



## Rose Hill Middle School/Stella Schola Modernization FAQ

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Q: What does “modernization” mean for Rose Hill/Stella Schola?

A: This project is part of the Lake Washington School District’s comprehensive school modernization program. To ensure that its school buildings are physically sound and meet educational needs, the district, with voter approval, began a systematic program in 1998 to evaluate each school building every 30 to 40 years for potential updating. The program was developed in conjunction with a citizen committee. It divided the district’s schools into four eight-year phases. The first phase took place from 1998 to 2006 and affected 11 schools, paid for by a voter-approved bond. In 2006, voters approved another capital bond measure covering 11 more school campuses, including Rose Hill/Stella Schola.

At the beginning of each modernization project, the district goes through an assessment of whether to modernize the existing school or to build a new school to replace the existing school. One thing to keep in mind is that the process of fully renovating an old building may be as expensive as building a new building. A new building will, however, have a longer projected lifespan. For the District, “modernization” not only means building system upgrades but holistic building changes and educational program upgrades. The assessment process resulted in the decision for the existing building facility to be modernized by replacement with a new structure large enough to house both Rose Hill Middle School and Stella Schola.

Q: When will the project begin and end?

A: Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2012. Students will occupy the new building in the fall of 2013. All construction and landscaping should be complete by spring of 2014

Q: What changes will there be from the current building to the new building?

A: In 2012, Rose Hill Junior will open as Rose Hill Middle School, serving grades six through eight, due to the change in the district’s grade configuration. The new building will be large enough to house 900 students. Like other LWSD school buildings, the new building will have a combined student gathering area/seating area for lunches and performances, with a multi-use stage on one side. Stella Schola will be housed in a classroom wing with its own front door, three classrooms, a science lab, and administrative offices in a classroom-sized space.

Q: What changes will there be in the building now that LWSD is adopting a middle school (grades six to eight) rather than junior high school (grades seven to nine) program beginning in the 2012-2013 school year?

A: Currently, the standard building program for a LWSD junior high school is being used for the basis of the design of the building.

Q: What does the new building look like?

A: The new building will have its front door just south of the existing outdoor basketball court. The new gym will front on the football field and track, the commons and stage will be right next to the front door along with the administration and library. The classrooms will be behind and above the main building (at the existing softball fields), in three sets of two-story wings. While final material selections haven't been completed, durable materials like brick, metal siding and glass are proposed for long life, ease of maintenance, and appearance. *(a photograph of the model could accompany this, similar to the attached – yes!).* Access to the parking lots, school building and sports fields will be from 75<sup>th</sup> St.

Q: Will I (parent) be given a chance to give input at this point moving forward?

A: A modernization advisory team consisting of administration, faculty, staff, and parents was assembled to provide the design team with focused advice on the new design, comment on design features, and advise the district on the suitability of design concepts. From this point out, the District will be working directly with specific staff, the design team and the City to revise the design.

Q: Where are you in the construction process?

A: Preliminary designs are completed. The district is working with the City of Redmond on meeting local land-use code requirements.

Q: Where will the construction area be located? How close will it be to existing classroom areas?

A: Most of the construction will take place south of the existing outdoor basketball court, on the football and softball fields. The school district does not have capacity to move students elsewhere during construction due to the cost. While it is not ideal, the district has gained experience at other schools in how to allow construction to proceed on site with the least amount of disruption to classrooms.

Q: Exactly when will the different stages of construction begin, and where will that be? When will we lose access to parts of the campus, which parts, and when?

A: Here is a basic calendar of the construction activity.

Time Period	Construction Activity
June-September 2011	Preliminary site work, including some tree cutting and removal of four portables, initial utility work.
March-April 2012	Construction begins. Temporary access roads, fencing, storm water facilities constructed.
May 2012-June 2013	Construction occurs at the upper and lower fields.
June 2013-September 2013	Demolition of the existing building and completion of parking lots, fields, and landscaping. Move into the new building.
September 2013 –April 2014	Depending on weather conditions, some final landscaping and site work at the existing school location may be completed during the

	school year.
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Q: Which portable classrooms are moving and where?

A: Portable classrooms #302, 303, 304, and 336 will need to be removed prior to the beginning of construction. Current plans are to remove these portables during summer 2011 to minimize the impacts to educational programs. Stella Schola portables are not affected by current construction plans. These portables are expected to remain in operation through the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

Q: How will construction impact the learning of my student? Noise impact? What will you be doing to buffer the impact of construction on my student's experience at RHJH?

A: While construction activities will inevitably be noticeable, the district will require the contractor to minimize impacts on learning as much as they practically can. It's anticipated that the contractor's access will be on the other side of the site from the building, to limit noise from traffic and trucking (subject to City approval). The contractor will be required to curtail noisy work during times of school-wide testing. The contractor will also be required to help protect air quality through dust control measures and proper maintenance of vehicles to minimize exhaust. The contractor will also be required to fence off the entire work area from student and public access. It is important to understand that even with mitigation measures to reduce the impact of construction to the extent possible, there will be noise, dust and other factors from construction.

Q: How will you ensure student safety both during the school day and before/after school?

A: During construction, the following measures will be taken:

- The contractor will use their own site entry and exit, separated with fencing from other school traffic.
- All contractor work areas will be fenced and separate from student access areas.
- Contractor employees will be required to provide a criminal background check prior to accessing the site, and to adhere to an appropriate code of conduct.
- The contractor will be required to submit traffic and site safety plans for District approval before beginning work.
- Temporary student emergency gathering areas separate from all construction areas will be identified by the district for events such as fire drills.
- The district will maintain a full-time project manager on site to verify safe school environments.

Q: What's the impact on playfields? Will you still have sports and PE if there are no fields? How?

A: Most of the outdoor playfields will be closed for most of the duration of construction. PE classes will have the existing gyms and outdoor basketball courts available for use. School-sponsored field sports will be scheduled for another LWSD location, with transportation coordinated by the District.

Q: Will outside groups still be able to use the building and field facilities during construction?

A: Because construction already places some demands on school scheduling because of contractor's activities, the district suspends all non-school use of the building, fields and grounds for the duration of construction.

Q: How will we be kept informed about the process? How will you be working with incoming kids and families to help them know how to interact with a construction site?

A: The District will provide updates for the school community through:

- 1) The LWSD and RHJH/SS websites
- 2) the school newsletter
- 3) Direct access to the project manager by phone or e-mail