FAQ

Construction on two new K-5 elementary schools in Grand Rapids and a renovated and remodeled K-5 Cohasset Elementary will begin this spring.

We are proud of our district’s commitment to high-quality education and look forward to an exciting new chapter for our elementary students and early childhood families.

Q: Was the community involved in the design of the schools?
Yes. The design process began shortly after the referendum was passed on April 10, 2018. The nearly year-long process of design included input from administrators, teachers, district staff, parents, and community members. Once the overall design was complete, smaller “user groups” made up of people using the specific spaces provided input into the designs of everything from classrooms and gyms to custodial spaces and meeting rooms.

Q: Where will the schools be located?
Cohasset Elementary will be renovated and remodeled. In Grand Rapids, two new schools will be built. One will be located on the west side of town, near Grand Itasca Hospital and the Forest History Center. The other on the east side of town adjacent to the Sports Complex.

Q: Which school will my child attend?
The district will begin working with the Transportation Department and community members this summer to create school boundaries and begin to define bus routes. If you are interested in participating, please email facilityplan@isd318.org.

Q: When will construction be complete?
Construction will be completed in August 2021 so that the schools can open for the 2021 - 2022 School Year.

Q: Will the new schools include art or world languages?
In our current elementary schools, we have been limited in the number of electives (also called specials) we can offer to students due to a lack of available space and scheduling constraints. Our new elementary schools will include two music classrooms; two full size gyms, equating to four teaching stations; “wet” labs suitable for such activities as science and art education; and makerspaces designed for flexible, creative work.

Earlier this spring, we surveyed elementary teachers and parents to gather input on how the flexible makerspaces and wet labs should be utilized. Recommendations will be presented to the community in May.

Q: Are local contractors involved?
Each school was bid as an individual project with staggered bid dates, so that local contractors could be competitive in their bids. Bids are sealed until they are read aloud in a public meeting. At that time, state law says that the district must go with the lowest bid.

For example, at the East Elementary site, 6 of the 21 work scopes were awarded to contractors within district boundaries and a total of 12 contracts were awarded to area contractors within 80 miles of Grand Rapids for a total of 74.8% of the project costs. A breakdown of contractor awards for all of the sites is available on the district website at isd318.org.

Still have questions? Call us at 218-327-5723 or email facilityplan@isd318.org.