



The new PreK-8th grade School in the Mountain Valley Region of RSU 10 will provide a more equitable, healthy, and efficient environment for our children and communities to learn and grow.

Currently, our students, PreK-4, are housed in two separate schools 1.5 miles apart. Rumford Elementary School (RES) was built in 1954 and has safety concerns as well as a lack of appropriate space for special education, the arts, and PreK. Meroby Elementary School (MES) was built in the 1970's as an open-concept school that is unable to meet the needs of today's students. Parents request moving students to RES so their classroom has four walls!

In 2019, in order to have more space at the elementary schools, we moved 5th graders from these two schools to Mountain Valley Middle School (MVMS), which was a 6th-8th grade middle school. MVMS, which was built in 1969 as a high school, did not have enough space for all 5th-8th graders, thus making it necessary to add more portable classrooms. Additionally, at this same time, mold was discovered in this building.

In the Mountain Valley Region of our school district we currently have 27-28% identified as qualifying and receiving special education services. This creates a huge need for "specially - designed" space that is not typically found in schools built between 1950-1970 and this certainly has been the case in our three schools. In addition we have 70-80% students qualify for free and reduced meals. Students often are sent to school hungry or not well in order to see our school nurse for medical care and receive a meal.

As we know, early childhood education is very important for our childrens' future. We have only had the space in RES and MES to offer 2-day per week PreK. The Head Start program in the Mountain Valley Region is 5-days per week and draws many of our students as the parents in our areas seek 5-days for their children. Three and four year-old children with special needs receiving services through Child Development Services, often cannot get their needs met as we do not have more than 2 days a week, nor do we have the space. The new school would allow us to offer full-time PreK programs and space for CDS services as well.

To increase student achievement and social emotional development, our students need to attend school regularly, make positive connections, be involved learners and take pride in their accomplishments. The consolidation of these three schools allows more access to programs, services and collaboration that will have a positive educational impact as well as addressing the other basic needs of our students, families and community as we work to provide for a successful tomorrow.

Deborah Alden

Superintendent of Schools
RSU 10