



## **James Madison Middle School Swing Information Session | February 22, 2023 Questions & Answers**

### **Do you know when we will be coming there?**

Students will report to the Forestville location at the start of the new school year.

### **Will zoning remain the same?**

The zone for students who attend James Madison will not change.

### **Was there any consideration to changing school time due to rush hour traffic on Penn after 4 pm?**

When the swing plan was developed, the scheduling team looked at all options with respect to the bell times and felt that it could accommodate the regular bell time during this transition.

### **Are the kids going to be the only students in the building?**

Yes.

### **Is Forestville the only school available?**

Yes, this is the only space available on the southern end.

### **Is Forestville HS building up to code? When was the last time it was occupied prior to Drew-Freeman MS?**

Yes, it is up to code. It has been used for multiple swings (Drew Freeman, District Heights, and Central HS). James Madison will be the fourth school to occupy the space.

### **What are the options if we don't want to go to Forestville?**

There are no other swing options other than Forestville. There is a student transfer process. Please see more on that process here: <https://www.pgcps.org/offices/student-records-transfers-and-archival-services/how-to-request-a-student-transfer>.

### **Do we still leave at 4 pm?**

The bell time remains unchanged.

### **Will the students be separated by grade level?**

In terms of location within the building, school leadership has identified opportunities to outline where students will be. There are pods in certain parts of the building and so students will be similarly separated. They will be housed together; 6th grade will stay on the first floor, and 7th and 8th grades will be on the second floor in different sections of the building.

**Will students be going in June/July? And another question will school still be going on in June/July?**

No, students will not move in June/July. The logistical move will occur during the summer and students will report to the location at the start of the new school year.

**Have they considered that students have other extracurricular activities with buses not being on time already? Can there be a vote on changing school hours?**

The challenge with that is taking into consideration the tiers for our buses. Typically, drivers have an early tier, middle and late tier. We have to balance the responsibilities of the drivers in each of those spaces. So, we can't have too many in one portion. Unfortunately, we are not able to put this to a vote. Leaving the time the same gives it the best chance of on-time bus service.

**Can a plan be arranged to help with ease on drop off and pick up?**

Yes, members of the Transportation team will be a part of this process. The Transportation supervisor for this area will be a part of the planning conversations to ensure that pick up and drop off are as seamless as possible with the transition.

**What time would the kids have to be there? Is it going to be the same time that the James Madison student goes now?**

The bell schedule will be the same. The same start and end times.

**Will there be an open house or orientation for each grade?**

Yes, that information will be shared prior to the school year ending, and orientations will begin before the new school year.

**Is there currently an air quality issue at JMMS? How was it determined that an HVAC/air quality modernization was required?**

There isn't so much a problem, as much as it is improving the air quality of the school. To do this, the District must upgrade the systems.

**Regarding the walkers, what time would they need to be at the school for transport to Forestville?**

The students wouldn't go to James Madison for transportation to Forestville. Transportation will develop stops and times for students who are typically walkers to James Madison.

**Will there be any modifications to the current parking lots as part of this project?**

No.

**Is virtual learning an option?**

Virtual learning is not an option related to this transition, but those who are interested in virtual school can apply through the regular process. Please contact Dr. David Curry for more information on this process at [david.curry@pgcps.org](mailto:david.curry@pgcps.org).



**What time will school start?**

9:30 a.m.

**Will we have new teachers or all the teachers be coming too?**

All teachers and staff will move to the Forestville location.