

Canyon Rim Academy Redevelopment Information

Q.	Why are we building a new building now?
A.	This has been a priority for years, as the building is now 70 years old. The most pressing concern, voiced over and over, by our stakeholders is the need to update or upgrade the facility. To address this, the school hired outside consultants and architects in 2023 to explore a variety of options. After thorough review and analysis, the best course of action was determined to be rebuilding. The school has been saving to make a down payment, but with costs rising year after year at the same rate as what we're able to set aside, delaying any longer isn't helping us make progress.
Q.	Where will the new building be constructed?
A.	A new building will be constructed on the existing property of the school. The 2025-26 school year will be held in the current school building while the new building is constructed on the east side of the playground and courtyard areas (see site plan for details).
Q.	What is the timeline for construction?
A.	Construction for the new building will take approximately 13-15 months to build and demolition of the old building and completion of the site work will take another 4-5 months. Construction may begin as soon as May 2025, allowing for occupation of the new building by August of 2026. If the timeline for construction does not have any delays students would be able to start the 2026-27 school year in a new building with some sitework construction continuing through the fall.
Q.	What if there are building delays?
A.	In all construction projects there are contingency plans built in for delays or cost adjustments. If the timeline gets delayed the plan will be to start the 2026-27 school year in the old building and prepare for a move to the new building in the fall during a school break period.
Q.	How were the final plans and design of the building determined?
A.	Studies by the Long-Term Planning Committee and our professional team, Odyssey Partners and Babcock Design, determined that the only financially achievable option would be to build a new building on the current site in a way that allowed school to continue in the current building during the construction period. A team of board members, teachers, and staff was then formed to participate in the design of the building. There are many aspects of our school that we love, and wherever possible, they worked to incorporate those features into the new plans. Additionally, new ideas based on research from other schools were incorporated. While the first draft design was a school to be envied at any level, the budget ultimately set the limits and required our committee to tailor the school to something that will be able to provide a great education for generations to come at price we could afford. As a result, not everything we envisioned made it into the final design.
Q.	Where can we go to hear about regular updates during construction?
A.	Communications will be pushed out the the community at a regular basis once construction begins. Additionally, on the school website on the "Bldg Dev" page information will be updated regularly. Other communications such as the board minutes and school newsletters will also be a good source of information
Q.	How are we funding a new building?
A.	The school will be funded with a private placement tax-exempt draw-down bond. This type of funding is structured like a construction loan (we pay for it as we draw it down) but with with a tax-exempt interest rate.
Q.	Can Canyon Rim Afford the debt service payments on the new debt?
A.	The school is committed to not taking on more debt than it can comfortably manage each month. When we purchased the former Canyon Rim Elementary School and the 7.2 acres from Granite School District in July 2014, we made it a priority to pay off that mortgage quickly, and as of now, the school is debt-free. We have been diligent in managing our finances, ensuring that we never compromise student safety or the quality of education. The majority of our funding comes from the state, and when state revenues are strong, the legislature typically increases school funding. During lean years, however, funding can be reduced. To budget effectively, we must plan for both scenarios.
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Q.	Do we need to fundraise?
A.	Yes and no. The construction bids and the improvement to interest rates over the past year have allowed us to move forward with the project without fundraising. However, we are planning a fundraising campaign for approximately \$1 Million, which is much less than we anticipated early on. The additional funds raised will be used for potential upgrades on the project and to fund the field and playground equipment needs that can not otherwise be achieved without fundraising. We will look to you - our community, patrons, and friends of the school to help us achieve this goal.
Q.	Will programs at CRA be cut or compromised because of the cost of building?
A.	We will make every effort to continue to provide excellence at CRA. We are fortunate to have dedicated administrators, teachers and staff that have provided excellent programs and learning environments in spite of our current building conditions. We anticipate that new facilities will enhance the educational experience at CRA but it will require continued financial stewardship to both afford a new building and provide an excellent education.
Q.	What will school look like during the construction period?
A.	The dedicated CRA team is looking at all options to provide a "school as normal" type experience during construction. There will be modifications required and at times there will be noise and restricted options for recess. Our construction partners are dedicated to creating an environment that is safe and as minimally distracting as possible. The construction schedule is tailored in a way to try and complete a significant amount of work during the summertime. However, we know that it will be a challenging year but hope that you will feel that the sacrifice is worth the end result.
Q.	Will pick up and drop off change?
A.	The actual pick up and drop off location will remain the same during construction. The entrance and exit locations for the school will slightly change. This will include more students exiting through the front, and south doors of the building. There will be no access through the courtyard. Students who walk via the upper field may exit through the 6th grade (east) doors. We will open up the fence on the north end of the field for them to exit and to access the stairs to the upper field. IT WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT during construction that all parents and guardians only drop students according to the school's drop off procedures and do so with increased vigilance to keep our students safe.
Q.	What will recess look like?
A.	Safety is always our priority with the opportunity for our students to have breaks during the day. The location of recess will be constantly assessed throughout the project. Recess will look different at the different stages of the project.