

ONE West Ashley! District 10 Middle School Merger FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will be the name of the combined school?

C.E. Williams Middle School. The parent and teacher planning team will seek input on the new mascot, school colors, and other themes to create ONE WEST ASHLEY.

C.E. Williams has a defined uniform policy with logoed items. How will the policies be merged?

The school leadership team, with appropriate input, will develop the dress code.

How will Honors classes and high school credit courses be offered?

Currently, there is a plan in place for all qualifying students to take honors and/or high school credit courses. Honors core classes (ELA, math, science, and social studies) will be offered in grades 6-8. High school credit courses will start for eligible students in 7th grade with Algebra I.

What arts programs will be offered?

The following exploratory/arts classes will be offered: band, orchestra, drama, chorus, art, physical education, Spanish, health, Career and Technology Education (CTE) courses, and Project Lead the Way courses (PLTW, an engineering/design program). Gifted and Talented services will be offered to all eligible students.

Can the cafeteria accommodate the necessary number of students without kids eating first thing in the morning or right before dismissal? If not, what will be the snack policy?

The school leadership team is working on the master schedule now. The common spaces--cafeteria, gym, media center, hallways, restrooms, etc.--were built to accommodate at least 1,200 students, and the building was designed so that wings could be added to house additional classrooms.

Will there be lost instructional time when 8th graders who take some classes at West Ashley High School transition between campuses?

Buses will transport students the short distance between the two schools; both schools are located on the same campus. The master schedule will be developed to accommodate transportation time, which will be minimal.

Will the combined school receive federal Title I funds?

If the school's combined percentage of poverty is at 60% or above, as defined by Pupils in Poverty data, it will be eligible to receive some Title I, Part A funds.

What will be the teacher to student ratios?

The teacher to student ratio will mirror that of every CCSD middle school which is lower than the State's maximum.

What will be the counselor to student ratio?

CCSD will ensure that the counselor to student ratio supports the student population at the new school.

What will be the administration to student ratio?

The administration to student ratio will provide adequate support for daily operations, academic acceleration, and safety.

How will discipline be handled at the new school?

Additional supports will be provided to assist with student behavioral needs.

Will all the teachers get to keep their jobs?

Staff members at both middle schools will be offered an opportunity to work at the new C. E. Williams Middle School as long as they have maintained appropriate certification and are in good standing.

How many school therapists, psychologists, and resource teachers will be at the new school?

These positions are allocated to schools based on school needs.

How will lockdowns or lockouts at WAHS affect the middle school campus?

The procedures used at the consolidated middle school will not be any different than at other campuses in the district. Sufficient capacity will exist to accommodate students in a variety of emergency situations.

What are plans for emergency relocation of all students into the main building in case of severe weather?

Portables are a part of campuses across the district and State; as such, student and staff relocation is taken into account during the campus emergency planning process. All affected young adults and staff in portables will relocate to the main building during tornado warnings, something that is practiced during annual tornado drills.

How will overcrowding be addressed? Can the new property accommodate large numbers of portables?

The layout for the 2020-2021 school year will require five portables (this equals 10 classrooms) on the new C.E. Williams campus at which there is ample space. There are also available classrooms at neighboring West Ashley High for some eighth graders for a portion of the day.

How long will portables be used?

The CCSD Board of Trustees will make a decision about the long-term construction needs of District 10 in June 2020. The duration of portables on campuses throughout the district will be driven by the long-term capital building program and corresponding sales tax referendum in November 2020.

The current C.E. has the grades totally separated. 6th, 7th, and 8th all have their own halls and rarely the kids even interact. Will that be the case here as well?

All 6th and 7th graders will be housed on the C.E. Williams campus. Some 8th graders will be housed on the C.E. Williams campus and some on the West Ashley High School campus. Those housed on the West Ashley High School campus will be there for morning classes. The research-based acceptable middle school model of teaming will be in place for all middle school students.

How will bus transportation be handled?

Current plans call for middle school students to be on their own buses, not on buses shared with high school students.

What efforts will be made to alleviate inevitable traffic problems?

Student transportation routes have been analyzed. As part of the C.E. Williams construction project, a traffic study was completed to study the transportation flow which includes the new middle school, the new Center for Advanced Studies (to open in 2021), the new County library (to open first quarter of 2020), and the existing high school. The study recommended a staggered schedule between WAHS and C.E. Williams and also suggested connecting Sanders Road to Wildcat Blvd. between Bees Ferry and Glenn McConnell Parkway. That work is nearing completion and is anticipated to be turned over to the City of Charleston this year. The connection will reduce traffic flow onto and off of the campus from Glenn McConnell, and speed control measures have been requested to improve safety. The District also contributed funds towards the City's project to install sidewalks from Sanders Road to Bees Ferry. All other improvements are pending the County's schedule.

How will students be transported between facilities in the event of inclement weather?

Eighth grade students starting their day at the high school will be dropped off at West Ashley High, and when it is time for them to transition to the C.E. Williams campus, buses will transport them. This will occur daily, not just in inclement weather.

As the West Ashley community continues to grow, what is the long-term plan for District 10 middle schools?

A planning team of West Ashley representatives will bring long-term recommendations to the CCSD Board of Trustees in May-June 2020.