WESTFIELD WASHINGTON SCHOOLS

PHONE: 317-867-8000
19500 Tomlinson Rd, Suite B
Westfield, IN 46074
wws.k12.in.us

Dear Westfield Washington Schools Community,

As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, I want to provide an update on Destination Westfield, our long-term commitment to managing growth responsibly, and share how we are preparing for the future through a strategic, comprehensive Master Facility Plan.

Destination Westfield has always been a forward-looking initiative built on thoughtful planning, financial stewardship, and community partnership. Over the past several years, this multistep effort has guided our district through our steady enrollment increases while maintaining a focus on the student experience, safety, and academic excellence.

On the Destination Westfield - Making Room to Welcome More Rocks webpage, you'll see the vision that has shaped our work so far: prioritizing efficient use of tax dollars, transparency in project timelines, and a proactive approach to ensuring our facilities serve the needs of a growing community. We're putting in a lot of work behind the scenes to become more proactive and clear in our communications on this process.

We have recently reviewed progress to date and examined updated demographic and enrollment projections. These studies confirm that Westfield continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in Indiana, reinforcing the importance of Destination Westfield as a structured, responsible roadmap for adapting to that growth.

This month, we began discussing the next critical phase: a 10–15-year Comprehensive Facility Master Plan designed to provide the Board of School Trustees with the flexibility to respond to future needs in a transparent and financially responsible manner.

From our demographic and historical enrollment studies:

- K–5 and 6–8 enrollment remains within building capacity for now, but long-term projections indicate future needs will depend on growth rates.
- The high school enrollment will exceed capacity as early as 2029, even under conservative demographic projections.
- Based on historical growth trends, all grade bands eventually exceed capacity, with Elementary #9 projected to be needed by 2032 or 2033 and Middle School #3 by 2034 or 2035.

The Master Facility Plan outlines several categories of projected needs:

- Additional classrooms and learning spaces as enrollment rises.

- Land acquisition for future schools and program expansions.
- Maintenance and modernization of existing facilities.
- Investments in core infrastructure such as parking, utilities, and safety systems.
- Enhancements to district programs and specialized learning environments.
- Temporary displacement solutions during construction periods.

While these are *projections, not commitments*, they help us plan thoughtfully and transparently for what the next decade will require for our school district and community.

Strategic planning today ensures that:

- Westfield students continue to learn in safe, innovative, and appropriately sized environments.
- We protect the quality of instructional programming throughout all schools.
- Taxpayer resources are used responsibly and to execute our core mission.
- The Board can respond flexibly, scaling up or adjusting projects as enrollment and economic conditions evolve.

This planning is not about expanding for expansion's sake. It is about preserving the excellence our community expects: the Shamrock Experience, while managing growth intentionally and responsibly.

As we move into this planning phase, we will share updates regularly, through Board meetings, public presentations, and community conversations. We have scheduled a joint meeting with our Board of School Trustees and the Westfield City Council for Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. This meeting will be held in our auditorium at Westfield High School. It will focus on collaboration and working together as the City considers approving *Looking To The Horizon*, Westfield's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Your feedback plays a critical role in shaping the future of Westfield Washington Schools and our community.

We look forward to continued collaboration in the months ahead. Thank you for your partnership, your engagement, and your unwavering trust. Together, we are shaping a strong and vibrant future for every family and Shamrock learner.

If you have questions or input, please don't hesitate to reach out. Westfield's strength has always come from its people, and I am grateful to lead a school community so deeply invested in its students.

With Shamrock pride and appreciation,

Dr. John Atha