



BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

SLATE VALLEY
INNOVATION PROJECT

**YOU'RE
INVITED**

FHUHS BUILDING TOUR

SEE FACILITIES NEEDS

LEARN ABOUT
INNOVATION PROJECT

ASK QUESTIONS

**Student
Learning
Achieved
Through
Engagement**



FHUHS BUILDING TOUR

Meet in the FHUHS Library
33 Mechanic Street
Fair Haven, VT 05743
802-265-4966

**NOV 20
6:30 PM**

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to the academic excellence of every student by empowering them with the means for the successful completion of standards, and by challenging them to be productive members of our global society. We are committed to a comprehensive system of support to ensure each student has the opportunity to develop the skills and talents necessary for college and career readiness.

OUR VISION

All students are engaged in rigorous, authentic, experiential, individualized learning that is supported or accelerated to ensure that they meet or exceed standards.

Our Students are curious and creative learners who succeed through personal initiative and sustained effort to reach high academic goals. They are critical thinkers and learners who seek knowledge and possess technological competence and collaborative skills.

Our students embrace diversity and culture, act responsibly, and contribute to our community.

Our Educators believe in providing for the social, emotional, and academic needs of every child so that they feel connected, safe, and respected. They are committed in offering a challenging and engaging atmosphere in which all members of the school community can learn and grow.

Our Families and Community are integral to the success of our students and schools. Families are active, engaged, and welcomed partners in their child's education.

Our community is passionate about equitable educational outcomes for all students.

Our Schools offer an enriched learning environment and a comprehensive system of supports to address the needs of the whole child.

WE BELIEVE

- In providing for the social, emotional and academic needs of every child so that they feel connected, safe, and respected in order to ensure student achievement.
- In providing a challenging and engaging atmosphere in which all members of the school community can learn and grow.
- In providing opportunities for inquiry, research, global collaboration, and communication.
- In providing varied, rich and personalized opportunities for learning.
- In providing experiences to develop critical thinking skills that allow students to become engaged participants in their school communities and beyond.

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's "wrong" with our current facilities?

- The schools in our district have facilities issues that need to be addressed.
- These issues are not cosmetic and require the need to repair or replace core infrastructure.
- A list of needed infrastructure repairs is available for review.
- These repairs/renovations will need to be addressed whether or not the decision is made to go forward with the project.

Do our current facilities meet the educational needs of our children?

- As part of our Mission/Vision, Slate Valley has a clearly defined set of educational goals and initiatives designed to meet the current and emerging needs of our students.
- The schools in our district require renovation and/or the addition of instructional areas in order to fully achieve our district Mission/Vision.
- Maintaining a quality school system in our district is essential to the long-term vitality of our communities.
- Updating our schools will ensure that Slate Valley is a destination community for young families looking for a great school system in our region.
- Maintaining great schools is the best way to protect the property values of homeowners across the district.

Why Bond?

- Updating our facilities will require the district to put a multi-year bond before community members for consideration.
- A bond is the most cost-effective option to finance the district's core infrastructure (plumbing, electrical, heating) needs over a 30 year period similar to a home mortgage.
- The cost of the bond along with the facilities needs that will be addressed is currently being compiled for review by community members.
- The date of the bond vote has tentatively been set for March 2020 – Town Meeting Day.

Why a District Middle School?

- The creation of a unified school district in the Slate Valley has opened up the new possibility of creating a district middle school to better serve 7th and 8th grade students.
- As enrollment across our elementary schools has decreased, meeting the educational needs of middle school students has become increasingly challenging and expensive.
- A district middle school would create a critical mass of students needed to provide the full range of programs typically offered to 7th and 8th grade students in Vermont – e.g. arts, foreign languages, science, technology, engineering, and math currently being offered by the schools in our region.
- Duplicating educational offerings to small numbers of middle school students across our current elementary schools is expensive and limits the educational programs we can offer our children.
- The creation of the district middle school would enhance educational opportunity for our children and better utilize existing resources – a more cost effective use of taxpayer dollars.

What is the proposed location for a District Middle School?

- The Innovation Committee has determined that the only educational complex large and efficient enough to meet the needs of a self-contained, autonomous middle school is on the grounds of Fair Haven Union High School.
- Locating a middle school at the high school would provide students with additional opportunities for academic acceleration.
- Additionally, it would provide access to arts, co-curricular programs (athletics, clubs, and extra-curricular), and enriched support services.
- Creating a district middle school adjoining the current high school facility would result in greater long-term, operational efficiency (space utilization, staffing, field space) as well as a more cost-effective district-wide renovation plan to address our district's overall facilities needs.

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

The rationale for developing a long-range facilities plan for Slate Valley is grounded in two important challenges facing the schools in our district:

A. Our current facilities, in varying degrees, have serious problems that need immediate attention related to aging infrastructure; ADA and other compliance issues; student safety, security, and quality of life; and deferred maintenance. In addition, any goal to control long-term increases in district spending would benefit from steps aimed at making our schools more energy efficient and operationally cost-effective.

B. Our schools no longer fully or equitably support the educational programs that our community desires for its children. Addressing our facility needs is an essential step in realizing our district's long-term educational vision.

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

Among the educational challenges facing today's schools are emerging economic realities that require a workforce that is at once skilled and innovative, able to work collaboratively, and capable of adjusting to the changing needs of today's world.

To meet these challenges, the Slate Valley Unified Union School District is in the process of implementing major instructional initiatives designed to:

- Increase student engagement by providing more opportunities for personal responsibility in charting their learning.
- Increase student academic performance and mastery through remediation and enhance student learning in individualized and small group instruction.
- Encourage and support our teachers to:
 - Employ an expanded array of differentiated, student-centered instructional practices that are at once rigorous, authentic, experiential, and individualized.
 - Develop instructional programs that recognize that learning happens everywhere - programs that shift their focus to teaching students how to learn and to make that learning "stick" by connecting that learning to the real-life challenges facing them both now and in the future.
- Build more supportive learning communities through emotional support and targeted intervention programs designed to serve all students, but particularly those in crisis.
- Foster within students a greater environmental awareness and responsibility.

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Together, we stand poised at an important crossroads concerning the educational future of our schools and communities.

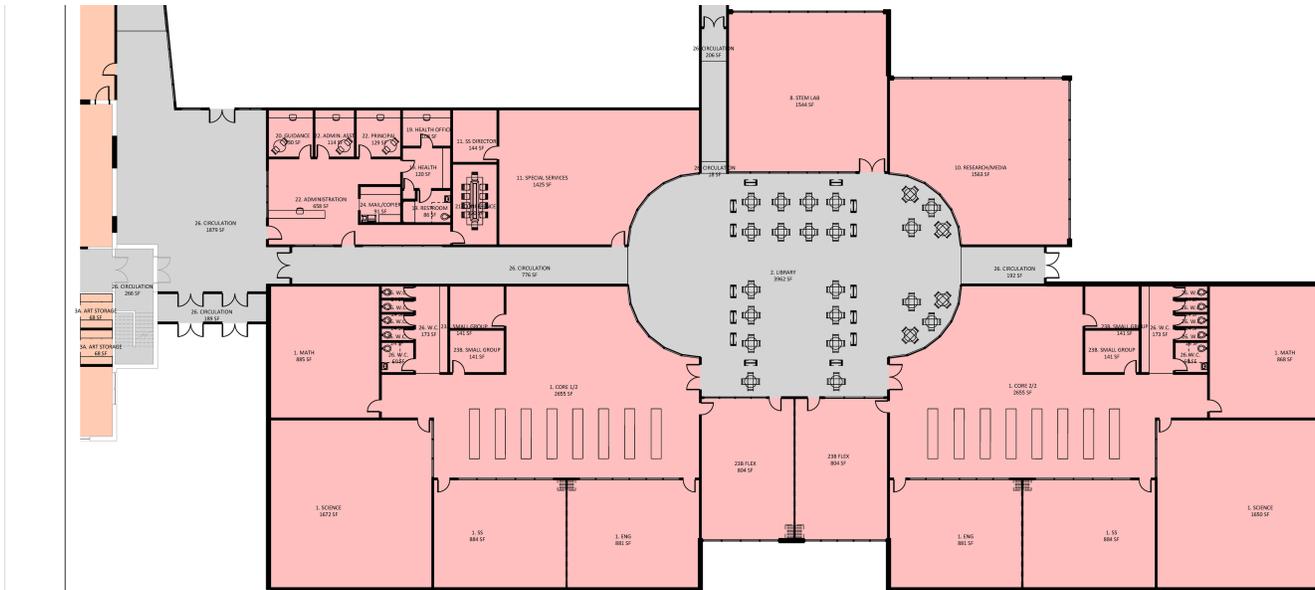
The decision we face is not simply about repairing or upgrading our core infrastructure. It's about the best way to create the next generation of schools here in Slate Valley - schools that will ensure our capacity to continue to offer high-quality educational programs to our children.

Achieving this goal means nothing less than ensuring the long-term health and vibrancy of our local communities by continuing to provide educational programs of which we can be justifiably proud, modern facilities that support instructional programs that will attract families to continue to come and raise their children here in Slate Valley.

This decision, at its core, is about ensuring educational excellence and maintaining a stable tax base to fund those institutions.



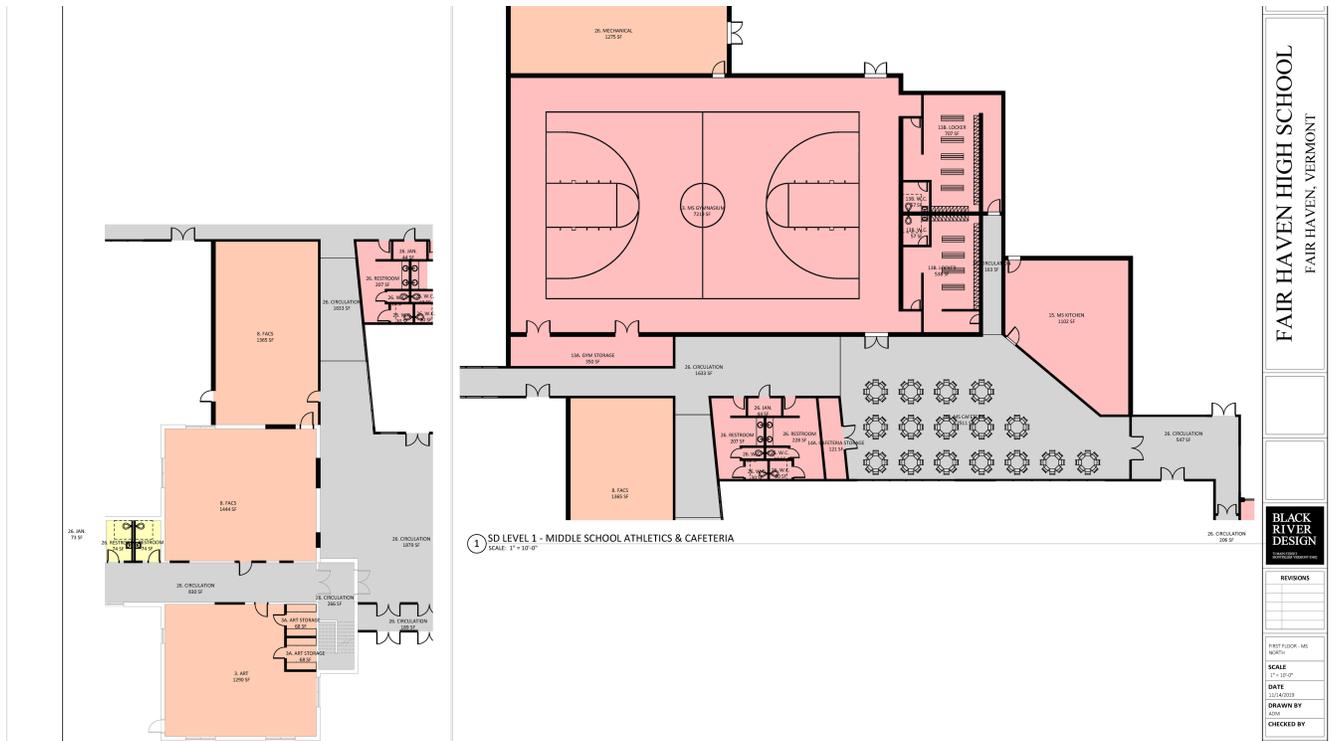
SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



MIDDLE SCHOOL (2 CORE PLAN): FEATURES

- School Gathering/Resource Center – multi-purpose: individual and small group seating arrangements; food service areas; resource and project areas, presentation spaces; meeting spaces, etc.
- 8 Total Classrooms (2 team classroom pods); {4 core classrooms per “pod”- 1 language arts; 1 history; 1 math; 1 science lab} {flexible teaching and work areas for whole, small, and individual instruction}
- 4 Maker Spaces:
 - 1 Life Skills Space – work kitchens, washer/dryer, etc.
 - 1 STEM Space – engineering, woodworking, metalworking, robotics, etc.
 - 1 Research/Media Lab – computers, 3-D printers, music/podcast recording and editing equipment, video recording and editing, green screen, etc.
 - Art Studio
- 1 Music Classroom (depending on Specials rotation)
- Band and Choral Facilities – perhaps as part of a shared multi-purpose performance space with high school
- 1 Gym
- 1 alternative classroom area (7/8 grades) (6-8 students)
- Office/Conference Spaces (for Administrative Team and Support Staff)

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



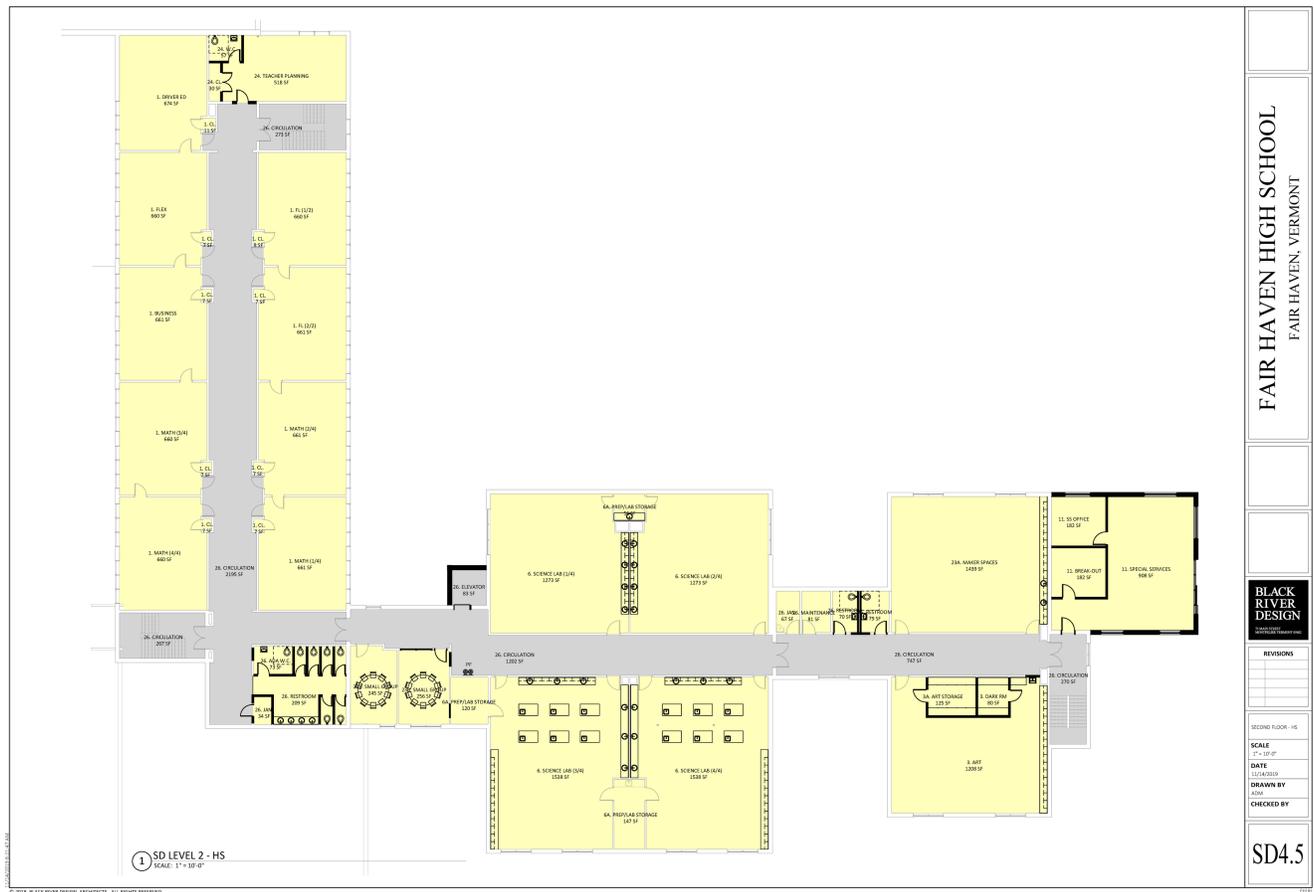
MIDDLE SCHOOL (2 CORE PLAN): BENEFITS

- Provides students with additional opportunities for:
 - academic acceleration
 - access to the arts
 - co-curricular programs (athletics, clubs, and extra-curricular activities)
 - enriched support services
- Creates a critical mass of students in a single facility
- Ensures that all students have the opportunity to study a full range of programs in the arts, foreign languages, and mathematics
- Addresses the issue of educational equity within our district by ensuring we can offer a full range of programming
- Makes district more attractive to prospective families who may move to district
- Greater operational efficiency – space utilization, staffing, and field space
- A more cost-effective district-wide renovation plan to address our district's current facility needs

As you learn more about the Innovation Project this evening, we invite you to consider:

Would the creation of a district middle school lead to increased educational opportunity and a more diverse and developmentally appropriate learning environment for our children, while at the same time delivering those benefits in a more cost-effective manner for Slate Valley taxpayers?

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



HIGH SCHOOL: OVERVIEW

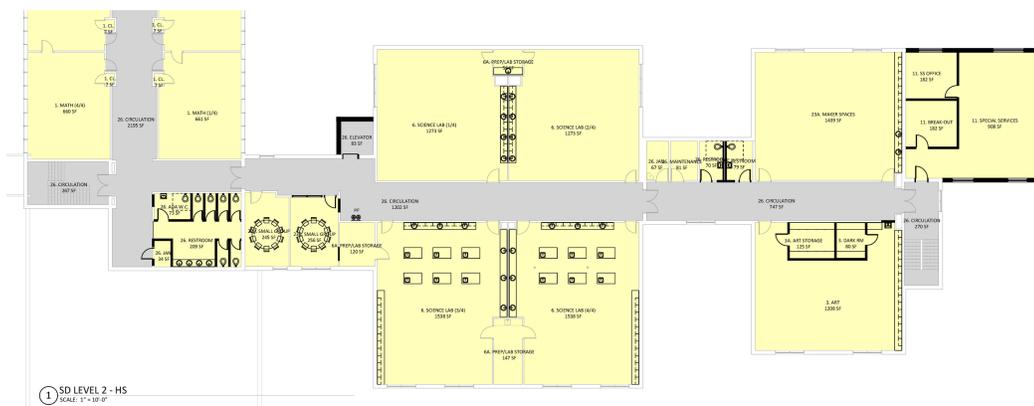
- 1 Cognitive Impairment Classroom: (6-8 students)
- Upgraded Science Rooms – furniture and fixtures
- Fabrication/Maker/Tech/Engineering spaces for student projects to support the implementation of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math Program (S.T.E.A.M.)
- Student Gathering/Social Spaces – renovation of cafeteria for multi-use (and kitchen); study areas, conversation areas; small exhibition/performance spaces for student exhibitions and presentations, coffee houses, etc.

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



SPECIAL SERVICES

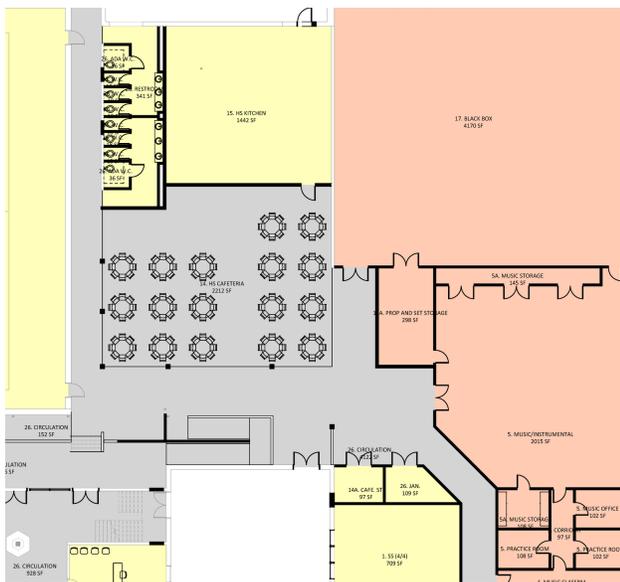
- One 7/8 program (6-8 students) at District Middle School
- One Cognitive Impairment Program (6-8 students) at High School
- Meets need to establish alternative education spaces for students whose needs cannot be met through the district's core educational programs. Note: A number of these programs already exist in the district.
- Expanding special programs will allow the district to address the needs of its students (in-house) without placing students in programs outside of the district.



SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

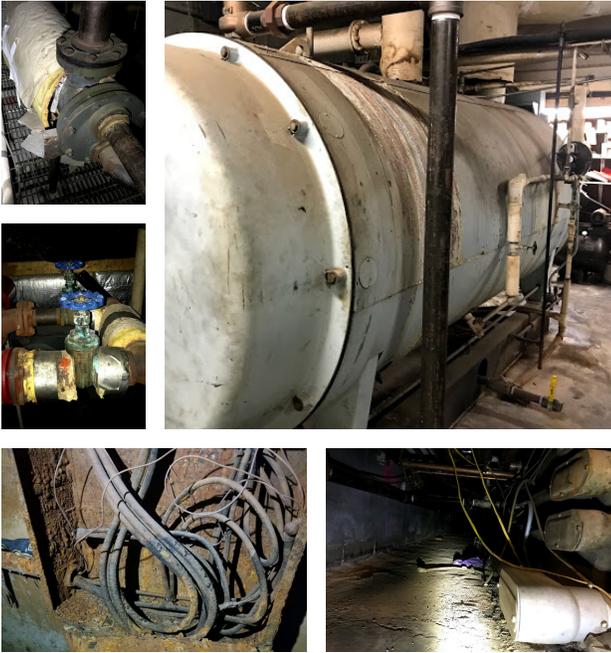
PERFORMING ARTS SPACE

- Performing Arts Instructional Space (music, theater, dance, etc.)
- Practice Areas
- Exhibition Space
- Presentation Space
- Multi-purpose
- Flexible seating allows for large and small group meetings/presentations
- Increased instructional opportunities for arts, presentations, etc.
- Improved experience for audience (see and hear performers, presenters, etc.)
- Community can make use of space



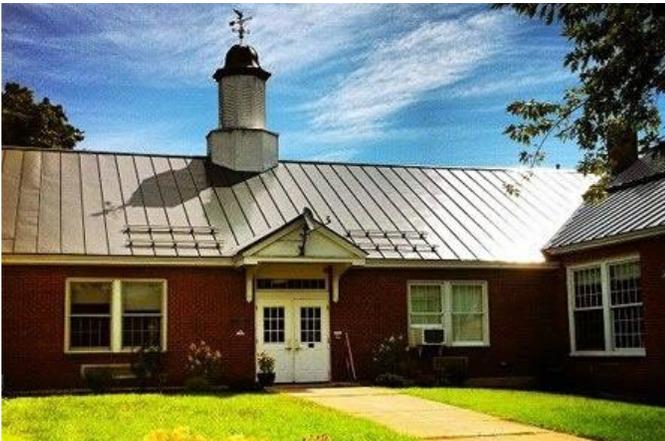
“Art doesn’t give rise to anything in us that isn’t already there. It simply stirs our curious consciousness and sparks a fire that illuminates who we have always wanted to be.” ~ Kamand Kojouri

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



FACILITIES (HIGH SCHOOL)

- Plumbing Upgrade
- Electrical Upgrade
- Kitchen Facility Upgrade
- ADA Compliance



FACILITIES (ORWELL)

- Gym/Cafeteria Replacement
- Kitchen Replacement
- HVAC
- Restroom (ADA Compliance)



SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

ORWELL VILLAGE SCHOOL

- Kitchen
- Gym/Cafeteria
- Changing Spaces
- Restrooms (Updated for ADA Compliance)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!