

# ROBERT F. KENNEDY PK-8 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education



Providence  
Schools

**D** DOWNES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
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ARCHITECTS

Welcome!  
*Bienvenidos!*  
Community Engagement  
March 2025



# INTRODUCTIONS



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O&G Industries

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Schools



# AGENDA



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***Share Information*** - overall PPSD school construction plan

***Present & Listen*** – approach to PK-8 schools and 21<sup>st</sup> century school design

***Discuss & Answer Questions*** - the proposed future construction project



PPSD school buildings need about **\$900 Million**  
in repair & maintenance

***Thanks to the passage*** of city & state bonds  
there is an opportunity for a ***new strategy*** to  
improve teaching & learning

# VISION



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**Reimagine the  
middle school  
experience**

**Pre K – 8<sup>th</sup>  
School Model**

# WHAT WE'VE HEARD



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Since 2022, PPSD and the City have held over **30 engagement sessions** with the community, and have heard about the benefits of the model

**"The ability for my kids to stay with their siblings and administrators they've become familiar with."**

**"Feeling like my family can invest in ourselves - time, energy, money, etc. - in a long-term community."**

# TRENDING COMMENTS



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Big, ***transformational*** projects instead of smaller fixes

Emphasis on ***safety and security*** for students

New ***technology*** in schools

Schools ***close to home***



## TRENDING COMMENTS



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Excitement for a ***longer-term community***  
in PK-8 schools

Curiosity on how building design will support  
***programmatic choices*** and options

***Desire*** for frequent updates on  
projects and vision





# WHAT WE'VE HEARD



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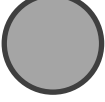



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When identifying locations for building new PK-8 schools, parents identified a variety of criteria to consider

-  ***Poorest quality school buildings***
-  ***A large number of school-aged children***
-  ***Schools that have a natural feeder pattern***
-  ***City owns land for a new build***



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*New PK-8*

*3-Track Elementary School*

*4-Track Middle School*

*834 Students (estimated)*

*\$75,146,684 Total Project Cost*

*Occupancy for 2027/28 Year*



# DESIGN APPROACH



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In general bubble diagrams are **conceptual** and represent the district standard for Pk-8 schools. Note that it is still being revised to incorporate the programming PPSD and RIDE have shared.

We know that each school community has specific programs and needs. Therefore, the final design is still ongoing as we continue gathering feedback.



# DESIGN APPROACH



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*Overall Concept – Maintain Separation between age groups*



**Pre  
Kindergarten**  
Community

Grade  
**Pre K**



**Elementary**  
Community

Grades  
**K,1,2,3,4,5**



**Middle  
Grades**  
Community

Grades  
**6,7,8**

# DESIGN APPROACH



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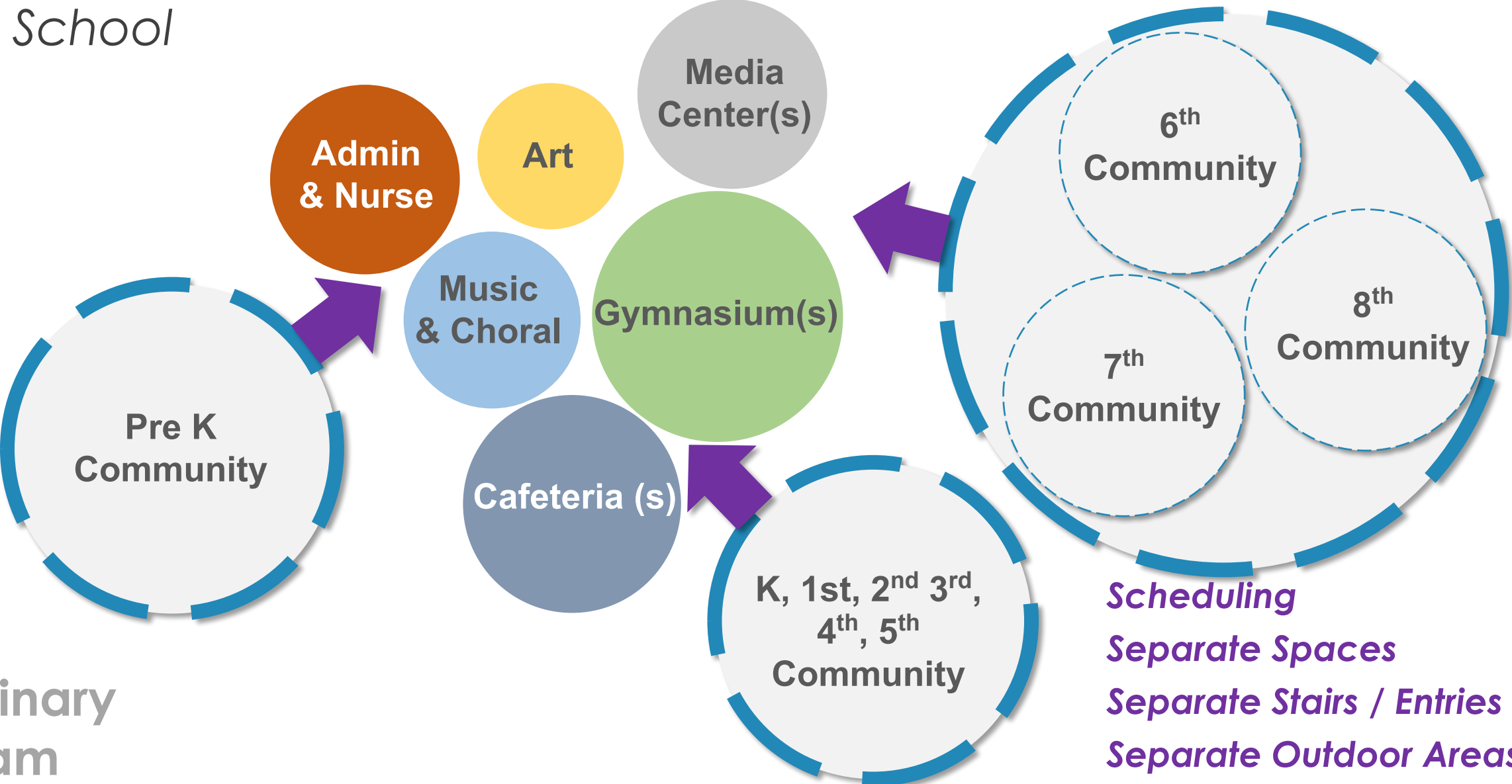
## *Middle School – Maintain Separation*



# DESIGN APPROACH



## PK-8 School



## ▶ Sense of Continuity, Minimizing Transitions

*We want to avoid any loss of achievement between schools*

## ▶ Staff Connection, Understand Students More

*We want to understand emotional and social background and boost student confidence*



## ► Family Involvement, Shared Knowledge

*We want our families to invest in a continuous community. Multiple siblings can stay together*

## ► Coordinated Academic Achievement

*We want to create a nurturing and child centered environment that focus on gradual transitions*



## ► School Culture, Safety, Behavioral Standards

*Careful consideration to keep younger children from unwanted behavior of older students*

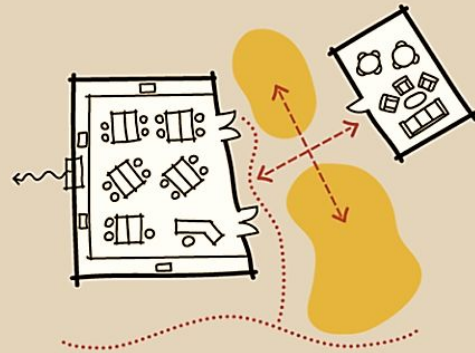
## ► Program Offerings at Middle School

*Maintaining multiple electives is more difficult in smaller middle school grade populations*

## Smaller communities within a **school** community



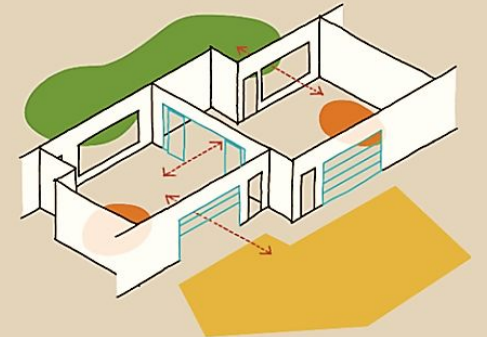
*Active Hallways*



*Agile Lab Space*



*Writable Surfaces*



*Learning Suite*



*Variable Seating*



*STEAM Workshop*



*Sensory Control*



*Learning Commons*



The form of the new PK-8 Schools building will be **organic**





# DESIGN STRATEGIES



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The new PK-8 Schools will contain flexible spaces that support ***multiple ways of learning***, through individual and collaborative work areas





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The new PK-8 Schools will ***transcend the traditional*** notion of school because it will be based on interactions, relationships, and meaningful educational activities



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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## Next Steps

Design

Spring/Summer 2025

Tentative Construction Start

Fall 2025

Anticipated Completion

Summer 2027

Please check out  
this survey



English / Spanish

STAY ENGAGED



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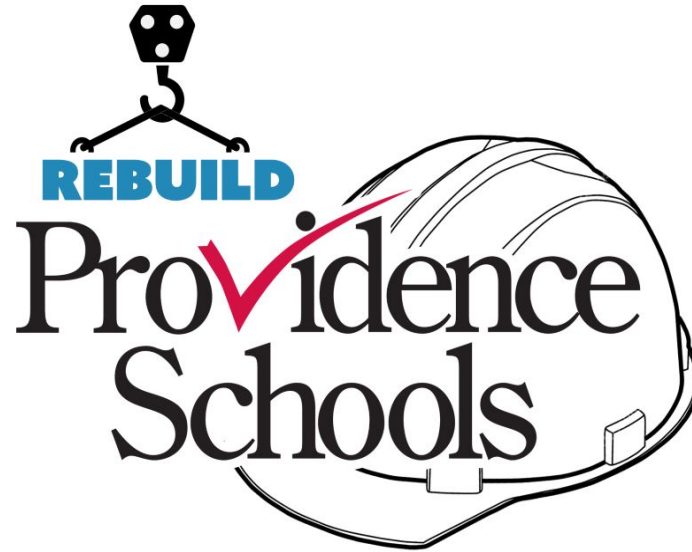
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We Will  
Be Back!



Where to look for updates

**<https://www.providenceschools.org/rebuildpvdschools>**

PPSD calendar on providenceschools.org & social media