

COATESVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Facilities At A Crossroads

Master Facilities Plan Task Force

Update – March 2023

The Coatesville Area School District is at a financial and facilities crossroads. The District's facilities are aging and facing numerous challenges, despite a significant preventative maintenance plan. More than 60 staff, parents, and community members are considering options for the District's schools, as prepared by architectural and facilities use firms that specialize in K-12 facilities and that have studied our buildings.

The Task Force has agreed that:

- ➔ The District's facilities are in a state that requires action. This cannot be delayed or deferred. Improving the District's facilities will help us to save money on operating costs and attract families back from charter schools (which will in turn further improve our financial outlook.)
- ➔ The plan for facilities must reconfigure our grade structure to better meet educational needs.
- ➔ We must find a plan that stays within our financial borrowing capacity.

What will happen if we do not improve our facilities?

Our financial stability is at stake.

While Coatesville is making significant progress in returning students from charter schools, we must invest in our facilities if we are to continue to bring students into our schools!



Currently, the District sends about **\$67 million** to charter schools each year. More than half of every tax dollar goes to charter schools.



Research shows that high-quality facilities, particularly at the elementary level, is one of the primary draws for families who are deciding where to educate their children.

Coatesville is already making significant progress on academics, culture, and safety. *We must also focus on our facilities if we are going to remain financially viable and attract students.*

After significant study and discussion, the Task Force worked with architects and a facilities use firm to come to this recommended plan, to be phased in over the next six to seven years, with thorough planning and communication to parents and staff:

Four K-5 Elementary Schools

- **Renovate** Kings Highway and Reeceville Elementary Schools
- **Build a new** South Brandywine Elementary School
- No significant work at Rainbow Elementary
- **Close** Caln and East Fallowfield Elementary Schools

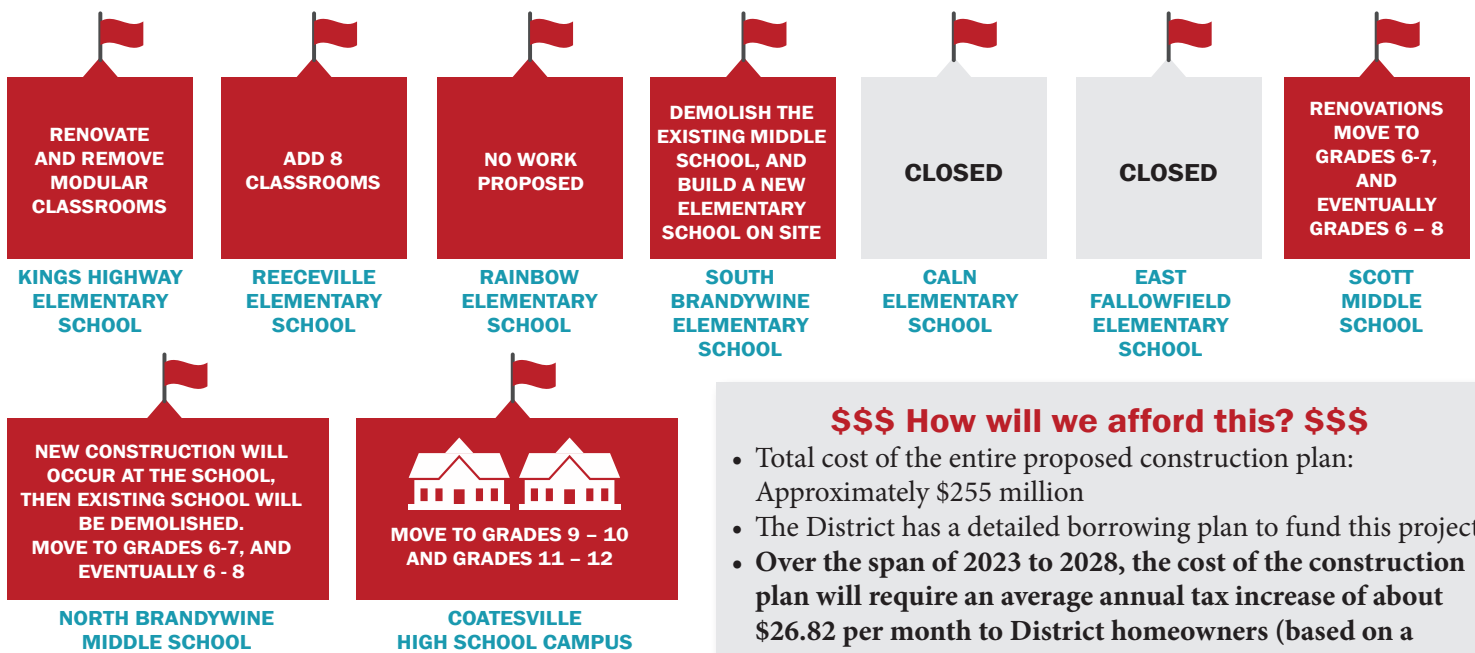
Two 6 – 8 Middle Schools

- Scott Middle School would be **renovated**. In 2024, it would house grades 6 – 7, and eventually grades 6 – 8.
- In 2025, North Brandywine would educate grades 6 and 7 while **construction** is completed next to the building. It would then house grades 6 – 8. The old North Brandywine would be demolished.

One 9 – 12 High School

- Coatesville Area Intermediate High School would educate grades 9 – 10
- Coatesville Area Senior High School would educate grades 11 - 12

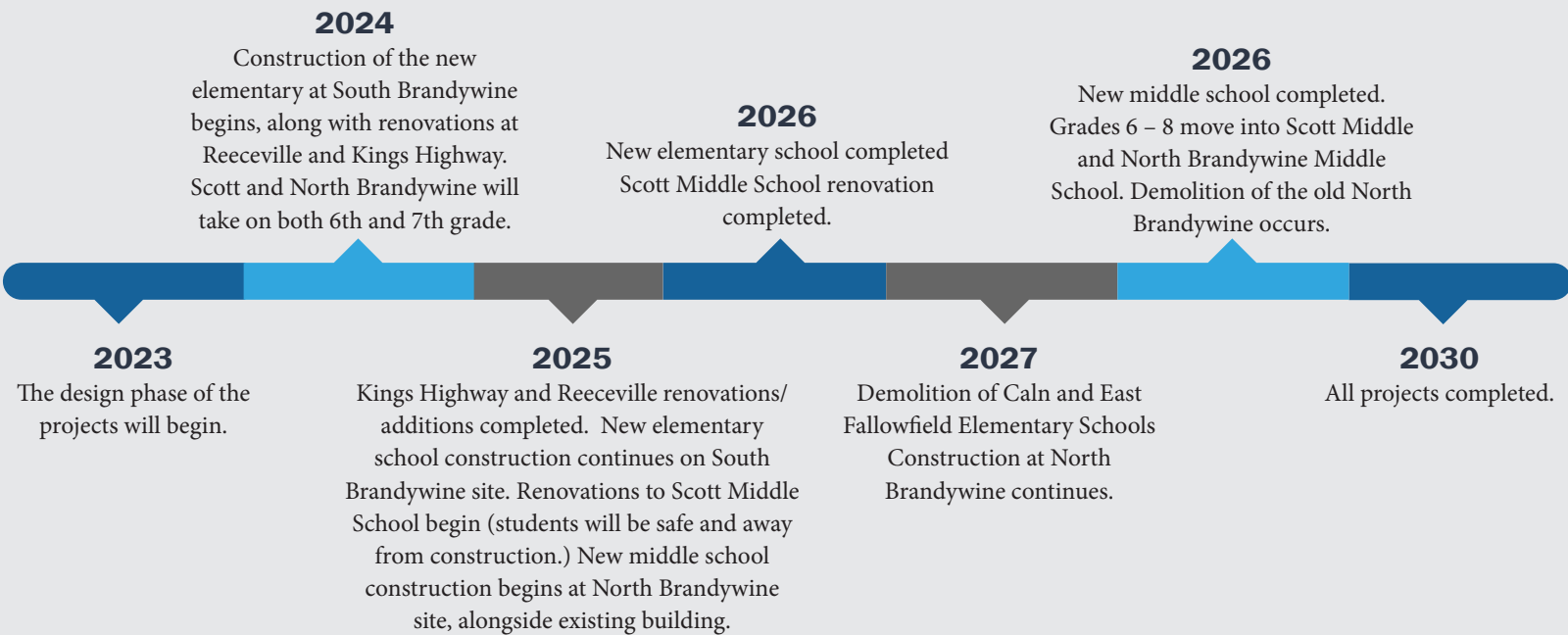
Attendance boundaries (Redistricting) for students will change at elementary and middle school as grade levels are reconfigured and a new school is built. This will be done thoughtfully and with consideration for all.



Why must we make a decision – now?

- The District has delayed work on our facilities for years, and it is costing us money – both in expensive repair work and in lost enrollment as families choose charter schools that have newer facilities.
- It’s important to rebalance the equity in our facilities; Some district buildings are updated while others are outdated, cramped, and in serious need of repair.
- A stronger school system with high quality school buildings will positively impact property values in the District.
- New home developments are bringing more students to our District. We need quality facility space to educate them.

PROPOSED Construction Timeline



NEXT STEPS:

- The District will gather and review public input via surveys on this proposed Master Facilities Plan.
- A final recommendation will be presented to the Coatesville Area School Board in April 2023.
- The Board must approve this Master Facilities Plan, as well as funding to support the plan, before it can begin.