ground.

climbing, pushing, pulling, low basketball hoops, balance, nature, gardening

Swings, bars, the new stairs to slides with bridges and basically a cool looking fort that they could "pretend" on.

HIGH climbing, BIG slides, more physical challenges.

Dramatic play time, traveling around the country exploring new things, friends, and activities. Become an astronaut and shot off into space inside the cone area, or be a ninja warrior and complete the course with your friends, try to find a rare and endangered lion on a safari hike

climbing and adventure type of structures.

Running, climbing, jumping, swinging.

Anything sports related

Swings, monkey bars, and playing tag.

Both of my sons love playing sports, soccer, basketball, flag football, baseball. They would want courts and grassy areas for that.

imagination games-underwater, outerspace etc. Creating stories while out on the playground with friends. a Game court-basketball, four square, gaga ball.

Building forts with nature---I would look toward the Penn State Arboretum for inspiration--they do an amazing job.

swings, slides, climbing equip, area for students to gather to pretend play
Ninja/gymnastics courses. Creative play space (unstructured)
Climbing and jumping and swinging on structures not playground swings.
My children's favorite play spaces are creative spaces - at one park we frequent there is an outdoor stage and that is my children's favorite piece of "equipment" at that park. They spend hours there creating plays and dances.
Basketball hoops, climbing equipment, swings, monkey bars and gym bars
A "fort" type of structure, climbing wall or nets. Also, I'm not sure what they're called, but a triangle that glides along a track, which allows the child to glide with his or her feet hanging off the ground.
Enough open room to run, and many climbing opportunities.
Shooting hoops, playing wall ball, running races, playing wiffle ball
Imaginative play
My student in particular enjoys spaces to play sports.
Slides, swings, bridges, climbing
Climbing
all kinds of sports, imaginative play, exploration, running around and being carefree
Climbing, jumping, playing games.
Merry go round, slides like the green ones at Orchard Park, tire swings, monkey bars, bridge, something to measure height, sandbox, giant jungle gym, fireman's pole, ladder, tree house, basketball court, running track, and fire trucks like Sunset park - hopefully all this for Spring Creek :)
Larger area to play ball
climbing!
SCASD could use more Tetherball! More complex big-kid climbers as well with lots of upper body activities
free tag, basketball, imaginary play, swinging, climbing trees
gymnastics bars, swinging, climbing, running, jumping, monkey bars
Area to run and be creative.
My kids love climbing high and playing tag.
Lots of movement
Monkey bars
Soccer, football, other field based group games, playing in structures ( love the tower at airport park) , classic things like swings or domes to climb and play under, things that create obstacles course or challenge their balance
They love anything climbing, sliding, swinging, sports. Any chance to run.
Climbing and exploring.
Climbing walls



climbing tower; fantasy playhouses encourage children to imagine and pretend play with each other; creative construction style play using interlocking foam pieces
Slides, climbing structures
An open space to play group sports, trees and natural elements, climbing/swinging play spaces
Things to climb on and space to run around
climbing, sliding - things that "feel" challenging, like different climbing apparatus
Traditional activities (swinging, climbing) and open spaces as well
Climbing, running around
playing a game with as much friends as possible
make believe and physical activity
Swings and low things that kids who don't like to climb can still play on. Enough space for kids to chase/run!
Active play - Swings, climbing bars, etc.
Creating pretend worlds, role playing, climbing, swinging
play structures, trees, space to play soccer
Lots of pretend play and climbing and swinging.
Places for solo and group play
Painting and playing home games with little girls.
My daughter complains that the boys currently hog the field for playing football or soccer. There needs to be adequate space to allow for multiple uses and activities.
Open spaces for kickball, soccer, tag, etc.
Running, playing, climbing, swinging.
Obstacle course
Music stations. Many new playgrounds have areas to play drums or chimes. Play spaces should intriguing to all senses
Swinging Running climbing playing
Conquering dragons, pirate ship games, imaginary battles
Jousting.
Any and all! I have three sons so they can get creative with any space! And boys needs space to run, jump and get their endless energy out!
Interacting with their friends and making their own rules instead of relying on adults to enforce them
climbing
A space to play soccer or football my second grader seems that's all he does

Climbing, swinging, racing around, make believe, invented games.
Imaginative play
Seesaw, swings, slides, monkey bars, rock climbing walls
climbing walls, slides, tire swing, talk tubes, shaky bridge
Obstacle Course. Swinging. Climbing. Sliding. Soccer. Basketball. Kick Ball.
Obstacle Course. Swinging. Climbing. Sliding. Soccer. Basketball. Kick Ball.
Digging in the sand and dirt, making up games, getting dirty, playing sports, running around, collaborating across age groups
Slides, swings, bridges, climbing
Different climbing options, different levels. Musical instrument spaces, imaginative play spaces like an ice cream truck or a shop window with a bench
Forts and caves, obstacle courses, large slides, juggle gym type play areas, water fountains or features
Slides, swings, jungle gyms
Swinging, obstacle courses, group games, hiding nooks
Climbing, pretend play and competition
Basketball, soccer, space for tag, football, ball games, running g, swinging or even a quiet space to read or rest or hang with friends
Pretending, exploding, creating, challenging their physical skills.
Lots of swings to go around. Stuff to climb.
Opportunities to climb; design that is conducive to creative, spontaneous, imaginative games.
Running, basketball, swinging, climbing, soccer, kickball, tag, making rock piles, making stick piles, nature watching.
my boys enjoy playing football on the playground and my daughter enjoys the swings.
An obstacle course type of climbing space, slides, volleyball net (low), swingset. The Mayor Thomas M. Menino Park in Boston is hands down the coolest playground I've ever seen-please model after that but on a smaller scale.
He likes climbing and jumping the most, according to him.
Just being kids. They love being outside, especially with friends.
They like to climb and slide and use some play structures to do pretend play (eg, make a store)
Open space. Running around. Trees.
Right now my son loves to run and chase other kids, also loves obstacle type courses, climbing (smaller) trees, the social aspect of recess and pretend playing (playing family/ house, firefighter, etc)
I think as long as there are a variety of options she would be pleased.
They love creating games with rules and strategy, and they also just really love climbing and other obstacle-course-like opportunities.
football, soccer, free play, tetherball, imaginative play
A large padded flat surface for dance or tumbling would be great!

Climbing, hopping, jumping, balancing, swings, slides, experimenting with sounds and countertops that can become stores, etc...whatever they imagine them to be. Kids at this age need areas for dramatic play and that is a great thing to build into the inclusivity of the space.
swinging, running, climbing
slides, rock-wall, swings
Climbing equipment - like rock walls and monkey bar structures.
basketball, slides and swings
when they're young, pretend-play and as they age testing the limits of their physical abilities
a space with materials to be creative with like this: <a href="https://ecokids.ca/play/earthplay">https://ecokids.ca/play/earthplay</a> (please check out this site and video about kids and creative expression)
Climbing, jumping, obstacle course.
Spaces for tag games
many... not sure what you are looking here. dodgeball, kickball, free play, athletic and competitive and all inclusive
They would enjoy tag, make believe, exploring, team work, love for being outdoors and making noise.
Running, climbing, sliding, swinging, spinning. Open space is important too.
Hop scotch, balance areas, sticks and dramatic play spaces. Out door music, gardens
He loves climbing -- whenever there's a climbing wall, he's on it. Things that test balance -- rickety rope bridges. There were several big stones with flat tops that stood about 1-2 feet high on the old Radio Park playground and he loved to perch on those, leap off them, use them as a base for tag, etc. He was really sad when those rocks were removed in the construction process.
Group play games such as those mentioned above
soccer/places to run/pick-up-football
tether ball
My children do love swings, they love to climb, run, cross monkey bars, etc. I do feel like they would enjoy a classroom-wide game such as kickball if it was available. They probably wouldn't chose that on their own without prompting.
Interesting swings (tires, etc.), different kinds of slides, multi-level forts, unique shapes that have multiple ways to scale them... things that encourage climbing and jumping and running and imagination.
Right now ninja warrior stuff is great. I like that they are building upper body strength along with general running around
Climbing, exploring
Lots of swings, slides, merry-go-round, small climbing wall, seesaw that doesn't bump down, big open area to play, sandbox.
Make-believe play
Imaginative game space, swings and slides.
Both of my boys love sports, especially hockey. Is there any way to work sports into the theme?
Climbing and jumping and swinging on structures not playground swings.

Playing house, playing school, having an adventure in the woods, playing cops and robbers kind of play, capture the flag, scavenger hunts, hide-and-seek, climbing on rocks or jumping from rock to rock.
climbing, running, sliding and playing
jungle gym, swings, area with trees to play in leaves
Sports & group games
Swings, things to climb on, open spaces
In addition to the equipment, they need open areas that are usable in all weather conditions. It rains a lot and many of the playground are unusable in inclement weather. All-weather surfaces for year-round use.
Interacting with kids no matter what type of play!
rock climbing wall
climbing is always nice; swinging seems to be most popular
same answer as above; i'm not sure. slides, swings, climbing/getting high to get away or to look out for someone.
Monkey bars, crawl through tubes (that are age appropriate), zip lines
Entertaining and physically challenging obstacles
I think they would love a tree house. I think it's important to have areas where groups of kids can get together and talk/pretend play, whether that's under a tree or on a swing set, or in/under some sort of structure.
My children, one who is 9 and one who is 3, love those large, wide, all-encompassing structures with the variety of bridges, slides, and climbing poles, etc. But I also know my 9 year old takes a book outside to read during recess often.
Running, climbing, swinging, playing with friends, games involving imagination
Swings, places to climb, a place to jump rope, fields to play sports, basketball nets.
Places/spaces to run or play football or soccer where they don't come home all grass-stained or a muddy mess, something they can throw at like skeeball or bean bag tic-tac-toe
Four Square, Chase, Kickball, Capture the Flag, Basketball, Jackpot, other games, etc.
Climbing, crawling, swinging
Playing team pickup sports like basketball, dodgeball, or places just to sit and talk or play "small" games like hand clapping, and building things. I went to a public park that had giant foam building blocks where the kids built houses, and walls, hide outs, and made their own complex game- a modified hide and seek with obstacles.
Basketball, football, monkey bars, rope nets to climb on, balls
dodgeball
Monkey bars, balance beams, play houses
Any and all outdoor play
Combo of equipment, open space
climbing, running, playing physical games like dodge ball, fantasy play, opportunities to take "safe" risks.
Box ball (or 4-square), kickball, swings,

My kids enjoy discovering new things, or finding new ways to play on the same equipment.
All of them.
swings, slides, creative space, open spaces
Running, tag, swings, sliding, climbing, simple sports (kick ball, soccer etc)
swings, climbing, hidden gems, places for discovery
Interesting pathways, interconnected slides with jungle gyms...etc
Structures that invite risk taking. Open fields that invite playing games with others.
Kids seem to love the 'American Ninja Warrior' style obstacle courses
If there was a relatively safe kids version of Parcour that is great to have. Activities that allow the kids to come together and help one another or form teams. Activities that allow all children to find their own groove and challenge themselves and grow more confident. Also, places to rest and take it all in with a friend or on one's own.
Sledding has always been one of my kids' favorite winter recess activities in the past and I've been so impressed that they've come home scraped up with big stories to share!
My kids love monkey bars and American Ninja warrior-level challenges. Higher and tougher the better. Not all kids do, so I get that. Multi-levels that allow for imaginative play. Mini climbing walls. Lots of cover/roof area to shade from summer heat (so they can be useful during summer camps, like Sports N Shorts)
Sports or Imaginative play areas
I would like to see some gaga ball pits incorporated into our playgrounds. We have 4 square courts and basketball courts, but both of those limit the number of children who are able to participate in the activity. Gaga ball is a quick game, lasting only a few minutes and in which a large number of kids can play simultaneously. I'd like to see sleds at schools where sledding is possible and sidewalk chalk available. I'd like to see hula hoops and jump ropes and balls. I'd like to see checker boards with painted rocks as the play pieces. All these elements allow kids to play together or alone and use their imagination to creatively play in their own way. There is only so many ways you can swing on a swing or shoot a ball through a basketball hoop ~ climb up a play gym, etc. I'd like to see lots of natural elements like gardens and trees. If a kid wants to garden during recess, then they should be able to (even if they are not very good at it).
My daughter loves the climbing dome and monkey bars. She also loves American Ninja Warrior. She likes pretending play structures are a pirate ship or other vehicles. Loves slides and climbing spaces.
Climbing, monkey bars, swings, slides - they like to use their imagination, too.



## Do you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about the play space?

All the best. Sounds like a fun and well valued project.

Find out from teachers what items on the playground currently cause the most injuries (i.e. the domes). Also, please think about safety when the rain has stopped but structures are still wet. Please think about the flooring/ground. Less mud to be trampled into the school. Thank you very much.

I like the surface material out at the airport park on Bernel Rd.

I just want it to be safe, non-exclusive and fun.

Not at this time.

Place away from main roads or provide privacy/fencing buffer if possible for security reasons.

I worry about them falling off high places or catching their heads/chins while falling.

thank you for putting effort into this part of the school. the play spaces can be incredible places for growth and joy, or for humiliation and fear.

Just for safety. No questions or ideas.

Safety of course but large enough for all the kids at once so they don't have to wait have the recess to use a piece of equipment. Offer strength building items and competition based items are OK. We need goals to work and play harder.

will have to wait and see.

No.

Not at this time

No.

No, but I am glad the district is thinking about how play spaces can be welcoming, fun & stimulating.

My only concern is being able to incorporate kids who move in ways other than on two legs. Wheelchairs, crutches etc need to be accommodated throughout the playground safely. Please do not incorporate sand or sandboxes. It's unsanitary (cats) and it gets in everything (shoes clothes,etc) A rubber playcourt surface (like bernel park playground) would be awesome.

at easterly pkwy the "seesaw" is difficult for students to operate. Think about when the equipment becomes wet and dangerous for students. or the swings have water that pool in the seat. something that will not need a lot of maintenance over the years.

Let kids be creative!

Have more physical play spaces separated from creative play spaces so no one feels like they are competing for space but let there be a good flow so kids can move from more physical pursuits to creative play easily.
No
The spaces on the Metcalfe design page look amazing, modern, and fun. I think all kids would love play spaces like those, but I also think there needs to be an open area to allow for running around, playing traditional competitive games, and offering alternative activities for when the other structures get crowded.
Not too high climbing equipment
One consideration that I hope is made for students is accessibility and inclusivity. Will the playgrounds include options for students with special needs (an "all ability" playground design)?
All answered above, except careful thought given to the material that is below them. I want something chemical free and safe for growing bodies to breathe in.
No
New, big, safe, lots of options. No questions or concerns.
We'd love lots of variety :)
Sometimes playground look really modern and cool but just aren't much fun to play on. I'm hoping the committee can read some actual feedback from kids prior to making a decision.
none
sand box at EP was also very much loved by the little kids, its a great idea.
Less is more!
Nope! Good luck!
It MUST have garden space too
Inclusive playground equipment
Safe and fun please! Also, stations through out for adults to sit, lean, etc and observe the play. Not just at one end of they play area
So excited! I know it is going to be great! I love the idea of getting the commoinvolved in the process!
I really don't want another molded plastic pre-fab playground like so many that we have in the area.
Please try to have the ground designed so that the water drains as easily as possible. Consider how play equipment will be used during all 4 seasons. It is sad when students have a very limited play area when it's muddy and even if kids bring rain boots, they are not allowed on grass.



Risk assessment may not like this...but some playgrounds are so safe they aren't fun. The playground off of blue course drive (maybe orchard park) is a great one! Equipment that spins, that you can climb on, and space to run around!
No
no
Appreciate your approach to this process!!!
The schools have been designed to high sustainability goals. These tenets should be reflected in the outdoor play spaces in a way that students can understand natural cycles, importance of water/watershed, diverse landscape and local plant.
Have climbing as well as non climbing things! My child is not a climber and often times I feel she is left out cause she doesn't enjoy that.
If wooden mulch could be avoided, that would be great. A soft surface without wooden mulch would be preferable.
No
not now
No
Safety is always a concern, soft landings and enough space to create safe distances between play areas
When the weather is bad, I hope the children will be careful on the playground. Maybe teachers will tell them do not run too fast, i'm afraid they'll fall or get hurt.
Please base it on the most recent research on the importance of unstructured play. Do not focus on lots of equipment. E.g., <a href="https://www.pps.org/article/play-research">https://www.pps.org/article/play-research</a>
While I think safety should be a consideration, it is too bad that elements like teeter totters and merry go rounds have been taken out of current playgrounds.
Shade is important.
Just try to be inclusive as possible for students of all abilities.
Don't over think it by wasting money with to many meetings.
Nope! I'm excited to see the end product! : D
Play is a big thing and our kids need more time to do it and less structure. Team games teach some social skills but they also need the freedom to explore, make their own rules and use their imagination. Thanks for asking
none, thanks for asking

No
Exciting!
An adventure playground is probably not going to fly at school, but this is the type of space I think our kids need. I am concerned that the play space be an actual space. Can this be a creative placemaking exercise? Can artists be integrated into the design process? Many of our elementary schools are newly built, and quite fancy. I hope the district will look beyond "fancy" when redesigning its play spaces and think more about creativity, engagement, and exploration.
All answered above, except careful thought given to the material that is below them. I want something chemical free and safe for growing bodies to breathe in.
Just make it fun so they play less on the screen and more outside
Designated areas for younger kids and older kids
Musical instruments for play spaces
Nope
The size of the space given the land.
Think simple. Children need more practice with having to come up with innovating ideas versus toys that entertain them.
Why no dodgeball or sports emphasis (I.e. something other than a basketball court) during recess?
Consider integrating natural elements and a design that reflects the natural beauty of Centre Co.
Don't make it too contrived like the Vernel Road airport playground. We don't need to encase our children in a bunch of synthetic rubber polymers with the false hope that they won't ever be hurt. Keep it as green and renewable as you can. I like the Giant Peter Pan tree house idea - go with it that - it's a winner. You can also incorporate lessons in plant physiology like photosynthesis, water transport, plant growth rings, fungal associates, mammals and insects that utilize the tree for habitat, and even carbon sequestration.
thanks for putting in the time to shape this for all of our kids and schools
Not currently.
I'd love to see playgrounds that have equipment for multiple ages, ability levels and interests.
I just want a space that allows all kids to play - accessible and safe so that everyone can be included
Lots of open space, please. Not too much "stuff" (play structures, toys); a space that's not too busy / crowded. Less is more. Encourages creativity.
Nothing that I have not already mentioned, thank you for valuing parent input!

Play spaces are just as important for middle school students as they are for elementary school students. All kids could benefit from active breaks.
Rubber flooring
The schools under construction are suffering with no engaging play space, I am hoping this can be a summer project for those schools. An extended school day is made more difficult by the lack of proper play space. Kids need this release!
Play spaces need to endure weather and abuse by children. We have lovely parks in the area, but some of the clever, imaginative aspects, even in newer playgrounds, no longer function (telescopes, wheels, bells, etc.) due to damage. Locally, Bernel Road Park seems to have very innovative and durable equipment, so it would be a good model.
balance safety AND engaged natural learning
I appreciate your thoughtful approach to collecting feedback from parents and students.
Paying a consultant who wants parents to do a survey, altho they already have a canned playground plan. Ask, ignore, build.
how to identify and handle bullies
My concern is that plastic playgrounds/equipment costs less and requires less maintenance than natural materials. This being said natural materials would not be considered as an option when plastics are so prominent in our culture. Plastics are becoming an increasing problem in our environment and it would be great to show kids there are better options. My other concern is year around play. Some equipment get too hot in the summer to play with, when it rains some do not drain water away correctly, and others have no wind barriers to block cold winter winds. It would also be nice to keep some of the big tree near playgrounds instead of cutting them down and planting little ones in there place.
I'm confident you'll do an amazing job.
I am excited to hear there are changes consign, I would also like to hear of outside everyday. Encourage appropriate clothing, kids can play in rain and snow:)
I'm excited to see what you come up with!
no
will it have rubberized areas under climbing equipment?
SCASD routinely touts the desire to be on the forefront of innovative ways to encourage learning and true development. A play space should encourage the latter more than anything, and be diverse enough that their brains have a chance to grow. I'd like to see us break free from the same ol' "giant hunks of plastic with 2 slides and a

swing" concepts and really branch out. Penn State's preschools have creative spaces, as well as Lemont's current setup. Though Lemont doesn't have a "flashy" play space, I've seen the kids have a blast on the structures and really get creative.
Can you use the chopped up tire bits instead of mulch? Mulch gets in shoes and is so spiky
Ensuring materials are sustainable and not toxic or harmful
Just that the equipment is safe and better maintained than the ones in Lemont Elem.
Not at this moment. Thank you! I'm excited to see the results of your hard work!
No.
I know that one of the children in kindergarten at Radio Park uses a walker. Some handicapped accessible equipment is a must!
Let kids be creative!
There would be minimal maintenance needed in natural play spaces as the leaves and twigs should remain as play materials. I have health concerns about chemicals or small break-down materials from artificial turf or artificial rubber surfaces. I also have concerns about chemicals used in order to maintain mono-culture grass-only play spaces. Play spaces should be chemical-free with a diversity of plants and grasses in the play space (still could be cut, but include clover, plantain, etc.) Natural and diverse turf is what I played on at recess for sports like kick-ball (another great play memory) and natural turf worked great for us. No need for herbicides or pesticides.
I would really like to see some natural play space - similar to what is available at PSU's Arboretum
no
Can you have a surface that is soft under the equipment other than wood chips?
I have seen some amazing playgrounds such as this, <a href="https://brooklynsplayground.org/">https://brooklynsplayground.org/</a> where the community sponsors and raises money to pay for it. I think each of our school communities could do specific playground fundraisers through the PTO's to help fund the playgrounds. Business could contribute as well.
No. Excited to see the design. I have seen some of Kompan's work building these structures around the world so it would be interesting to look cross cultural as well.
make sure there are enough swings of different sizes for all kids, and enough of them that kids don't have to argue over queuing up and waiting for turns
my kid can't wait to have a playground back. A quick look at your firm's website and I know the play space will be great. Images from Abington Friends School, Headwaters Discovery Program at Jenkintown, PA, components of both the Dow Gardens/Whiting Forest, Comprehensive Plan at Midland, Michigan and Abington Art Center, Orientation Exhibit in Jenkintown, PA all demonstrate elements of fun, intrigue, play and acknowledgement of and integration with the natural surroundings. Good luck!
Don't succumb to "safe" parents
I would hope the play space would offer a variety of opportunities for kids that are extremely physically active and opportunities for kids who would rather enjoy the day with a book.
Concern: so many of the new playground equipment is generic and plastic and ugly, in a cleared space without trees, which is unattractive and unwelcoming

No
<p>Yes-again the ground materials below the equipment are often hard and cheap like big mulch pieces that sometimes have small rocks-this is not ideal to fall in.</p> <p>Many schools don't maintain places where kids run or play ball sports- as I said they get muddy or dusty. Look into special turf or assign several play areas to rotate into throughout the year to allow grass to grow back.</p> <p>Most critical is the SUPERVISION of kids using equipment. While this is not something the playground equipment designer can do- they can space out equipment thoughtfully for greater supervision of the overall play space. I am not currently happy with only paras supervising recess time-not enough eyes on the younger kids as they are too active and do not tend to stay in one place for long periods of time. Spacing of play areas can help</p>
No
I'd like to see an innovative structure that provokes creativity
I despise stark metal structures that fail to inspire creative, imaginative play.
na
It's not all about the equipment. Kids will still make their own fun if we let them.
I would hate to have a play space confined to just a hardtop.
<p>Basic play equipment is found all over State College. Perhaps this is an opportunity to implement something unique that engages the landscapes (such as with view-sheds of the ridge and valley system).</p> <p>Keep a bigger eye on cost of potentially needless construction.. kids imagination can create a playground out of nature.</p> <p>Where adults see a tree, kids see a jungle gym to climb!!</p> <p>Where adults see a soccer field, Kids see open space to play tag.</p> <p>However, I have seen a lot of excitement with the Get Air on East College Ave.</p> <p>Play space that encourages advancements in balance, flexibility and / or strength could all be helpful.</p> <p>don't make so darn "safe" kids can't have fun!</p>
I love the outdoor fountain at RP.
Thank you for improving our schools playground!!

I'm excited you are doing this. Let's make it awesome!!

Four considerations for all schools: (1) Make sure there are places with shade. (maybe a big "fun" umbrella) (2) A path that is "track-like". This is great for when the weather is bad and we are just taking kids out for a brisk walk. Good for the popular fundraiser runs that almost all of the schools are now doing. Good for each school for the IM track practices. (3) Instead of mulch, a similar surface as found at "airport park" in Benner. (4) All weather storage trunk of some sort for community balls, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, etc.

Just don't box all the kids into one enclosed space and over-monitor them.

No specific concerns, I'm sure the professionals will be all over it. Just don't get hoodwinked by flashy stuff from manufacturers that seems great (eg, optical equipment, "games" like tic-tac-toe, gears, sliding cars inside plexiglas panels) at first, but don't last. Overly complex equipment is going to fail; again visit all the city parks, which has a lot of equipment, well-used, and see what's broken. I'm all for STEM curriculum, but trying to incorporate that into playground equipment is going to be a waste of money. Make it grand, but simple. Lastly, do consider the use of this equipment during the summer, so that summer camps (a badly needed resource for parents) can expand into more than just 1 school. Shade and cover during sun and rain will make them useful all year round.

Thanks and good luck!

none

I hope the parents that have been selected from each school to partake in this process are not solely members of the respective PTOs. Other parents have voices and opinions ~ not just stay at home moms. It is quite frustrating that these efforts are not announced ahead of time, preventing parents who would like to be involved from getting involved and participating. Giving parents a 7 days heads up that this process was underway is totally unacceptable. Also, our playgrounds need cameras because our recess paras are not equipped with handling all the various playground incidents that occur.

One of the most popular activities for some of the kids at PFE include wall ball. Which just requires a brick wall. I think there should be some consideration of what students currently like with the spaces and how they currently play.