



John Knight Middle School Renovation Project

April 22, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why is the completion date changing for the renovated John Knight Middle School?***

Simply stated, the work on the campus will not be finished in time for the opening of school. It has been the plan since the project began to have the renovation complete by August, 2020, with the first students attending starting the 2020-21 school year there. Because of the large amount of work that is needed to renovate this historic and very old site, and now with the Coronavirus pandemic and shut-down, the completion date is being moved to January, 2021.
- 2. How is the construction project affected by the coronavirus pandemic and state shutdown of all schools?***

The school closure has impacted our ability to plan and organize the final selection of furniture and equipment for the site and allow staff the appropriate time and supplies to sort and pack their materials to be moved to the new site. This work will now be completed in the Fall. We are experiencing some delays in obtaining construction materials and having full work crews for some of the trades working on the project.
- 3. When did the District know about this date change and why are we just finding out now?***

The District Board of Education as well as the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) have known about all of the difficulties of renovating very old school buildings and have been informed all along the way about the potential for changes to the schedule and amount of work necessary. This formal announcement about the change of opening dates is based on information that has become finalized over the last number of weeks.

As with every renovation of older buildings, there are lots of unknown factors, including how much damage there is due to dry rot and termites and structural wall rebuilding to meet all California's strict earthquake standards and fire codes. The construction team has continued on schedule up to this point in the project. However, the recent inclusion of extensive work to bring the kitchen area up to current codes and replace all of the

windows on the campus prevents the project from being completed in time for the start of the school year. As the amount and extent of kitchen and window repairs needed became known through the state and local regulatory agencies' requests, it has become clear that the scheduled opening in August, 2020, would have caused students, teachers, staff and parents to start school in an unfinished school without an adequate kitchen to serve lunch.

The construction team was well-aware of the need to renovate the windows and kitchen from the beginning, but we were hoping to do less extensive and less costly work to make the school operational. However, as we continued to work on design solutions, it has become clear that major work was needed.

4. *What is the type of construction work that is causing the completion date to be moved forward by about 3 months?*

Additional work needed to replace all the windows on campus and to renovate the kitchen to meet all health and safety standards has caused this completion date change.

5. *What will happen to the students in August, 2020 at C.A. Jacobs Middle School?*

The school year for all 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders will begin at the C.A. Jacobs campus unless affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

6. *How will the school move to another facility in the middle of the school year?*

The project has always included packing and moving textbooks, materials and equipment from C.A. Jacobs Intermediate to the new John Knight Middle School. This was originally scheduled to occur over the summer, 2020, but now will occur over the three-week holiday break in December 2020 and January 2021.

7. *Are there any benefits to the delay of the transition to the renovated site?*

We believe that there are. As noted earlier, teachers and staff need time to pack and prepare for the move. They lost this opportunity because of the school closure and will now have ample time to prepare for the move in the Fall. The delay will also allow for us to do a thorough job of preparing our students for the move, including on-site orientations in November or December. Finally, and very importantly, we will be able to ensure that the campus – and all of its systems and functions – is ready for students and staff to occupy.