



Q&A: #QuakerFutures

What do you mean by #QuakerFutures?

- #QuakerFutures represents the culmination of Plainfield's ongoing plan to meet our community's learning needs by updating our existing school facilities and building our fifth elementary school.

What renovations will be made to the Middle School?

- Improve safety and security for the site as well as the building.
- Redesign the school's main office, creating a more secure entrance while adding much-needed office space.
- Renovate and improve classrooms, to include enlarging some classrooms while improving the science and special education spaces.
- Create flexible, collaborative STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) spaces to support the learning styles important to success in school today, and the workplace tomorrow.
- Update the Library/Media Center
- Repurpose the computer labs as we prepare the building for one-to-one computing. With every student having a computer, the need for traditional computer labs will go away.
- Improve the space and efficiency of the cafeteria.
- Improve layout of classrooms so that grade levels and subjects are grouped together.
- Replace and/or relocate lockers to better serve students.
- Improve student supervision in corridors and common areas by creating wider hallways that span from one end of the school to the other.
- Improve PE locker and fitness rooms.
- Improve restrooms.
- Improve exterior traffic flow for student drop-off and pick-up, and separate bus traffic from cars.
- Increase visitor parking and create safe pathways for pedestrians to get from the school to athletic facilities.
- Reconfigure the space to more comfortably and efficiently house 1500 to 1600 students.

Why do you need so many changes to the middle school?

- The building was constructed in 1958 as a high school, and it served in that capacity until 2008. While updates were made to transition it to a

middle school, we need to continue that effort and prepare it to be a school for the future, much as we've done with the elementary schools.

What is the enrollment of each Plainfield school?

- At the end of 2018, approximate enrollment by school was:
 - Brentwood: 450
 - Central: 550
 - Clarks Creek, including Little Quakers Academy: 1050
 - Van Buren: 550
 - PCMS: 1300
 - PHS: 1700

A new elementary school? Does it have a name?

- Yes. The board and administrators have been preparing for this for several years. As the population of the town has grown, especially to the west, we've been preparing for this day.
- The four existing elementary schools are approaching capacity, and when that is coupled with residential growth, it is clear that we will need an additional school – soon. The board and administrators have closely monitored the town's population growth, and based on their long-range planning, now is the time to begin the building process.
- With input from students and the community, the new building will be named Guilford Elementary School.

Have you decided where Guilford Elementary will be located?

- Yes. In 2003, we purchased 40 acres of land along Moon Road, just south of Hadley Road, often referred to as 600 South. We've held on to that land knowing that the west side of Plainfield would grow, and anticipating that we would one day build a school there.

Are the county roads prepared for the traffic that will be added by a school?

- With cooperation from the Town of Plainfield and key community members, the necessary infrastructure improvements will be made.

How many classes of each grade level will be in the new school?

- We plan to open the school with at least four classrooms for each grade level, K-5. The school will be built, though, with enough space to expand to five or six classes per grade.
- Our goal is to balance class sizes and improve space efficiencies at all elementary schools as we open Guilford Elementary.

When will Guilford Elementary School open?

- We expect to welcome our first students to the new school for the 2021-2022 academic year.

When will you determine which students will attend Guilford Elementary? Will there be more students affected than those who will attend Guilford?

- Decisions will be made by Spring 2020, giving parents more than a year to prepare for possible changes.
- Should there be a need for changes prior to the opening of Guilford Elementary, administrators will make the decision that affects the fewest number of students possible.

Which neighborhoods will attend the new elementary?

- It is too soon to know exactly who will go where.

Why don't you just build onto the existing schools?

- Surprisingly, building onto existing buildings of any type is more expensive than you might think.
- With so much growth west of the what many people think of as "the town" of Plainfield, it makes sense to build a school in that area of town.
- While adding classrooms to an existing school might accommodate more students, it does not address the need for larger common spaces such as the cafeteria, nurse's clinic, library/media center, etc.

Are you going to hire new staff or will you just move people around?

- We've been preparing for a new school for some time, including by identifying existing staff who are ready to take on new leadership roles.
- Mrs. Colleen Perry, currently Assistant Principal at Clarks Creek Elementary, has been named Principal of Guilford Elementary.
- Many of our current teachers will move to the new elementary, where they will infuse the Plainfield culture into the new school. We will, however, need to hire additional teachers for art, music, PE. We will also need an additional nurse, Library/Media Center Specialist, and secretaries. Ultimately, we will have a mix of both existing and new teachers working in the school.

Can we afford to hire enough staff for the new school?

- Yes. The money needed to pay for new teachers comes out of a different fund from construction dollars.

Who will be the principal at the new school?

- Mrs. Colleen Perry has been named principal of Guilford Elementary. She is in her fourth year as assistant principal at Clarks Creek, and served in a similar capacity in Wayne Township for many years.

Will the new school have art, music and physical education?

- Yes! We are firmly committed to the importance of art, music and physical education for all students. The programs offered at Guilford Elementary School will be the same as those offered at Brentwood, Central, Clarks Creek and Van Buren.

Will you build an Imagination Lab at Guilford Elementary?

- The Imagination Lab is located at Clarks Creek, and students who attend Guilford Elementary will visit The Imagination Lab on a schedule just as if they were enrolled at one of the other elementary schools.

Are you going to have to buy more buses?

- Each year we evaluate our need for buses based on enrollment and bus routes. The same will happen as we prepare for the opening of Guilford.

Will this school have a playground that will be open to the public?

- Yes. Just like the other elementary schools, this school will have a playground that will be open to the public.

Will this school have sports facilities?

- The school will have a gymnasium and outdoor facilities appropriate for elementary sports and activities.

What will this work cost, and what will it do to my taxes?

- While final costs have not been determined yet, our architects estimate that accomplishing all the improvements at PCMS and building the new school should cost less than \$50 million.
- Thanks to careful maintenance, timely updates and prudent financial planning, we've been able to complete past projects without increasing the school's portion of property tax rates. Plainfield's growing tax base has and will continue to help offset the impact of building projects like #QuakerFutures.
- While we can't make any promises, we're confident that these projects can be accomplished with no, or minimal, increase to homeowners.