

A Whittier Elementary Update

Project Status Report & Back-to-School Logistics Update — August 2026

Dear Fircrest Neighbors and Families,

August has been a pivotal month on campus. As our team transitions the site into vertical construction, we are also working closely with Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) to ensure everything is ready for staff, students, and families as we approach the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Here is an update on our latest structural milestones, critical neighborhood roadway progress, and important changes to back-to-school traffic.

Construction Progress: Foundations Complete & Framing Underway

If you have driven by the site recently, you have likely seen the building footprint taking shape:

- **Foundations & Slabs Complete:** All foundation work is officially finished! We have successfully poured the upper slab, and our next major slab pour is scheduled for **August 28th**.
- **Wood Framing Started:** Wood framing officially began on **August 17th**. Over the coming weeks, crews will begin erecting walls as the new school building goes vertical.
- **Looking Ahead to "Topping Out":** Framing will continue throughout the fall. Pending final coordination and schedule constraints, our next major milestone will be the building's "*Topping Out*" (completing the main structural frame) between late October and mid-November.
- **On-Site Operations:** For the next several months, the vast majority of active construction work will be strictly contained within the secure building site.

Roads & Site Access Update

We are pleased to report that off-site civil utility and street work along Alameda is complete ahead of the first day of school:

- **Alameda Street Work Finished:** All sidewalk replacements and associated asphalt repaving along Alameda Street are complete!
- **Deep Utilities Wrapping Up:** Site utility work is nearing final completion, with only minor remaining work near the intersection of **Paradise Ln and Annapolis St**.

- **Main Parking Lot Reopening:** The school's main entrance and parking lot will officially **reopen at the end of this week** to welcome teachers and staff back to campus as they prepare for the school year starting on September 9th.
- **Annapolis Street Closure:** As a reminder, Annapolis Street (between *Paradise Ln* and *Elm Tree Lane*) remains **fully closed to the public** throughout the entire upcoming school year to support ongoing construction.

Back-to-School Alert: Major Traffic & Drop-Off Changes

With school kicking off on Wednesday, September 9th, please take note of an important operational update regarding student arrival and departure:

Operational Update: No Parent Valet System

Tacoma Public Schools will not be supporting the parent valet system for the upcoming 2026–2027 school year. Because campus traffic operations have been restructured around active construction boundaries, please review the newly provided TPS traffic map.

- **Review the New Map:** TPS has issued a new, detailed traffic map outlining student drop-off, pick-up, and pedestrian routes. Please review the **newly attached TPS traffic exhibit** carefully before the first day of school.
- **Ride the Bus:** Due to modified campus flow and limited queuing space, we strongly encourage all eligible families to utilize school bus transportation to minimize congestion on surrounding neighborhood streets, particularly along **Alameda Street**.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, patience, and support as we build this modern learning space for Fircrest!

Best regards,

The Whittier Elementary Project Team

Cornerstone General Contractors

For ongoing project updates, please visit the Tacoma Schools project webpage:

[Whittier Elementary School Replacement Project - Tacoma Public Schools](#)

For questions about the project, please contact:

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