



## Central School Will Close at the end of 2018-19 School Year Frequently Asked Questions and Answers!

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools will close Central School at the end of the 2018-2019 School Year. This decision comes after a thorough analysis of all possible options, factoring the current physical condition of the building and its ultimate close in the next two years due to the construction of the new elementary building. The District will continue sharing information and answering questions from the school community as timely as possible.

**QUESTION:** Why was the decision made to close Central School at this time?

**ANSWER:** A number of factors were considered in this decision. The Facilities Master Plan, the passage of the bond issue last May and the start of the new elementary school construction project all called for the ultimate close of Central School at some point in the future. A number of costly and unforeseen structural and interior repairs accelerated the need to seriously research the closing of Central School sooner rather than later. The physical condition of the building itself and the ongoing, adverse challenges it continues to present, caused District leadership to weigh the costs and benefits of sinking more and more substantial sums of money into a building that would eventually close. These factors, plus the near-constant state of risk for unknown and unplanned fixes prompted the Board of Education and the administrative team to decide to close the building after this school year and relocate students for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

**QUESTION:** What will happen to next year's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students?

**ANSWER:** Next year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will remain in their current elementary buildings for one additional year. Next year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School.

**QUESTION:** Are any other changes associated with the closing of Central School?

**ANSWER:** Yes, the District's Preschool program will permanently move to the Blossom Hill School on Oakes Road.

**QUESTION:** Could 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade move to Blossom Hill School? If not both grades, could one grade relocate there?

**ANSWER:** These options were considered, however, there is simply not enough space to accommodate two full grades at Blossom Hill with current classroom availabilities. Moving one full grade here is cost prohibitive, since the District would be required to add food service, transportation, technology and modular classrooms with significant expenses.

**QUESTION:** What plans are being made for current 4<sup>th</sup> graders who will be attending the Middle School next year?

**ANSWER:** A thoughtfully considered, proactive plan will be incorporated. Next year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be designated to a wing of the building with their own administrator, guidance counselor and other support staff. Interaction with older grades will be exceedingly limited. A parent meeting will take place with Middle School building leadership in early 2019. A number of student orientations are being planned for throughout the spring with current 4<sup>th</sup> graders. In addition, clubs and organizations for 5<sup>th</sup> graders will all remain intact and available next year as well.

**QUESTION:** Will recess opportunities be available for 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Middle School next year?

**ANSWER:** The District is currently exploring recess options given current facility configuration and constraints.

**QUESTION:** What kind of measures will the District be putting in place to protect students emotionally and mentally?

**ANSWER:** The BBHCS D will continue to follow its Mental Health Master Plan, providing programs, resources, guest speakers, information, clubs to promote student involvement and awareness and all other means that are currently available to students, staff and the community.

**QUESTION:** Are there any other buildings on the Blossom property that could house 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students together and at the same time?

**ANSWER:** No, there are no other facilities currently on the Blossom property that can accommodate both grades at the same time.

**QUESTION:** Will daily school start times change as a result of closing Central School after this year?

**ANSWER:** Potentially. This is a matter of collective bargaining and school district leadership is currently discussing this with all appropriate parties involved. If start times do change, the District is dedicated to communicating this information as promptly as possible.

**QUESTION:** How many students are enrolled in the preschool program and will it permanently move to Blossom Hill School?

**ANSWER:** The preschool program serves approximately 80-85 students annually, and at present, will permanently move to the Blossom Hill School for several reasons. State law limits the number of students in a preschool class to 16 in total, requiring at least 4-5 classrooms at current enrollment figures. Blossom Hill's capacity provides room for the program to grow should enrollment increase, along with natural synergy with the existing, private preschool occupying another part of this building.

**QUESTION:** How long will this 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade configuration be in place and what year will the new school open?

**ANSWER:** This new 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade configuration is expected to remain in place from the start of the 2019-2020 school year until the new elementary building is constructed and open for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

**QUESTION:** What will the City of Brecksville do with Central School if it is in such bad shape?

**ANSWER:** The future of Central School, once transferred to the City, will be entirely up to their leadership at the time.