A Whittier Elementary Update

Project Status Report & Late Fall Construction Update — November 2026

Dear Fircrest Neighbors and Families,

November brings milestone progress to the Whittier Elementary replacement project! For the Whittier students, walking past the site each day has turned into a daily dose of wonder as they watch their future school take shape right before their eyes and catch a firsthand, real-world lesson in how a community builds something special together. Our teams have officially dried-in the upper portion of the new building, allowing interior trade work to accelerate while framing and exterior enclosure continue rapidly across the site.

Here is an update on our latest framing, interior rough-in progress, and what to expect as we approach the final structural completion of the building shell.

Structural Milestones & Exterior Progress

The building shell has reached key benchmarks across both the upper and lower structure over the past several weeks:

- **Upper Building Section Dried-In:** Framing for the upper building section is complete, and a temporary roof is in place. Active installation of the final roofing configuration is underway as weather permits.
- **Lower Building Section Framing:** Framing on the lower portion of the building is ongoing and remains on track to be fully complete near the end of November.
- **Exterior Enclosure & Siding Prep:** Exterior wall sheathing and waterproofing are nearing completion for the high roof areas. Crews have initiated pre-work for the exterior siding, with installation of the final exterior envelope scheduled to begin shortly.

Interior Mechanical & Trade Rough-Ins

With weather protection secured over key areas, construction activities inside the building are ramping up significantly:

- **HVAC Piping & Mechanical Systems:** With the upper section dried-in, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) trades have begun installing piping and overhead systems.

- **Path to Interior Finishes:** Trade crews are focused on completing all in-wall and overhead rough-ins, laying the groundwork for drywall (GWB) installation once rough-in finishes.

🗓️ Milestones & Winter Outlook

As we head toward the end of the month, our overall project sequence transitions into its next major phase:

- **Full Structural Completion:** Complete framing and structural work across the entire building is targeted for completion between late November and early December. At that point, project focus will fully shift toward interior finishes and build-outs.
- **TPU Electrical Work Update:** Preparations for the main Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) electrical connection along Annapolis Street are anticipating a timeline between Thanksgiving and early December. Once final scheduling and any potential traffic adjustments are confirmed, we will send out a direct update to the neighborhood.
- **Spring Site Restoration Preview:** Looking further ahead, exterior site restoration and landscape work for the new school grounds are scheduled to begin in early Spring 2027.

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

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