

## Fremont Public Schools New 5/6 Building

### Frequently Asked Questions

**When reading this information, please remember that decisions will continue to be made frequently, and although this information is correct as it is being written, some things may change along the way. This page will be updated as decisions are made.**

#### **When will the building open?**

The building is scheduled to open fall of 2012.

#### **Will it really be ready by then?**

Yes, the estimated completion date is sometime during the month of June. Of course, if all goes well, it could be ready before that. An effort is being made to keep the community informed along the way of the school's progress, so be watching for updates along the way.

#### **Will there be a lot of new staff hired?**

No, the staff will primarily be made up of teachers who are currently in the district. As the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are moved from their buildings, staff will also be moved. There will be some situations, through retirement or other moves, that new staff will be hired to replace existing staff members. Also, because of increasing numbers of students, a few additional staff members may be added.

Mr. Gale Hamilton will be the principal of the new building and will continue to be principal of the middle school. Both buildings are expected to have an associate principal and a dean of students as part of the administrative teams.

#### **What will happen with the traffic?**

There have been considerable discussions with Fremont Public Schools and the City of Fremont regarding access to the new school and we have been assured that a connector street will be constructed connecting First Street with Johnson Road. However, with the various permits that are required when external funding sources are utilized, there are any number of clearances that must be obtained. It is doubtful if that construction will be complete by August of 2012. The City of Fremont also has plans to install a traffic-activated light at the corner of Military and Johnson Road.

#### **Why did Fremont decide to put the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in one building together?**

Developmentally, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are very similar and have similar educational needs. Putting 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in one school, located near the building for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, will allow for shared equipment and materials and, in some cases, even shared staff. Having 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in one building also fosters more collaboration and teamwork amongst staff, which in turn, benefits students.

Finally, the decision to put them in one building was also based on the need for space. Because the middle school and elementary schools were experiencing crowding, the construction of this

new building will open up space in all of the elementary schools and the middle school. As our community continues to grow, that space will be valuable in all of those buildings.

**Will there be play ground equipment for the 5 and 6 graders?**

Fremont Public Schools is working with the City of Fremont to construct a playground between the new building and Splash Station. It will be built on city property with city funds, but they are considering the needs of the students as they make decisions about what equipment to include. It has been decided to wait on the construction of the playground until the building is open, so it will not be in place right away, but will be constructed during the 2012-2013 year.

**Why is the new building located so far east by the middle school rather than a more central location?**

When the land for the middle school was purchased, Fremont Public Schools was able to purchase a large parcel. Because the land to build the new building already belonged to FPS, it helped considerably to keep expenses down. Also, because of the way Fremont is built up in the center of town, there really is no place to add a new building that is more centrally located.

**Will there be transportation added or will it be the same as it currently is for the middle school?**

Transportation is an area that school officials are working on. Students will continue to be bused from across town, so arrangements are being discussed as to how to best transport the increased number of students to that area. Exact details are not available at this time.

**Will the schedule be the same as it is at the current 6-8 building?**

Decisions have not been finalized yet about the schedule for the new building. There are committees looking at what will work best for this group of students. It will not look exactly like the elementary schedule and will not look exactly like the middle school schedule, but will ideally mesh the best of both schedules.

**Will there be a staggered start and/or finish?**

That is another area that is still being decided. There are both advantages and disadvantages to staggering the start and dismissal times, so we are trying to determine what will work best. More information will come out in this area once those decisions are made.

**What time will kids be allowed to enter the building in the morning?**

We will be able to give more information in this area once we have determined the times for the beginning and ending of the school day.

**Will there be a breakfast program?**

Yes, breakfast will be served each day before school.

**What sports will be available for the 5th and 6th graders?**

Sixth grade students already have some intramurals opportunities available, so we are looking at expanding those offerings to include 5<sup>th</sup> graders as well.

**Will there be a chance to see and tour the building before it opens in the Fall of 2012?**

Because of the timeline to complete the building, we will not be able to offer open house times in the spring of 2012, but we are hoping to keep the public informed of progress along the way. We will post pictures and information on this website and on cable channel 8 throughout the construction process. There will be some spring transition meetings for students who will be attending the school in the fall, and open houses will be scheduled once the building is complete.

**How many students will be in attendance at the school when it opens in 2012?**

Each class has approximately 350 students, so we are expecting about 700 students to attend the new school in the fall of 2012. As a result of moving the 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the new building, the middle school will also have close to 700 students as well. Although there are typically 300 to 350 students per grade, enrollment trends and current numbers indicate 373 in kindergarten and 360 in first grade. Our current 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade numbers are 350 and 360.

**We will periodically be updating this FAQ page and would like to try to answer any remaining questions you may have. Please submit any questions to [julie.dillon@fpsmail.org](mailto:julie.dillon@fpsmail.org) with FAQ on the memo line and we will continue updating as more information is available.**