



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.



WILLARD ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

QUESTION AND ANSWER GUIDE

A SCHOOL IN TRANSITION: FAMILY GUIDE



To get involved, please visit www.mcpsmt.org/willard or contact Principal Kevin Ritchlin at kmritchlin@mcps.k12.mt.us.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will construction take place?

- The design, engineering and permitting process is already underway. The construction process will take place from August 2017 - August 2018. The school will be open for the first day of school in the 2018-19 school year.



Where will the new building be built?

- The new building will be built where the current parking lot sits. At the end of construction, the old school building will be demolished in 2018 to make space for a new parking lot.



What areas will be closed to the public during construction?

- The entire parking lot and half of the green space on the southwest side of the lot will be fenced off for construction and staging of materials. The Crosby side of the lot will be a staging area for construction vehicles and there may be some sporadic closures on 6th Avenue and Oak street for construction equipment to move in and out of the lot.

Will there be any adjustments to the school schedule during construction?

- No, the school day will still run from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Health and Physical Education classes will take place on the back side of the lot toward Ash Street.



Will there be any parking or program impacts during construction?

- Yes, the current parking lot will be the construction area for the new school. Students and staff will need to park along 6th, Ash and Oak streets in the neighborhood. There may be a few temporary and ADA accessible parking spaces created directly behind the school in the green space.
- The rest of the academic program will function normally for the 17-18 school year. There will be four classrooms that face the construction site and students throughout the building will hear construction noise throughout the school year. We will work to accommodate noise and air quality concerns during the construction process.



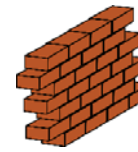
What will happen to the green space around the school?

- The garden will be removed during construction. The school will be working with Garden City Harvest to determine if there is a sustainable way to maintain the garden year-round in the future. Currently, there is no support for maintaining the garden in the summer months. This will be an obstacle to overcome in order to rebuild a garden on the site.
- The playground equipment will be removed and there is no plan to replace it once the new building is complete.
- Students, staff and community members must adhere to all signage and fencing to avoid construction areas.



What will the new school look like?

- The new building will be two stories tall and will include the sandstone Willard name plaque and some brick from the original school. It will be 3,000 square feet larger than the current school and it is designed to accommodate a maximum of 250 students. The building will also feature a multipurpose space, a larger library, two maker spaces, a laundry and shower space, dining room and kitchen as well as a culinary lab space. The 14 classrooms will be larger than the current classrooms and there will be two rooms that can accommodate science experiments and labs. The new building will have air conditioning and an efficient steam boiler system.



Will members of the community be able to get elements from the old building?

- HomeResource will send a crew to reclaim items from the old building and members of the community can purchase items from their store.



Who can we call with questions?

- The Principal will check the school's voicemail and email messages weekly during the summer to answer questions. You can also contact the main administration office at (406)728-2400 ext. 0 during the summer.

WILLARD WILL BE THE SITE OF FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS FOR LOWELL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS DURING THE SUMMER. STUDENTS WILL BE IN THE BUILDING JUNE 12TH - JULY 14TH AS A PART OF THAT PROGRAM.

Students are encouraged to utilize the school bus and the free Mountain Line bus service to transport get to school.

We want to reduce frustration over traffic and parking congestion for you and your student during the construction process. In the winter months, side streets around the school are not plowed frequently and this will cause even more parking challenges. Please consider starting the school year utilizing the bus to alleviate these frustrations and allow students to arrive at school on time and ready to learn.



Overview of the new site plan once construction is complete in August 2018.