



Colin L. Powell Academy Construction Update Meeting | April 13, 2023 Questions & Answers

Please expand on “vendor childcare.”

AlphaBest is the assigned childcare vendor for the school. As soon as all of the documents are submitted to the MSDE Office of Childcare, they will license the vendor. AlphaBest has an online registration for parents who would like to enroll their child in before/aftercare.

I will be moving into the school zone soon. My student currently does not attend the neighborhood school. How do I enroll my student for 2023-2024? Also, would I receive updates?

To enroll your child, please visit the PGCPs enrollment website at www.pgcps.org/about-pgcps/registration-enrollment#how_to_enroll, and follow the instructions there. Please note, for the 2023-2024 school year, only students from Potomac Landing Elementary School and Isaac J. Gourdine Middle School will be attending Colin L. Powell K-8. To receive updates on the school's construction, fill out the PGCPs School Construction Mailing List form here. Programmatic updates will be communicated through the school's administration through the school website, www.pgcps.org/schools/colin-powell-academy.

What are the primary bus routes coming into the community?

The PGCPs Office of Transportation is currently in the process of determining all bus routes for the school. The final bus routes will be shared two weeks prior to the start of the school year. The bus entrance to the school will be on E. Swan Creek Road.

Please discuss school security protocol.

The Office of Safety and Security Service will be assessing the security staffing needs for the new school. Additionally, there will be security cameras and perimeter fencing around the school. Once school has begun, there will be a secure vestibule that will be locked, ensuring all visitors go through the administration office to be admitted. Doors into the school will automatically lock and will have both keyed and badge entry.

Students who are currently 6th graders at Potomac Landing will go to Accokeek for a year and then go to Colin Powell for 8th grade?

Current 6th graders at Potomac Landing ES will go to Accokeek Academy for 7th grade. They will then have the choice to either stay at Accokeek for 8th grade or move over to Colin Powell.

Will students be required to wear different uniforms next school year?

The uniform policy will be communicated by the new principal prior to the beginning of the school year.

Contractually educators can request a transfer with a change in school leadership (principal). What recourse do current staff members have if schools are filling vacancies prior to June and staff won't know who the school leadership is?

Teachers are able to either submit for a voluntary transfer or fill out the involuntary transfer preference form given out at the HR staff meeting. If you did not receive that information, please reach out to Dr. Tracie Miller.

What time does school begin/end? Will Fort Washington Road and Swan Creek be ready before school starts?

8:00 am – 2:40 pm. Yes, the roads will be ready.

Will there be established rules for parents drop off?

Yes. School leadership will communicate the drop-off/pick-up rules and process at a later date.

Mr. Hill from Transportation mentioned that transportation would be assigned two weeks before the start of school, is that in August, or when the move takes place in November?

Great question - Transportation assignments will be completed in August because students will need transport beginning the first day of school.

Do you know when the Google Form for the mailing list will be updated and reflect Colin Powell?

Our apologies. At this time the form still reads as Southern K-8 Academy. We will update the form to reflect the name change.

From which direction will buses travel to the school, from 210 or Front Washington Road or both?

The direction of the buses will largely depend on the bus routes, which are still being developed. However, all buses will enter the school site from E. Swan Creek Road.

Will you fence off the Potomac Landing property during its vacancy?

No, PGCPs is in the planning phase to determine the next use of the Potomac Landing facility."

When will the students receive school information, such as orientation and bus route info?

Students will receive back-to-school and bus information 2-3 weeks prior to the start of the school year.

Please expand on the health clinic and hours of operation and security.

The health clinic has not been established as of yet. The Health Department is in the process of preparing an RFP for the clinic. For right now, there is a dedicated facility space available once a vendor is selected by the Health Department. There will be no access to the school from the clinic and vice versa. Anyone wishing to access the clinic will need to go through a separate entrance.



If a student is in their terminal year and the family was affected by the boundary change, is there anything they can do to attend Colin Powell if they cannot provide transportation?

This would be determined by the Office of Transportation on a case-by-case basis.

Will both the elementary and middle schools have an assistant principal that will work under the principal? Has an announcement opened for the assistant principal positions?

Aside from the principals, all of the staff from Potomac Landing and Isaac Gourdine, including the assistant or vice principals, will be moving over to Colin Powell. However, as all staff are in unions and may have other transfer protocols, the assistant principals may choose not to move over. In that case, a decision will be made by the new principal to open up a position for hiring.

In addition to the PGCPs iRecruitment application process for external candidates, are there any hiring protocols or recommendations for prospective new staff and/or school leadership candidates who are interested in applying to Colin L. Powell Academy this coming school year?

The plan is for all staff to move to Colin Powell from Potomac Landing and Isaac Gourdine. However, there is an open PGCPs iRecruitment application that the principal may select candidates from if they would like. Additionally, current PGCPs teachers and staff may submit a voluntary transfer form.

Who should parents be directed to reach out to specific transportation case questions?

You should have received a letter in the mail regarding the boundary changes and grandfather policy. If you have additional questions on the policy or your specific case, email school.boundaries@pgcps.org.

Will there be changes to the swan creek traffic circle?

No.

When is the official grand opening for the public for the school?

We do not have the schedule for the public opening at this time. The public opening will be planned and communicated by the Board and school leadership.

Will parents receive two cards with bus info?

Transportation will determine this and communicate as soon as possible.

Will the security cameras be monitored in real-time? What role will the seventh district play in traffic control in the morning and evening?

Security cameras will be monitored in real-time, but not all the time. The security staff will also be interacting with and monitoring the students, so they will be unable to monitor the cameras 100% of the time. The cameras will, however, record everything within their line of site, and the security staff will be able to review those recordings. As for traffic control, PGCPs is currently discussing and negotiating with District 7 on traffic control resources such as crossing guards.

You stated that school ends at 2:40, are there scheduled after-school activities, or will the school activities be after that time?

The bell schedule will be 8:00 am to 2:40 pm. AlphaBest will be onsite to provide after-school childcare. Any additional after-school activities or programs will be after the 2:40 pm bell time. For additional questions, visit the Vendor Managed Child Care Programs VMCCP site at www.pgcps.org/offices/early-learning-programs/vendor-managed-child-care-programs or email Lavina Harrod, Regional Director, AlphaBEST Education Inc., at lharrod@alphabest.org.

Will outside groups be able to use facilities?

All PGCPS facilities can be used by the community. To request facility use, visit www.pgcps.org/plant-operations/facility-use and fill out the Community Use form.

What provisions are in place to minimize noises from the school, such ringing of bells, announcements, etc.?

The school will follow the established county noise regulations that are in place at all PGCPS schools and facilities.

Do you anticipate a full complement of after-school athletics like other middle schools?

Yes, it is our intent to provide our Colin L. Powell middle school scholars with an after school athletics program.

How are you going to monitor the playing fields? Will there be signs on the fields indicating closure for playing on the fields?

The community will be able to use the fields after school hours. However, there will be no evening usage of the fields as there are no field lights.

Where will soccer and baseball/softball activities take place?

The soccer and baseball/softball fields will be located on the east portion of the site and will be clearly marked to designate the type of field.

Will the day be longer for the elementary students because of the middle school students?

The 8:00-2:40 time is for the entire school community (K-8) at Colin L. Powell. This is a current structure for all of our K-8 schools.

Unfortunately, based on current events, school security and protecting children is a priority. Will there be several safe rooms with doors that can be locked from the inside?

Every room in the building is equipped with a panic button that is accessed from inside the room and will lock the room. Additionally, there will be blinds in the classrooms to block the view into the room.

How will Potomac Landing be utilized once the transition occurs?

The use of the Potomac Landing building is currently being determined by PGCPS and the county government.



From my understanding, students will attend their current schools for 2023-2024 until Colin opens. Is that correct?

Yes. Students will start in their current schools until the new building opens in November.

In November, how many students will be in the facility?

950 students