



New Location for Crabapple Middle School

Woodstock Road, Roswell

Fulton County Schools is proud to serve the community with state-of-the art schools that are well designed and constructed, are attractive complements to the surrounding community, and are built with the long-term interests of families and taxpayers in mind. The following information summarizes frequently asked questions about the replacement Crabapple Middle School and its new location.

What features will the new Crabapple Middle School have?

The new Crabapple Middle School will be situated on a 29-acre site that provides a natural foliage buffer to neighboring subdivisions. The school itself will be approximately 189,200 square feet – about 66,000 square feet larger than the current school – with a partial two-level design very similar to what was originally proposed for the current site on Crabapple Road. Many of our schools are prototypes, which means you will see schools sharing similar design features throughout Fulton County, but they are adapted for each site’s acreage and unique geographical features. This school will have similarities to our other middle school prototypes.

The new Crabapple will have 76 instructional units (construction speak for ‘classrooms and instructional spaces’) as well as the traditional cafeteria and gymnasium found in middle schools. The school also will have a technology-focused media center similar to that at Roswell High School as well as innovative collaboration spaces for students and staff. Outside features include a playfield and track, two basketball courts, and four tennis courts.

When will the new school open?

Originally, the plan called for a three-year phasing approach that required construction to occur while students and staff were on the current Crabapple Road site. Since the school will be built on a different site, a phasing approach is no longer needed. This allows it to be built within two years and still open by the 2021-2022 school year.

How did we determine Crabapple Middle School’s new location?

When planning a replacement for Crabapple Middle School, Fulton County Schools initially looked for appropriate land to rebuild at another location. Whenever considering a school site, the school system conducts a due diligence assessment to make sure it meets the district’s requirements as well as those of the Georgia Department of Education. In particular, finding large parcels of suitable land for a school can be difficult in North Fulton, especially when looking within a specific geographic area. At that time, there was no land available that met the criteria, so plans were made to rebuild on the existing Crabapple site.

Late last fall/early winter, during due diligence and design work on the current site, construction challenges were identified that would substantially increase the cost of the project. These include sitework complications related to building over a stream on the existing property as well as challenges with the three-year phasing plan that would keep students and staff on the site while the new school was built. These increased costs led the school district to reconsider other options and place the project temporarily on hold.

In early Spring, the district learned that a tract of land had become available that would meet the criteria for the new Crabapple. Significantly fewer site challenges, as well as a shorter construction duration of two years, is expected to result in a cost reduction in taxpayer funds. This new location also eliminates the disruption that could occur during phasing and trying to build while students and staff are on the current site.

How will neighboring subdivisions be affected by construction?

Fulton County Schools is committed to being a good neighbor – during construction and after the school opens. When site preparation begins in May 2019, there will be the traditional sounds of construction coming from the site, such as equipment moving through the area, but construction crews will follow the City of Roswell’s noise ordinance. We have established contact with the HOA leadership at Devereaux Downs, State Street, Oak Lane and Kiveton Park subdivisions to keep them apprised of the school’s construction progress.

In addition, the construction site will have safety fencing around the property. The construction site entrance/exit on Woodstock Road also will be equipped with a wheel wash station to remove dirt and mud from work trucks so it will not be tracked onto the roads.

What will Fulton County Schools do about traffic near the new site?

It is important to consider that the middle school day starts at 8:55 a.m. and is later than the elementary and high school day, which means it will occur when most people have already finished their morning commute. Another concern voiced was the condition of Woodstock Road. Roadway improvements are outside of the legal scope of a school construction project, but Fulton County Schools is confident that its relationship with the City of Roswell will prove beneficial as the two groups work together. The school system has completed a traffic study and submitted it to the city for review.

Why did the community not know that a new site was being considered?

Typically, the public is involved in many aspects of a new school. However, whenever land acquisition is involved, it is standard for a school system to work confidentially with the seller during site evaluation and contract negotiation. As one might imagine, once word spreads that a school system is seeking large parcels of land, prices can inflate tremendously. In addition, as a separate entity from city and county governments, Fulton County Schools conducts land acquisition matters privately. As a professional courtesy, however, several members of the Roswell City Council were apprised of the new location shortly before the announcement.

How is the school being funded?

SPLOST, the one-penny education sales tax, calls for a replacement Crabapple Middle School. SPLOST stands for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax and this funding source helps build new or replacement schools, classroom additions, and renovations to existing facilities. SPLOST also funds transportation upgrades and safety improvements, and a large portion of the funds is earmarked to address aging technology within schools. This supports the school district’s personalized learning initiatives that put mobile devices in students’ hands for instruction.

What will happen to the current Crabapple Middle School site?

There are no predetermined plans for its future. It will be Fall 2021 before the new building on Woodstock Road is ready for occupation by students and staff, so an immediate decision does not need to be made. There are no plans in the current five-year building program (Capital Plan 2022) for other new schools in the area, other than the new STEM high school at the old Milton High School site in Alpharetta.

How can the community stay informed of the school’s construction progress?

During the school year, Fulton County Schools will hold public meetings to share more information and give updates. School Board Member Katha Stuart, who represents Crabapple Middle and other schools in Roswell, plans to periodically invite members of the FCS Capital Improvements Department to her monthly community meetings so they can answer specific questions.

You can also find project information at this website, www.fultonschools.org/en/SPLOST/Pages/Crabapple-Middle-School.aspx, or send questions to SPLOSTinfo@fultonschools.org.