A Whittier Elementary Update

Project Status Report & Fall Construction Update — October 2026

Dear Fircrest Neighbors and Families,

As fall arrives in Fircrest, construction at Whittier Elementary is hitting an exciting stride. Campus traffic routines have settled into a smooth daily rhythm, and our crews are making rapid progress as the new school building goes vertical.

Here is an update on our latest framing, weatherization, and site safety measures as we prepare for winter in the Pacific Northwest.

🏗️ Construction Progress: Level 2 Framing & Weatherization

Significant structural milestones have been reached across the upper portion of the building over the past month:

- **Level 2 Framing & Crane Activity:** Exterior walls on Level 2 for the upper building section are set, and teams are continuously advancing floor sheathing and wall assembly. A crane will be on-site this coming week to begin standing interior Level 2 walls and setting roof joists.
- **Exterior Sheathing & Weatherproofing:** Exterior wall sheathing is moving steadily across the building structure. Crews are launching exterior weatherproofing this week and ramping up application over the coming weeks to prepare the building shell ahead of winter rainfall.
- **Interior Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP):** On-site MEP trade crews have mobilized inside the building, actively roughing in systems in completed framing zones while preparing for full interior work once roofing is completed. We are proud to have an incredible team of skilled local trade partners working on-site each day.
- **Paradise & Annapolis Utilities Complete:** Civil utility work at the intersection of Paradise Lane and Annapolis Street is complete for this phase. Final asphalt repaving and right-of-way improvements at this location will take place in Spring 2027.

🌧️ Fall & Winter Site Management

With rain and shorter daylight hours returning to the Puget Sound region, our team is implementing proactive site management protocols:

- **Mud & Runoff Control:** To keep neighborhood streets clean and safe, we have enhanced erosion control measures across the site, performing routine street sweeping, and actively monitoring our storm water holding tanks.
- **Temporary Enclosure & Drying:** As framing zones reach completion, temporary enclosures will be installed to protect interior framing from wet weather, accompanied by temporary heating units to facilitate drying.
- **Darker Mornings & Task Lighting:** To ensure crew safety during darker autumn mornings and late afternoons, task lighting will be utilized on-site. All lighting is positioned toward active work zones to prevent glare onto surrounding areas.

🗓️ Milestones & Looking Ahead

As framing advances, our construction sequence is structured in strategic phases:

- **Phased Topping Out & Roofing:** We are targeting **early November** for Topping Out and roofing the upper portion of the building. Topping Out for the lower building section will follow shortly after to allow room for setting large mechanical equipment inside the interior structure.

> ⚠ **Looking Ahead: Early December Traffic Impact (Annapolis St)**
> Pending final approval from Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) for our primary electrical service entrance, crews will excavate and install a new conduit pathway under the sidewalk along Annapolis Street, tentatively scheduled for early December. During this work, traffic along the public side of Annapolis Street may experience reduced lane widths or minor congestion. Further details will be provided as dates are confirmed.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, patience, and support as we build the new Whittier campus!

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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