



## Mergers



**Operate Davis and Digital Arts as one school**

# Recommendation: Operate Davis and Digital Arts as one school

## Overview of School Action



**Operating Davis and Digital Arts as one school uses our resources more sustainably to preserve what's working while expanding access to career pathways and college credit courses for every student**

### Davis Aerospace & Maritime and Digital Arts

- Enrollment at both Davis and Digital Arts is unsustainably low
- While enrollment at Davis is growing and enrollment at Digital Arts is declining at a slower rate than the district, resources could be used more sustainably if they operated as a single school
- Operating the schools as one will preserve what is working while expanding student access to career pathways and college credit courses

### Benjamin O. Davis Jr. High School

- Every student will have access to expanded career pathways, college credit courses, and electives and the ability to pursue an honors diploma
- Aerospace, maritime, and digital arts (including gaming design) will continue to be areas of specialization that students can choose, along with opportunities like off-campus flight, boating, and arts experiences and hands-on learning through community partnerships
- Students will continue to play sports and participate in extracurricular activities together, as they have always done on this shared campus, and will be joining the Senate League
- The building, currently known as the Lakeside building, will be renamed Benjamin O. Davis Jr. High School

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## School Data



Merging School Data	Davis Aerospace & Maritime	Digital Arts	How the data informed the recommendation
HS Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 248	● 297	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enrollment at both Davis and Digital Arts is very low compared to the 500-student target for HS</li><li>500 is the level at which a high school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students</li></ul>
Enrollment Trend (2022-2025)	● 7%	● -2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enrollment at Davis has grown while enrollment at Digital Arts has fallen, but at a less significant rate than the district median for high schools (-7%)</li></ul>
Building Condition Score	● 77		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Lakeside building is in fair condition and will continue to be used as the location for the merged school with planned and in-progress investments to upgrade the building to good condition</li></ul>
Utilization of Building Planning Capacity	● 87% of 630		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enrollment is comparable to the building's planning capacity</li></ul>

### HS Enrollment

- Strong (>500)
- Low (400-500)
- Very low (<400)

### Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-7% decline
- >7% decline

### Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

### Building Utilization

- >80%
- 60 to 80%
- Below 60%

### Building Planning Capacity





- Below 500

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Student Experience



Merging these schools will **preserve what’s working while expanding access to career pathways, college credit courses, electives, sports, and the option to pursue an honors diploma**

	Davis SY 2025-26	Digital Arts SY 2025-26	Lakeside SY 2026-27
 Career Pathways	2	0	3
 College Credit Courses	0	0	2 or more
 Electives in Arts & Languages	4	2	4 or more
 Sports	1 (Not in Senate League)	1 (Not in Senate League)	6 or more and in Senate League

**3 Career Pathways**

- Air Transportation
- Innovative Pathway (Aerospace & Maritime)
- Media Arts

Additionally, in school year 2026-27, the merged school will offer:



**Continued student supports** to meet academic, physical, special education, mental health, and language needs

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Looking Ahead



## Co-located merging schools

Current students in grades 9-11 at Davis and Digital Arts do not need to participate in School Choice to remain at the merged school.

**All students will continue to be supported in their goal of graduating ready for college and career.**

*Special education single classrooms will still be offered at multiple schools. Families whose children are in these specialized classrooms will get additional outreach and support to enroll.*



## School choice

Families can use the CMSD School Finder and School Choice Book to better understand their options.

School Choice will launch in January and run through the end of February.



## Leadership

Principals for the 2026-27 school year will be appointed in December.



## Staff

Staff assignments will be confirmed in Spring 2026, following the School Choice process.

School staff teams will be merged in alignment with our contractual obligations, enrollment, and the needs of the merged student community.

## School community

Students, families, and staff will have opportunities to connect and collaborate around the future of the unified school community over the course of the spring and summer before the start of the 2026-27 school year.