



Spokane Public Schools
200 North Bernard Street
Spokane, WA 99201-0206

Questions or concerns? 509-354-5900

Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, or honorably discharged veteran or military status. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's officers as follows: Title IX/Staff Civil Rights Officer, Kevin O'Neill, (509) 354-5961 • Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)/Student Civil Rights Officer, Dr. Adam Swinyard (509) 354-7393, • 504 Compliance Officer, Gwen Harris (509) 354-7393 • ADA Officer, Dr. Linda McDermott (509) 354-7318 • Affirmative Action Officer, Kevin O'Neill, (509) 354-5961 • Equal Opportunity Officer, Ramon Alvarez, (509) 354-7344 • 200 N. Bernard Street, Spokane, WA 99201-0206.

NON - PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 375

ECRWSS EDDM
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Inside:

Choice Application
Window Now Open

Thoughtexchange
Results

New Website Coming

SchoolTalk

Thank you, Spokane, for your support of the 2018 schools and facilities improvement bonds. We are excited about this historic partnership with the City of Spokane, which will provide new ways to support lifelong learning in our community.

Big changes are coming to Spokane Public Schools as we prepare to **build three new middle schools and replace three others. Moving sixth graders to middle school** will reduce class sizes and ease crowding at our elementary schools, while also creating a better middle school experience for students. These changes mean we need to **reexamine the current boundaries within SPS.** We'll be starting that process this spring.

A phased approach to middle school construction has many benefits:

Shaw and Glover replaced - to open in 2021-22 school year

- Takes advantage of state construction matching funds
- Leverages existing staff for planning
- Provides an additional year to plan, staff, and budget for new schools
- Provides additional time to change school boundaries

Northeast and Northwest middle schools built - to open in 2022-23 school year

- Building both new schools at once reduces feeder pattern complexity and allows for moving all North Side 6th graders into middle schools at the same time
- Relieves overcrowding at 22 of the school district's 34 elementary schools

Sacajawea replaced and South middle school built - to open in 2023-24 school year

- Replacing Sacajawea and opening a new south middle school at once allows for moving all South Side 6th graders into middle school at the same time
- Relieves overcrowding at the remaining 12 elementary schools

After much consideration of all of the information available about the two locations for a smaller stadium, including the election results, the SPS School Board voted to build a new stadium at the existing site. Design work is scheduled to begin in fall 2019. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the 2021 spring sports season.

[Learn more at spokaneschools.org.](http://spokaneschools.org)



President's letter

Thank you!

As we wrap up 2018 and move into 2019 we also wrap up an amazing construction project at Franklin Elementary. Franklin is a lovely old building that has had children through its doors for more than 100 years (myself and my two older brothers included!). In addition to retaining the historic beauty, the updated building has expanded capacity, is energy efficient and has made much better use of a really challenging lot. Hopefully another hundred years of students will build memories there. The bond dollars approved by you, our local citizens, have made this all possible.

With the new bond approved last November we will begin the process of adding three new middle schools, renovating three existing middle schools and building a brand new stadium — again, all possible due to the generosity and trust of our community.

The Board of Directors of Spokane Public Schools thanks you, our community, for the trust you place in us to spend your dollars well. The support you give us is appreciated and respected and the trust you place in us is valued more than I can say. Watch as our new projects begin to take shape!

Susan Chapin,
Board President



Susan Chapin

Check out your choices at Spokane Public Schools!

Choice application window open through Feb. 15

Spokane Public Schools offers a portfolio of school options and programs so that families can choose the one that is right for their child.

Interested in having your child attend a school other than your neighborhood school? Visit spokaneschools.org/enrollment to apply for your top choices any time through Feb. 15.

Mark your calendar: Kindergarten registration starts March 1! All kindergarten families need to register at their neighborhood school, even if they have applied to attend another SPS school.

Questions? Contact enrollment @spokaneschools.org or 509.354.7393.

Winter 2019



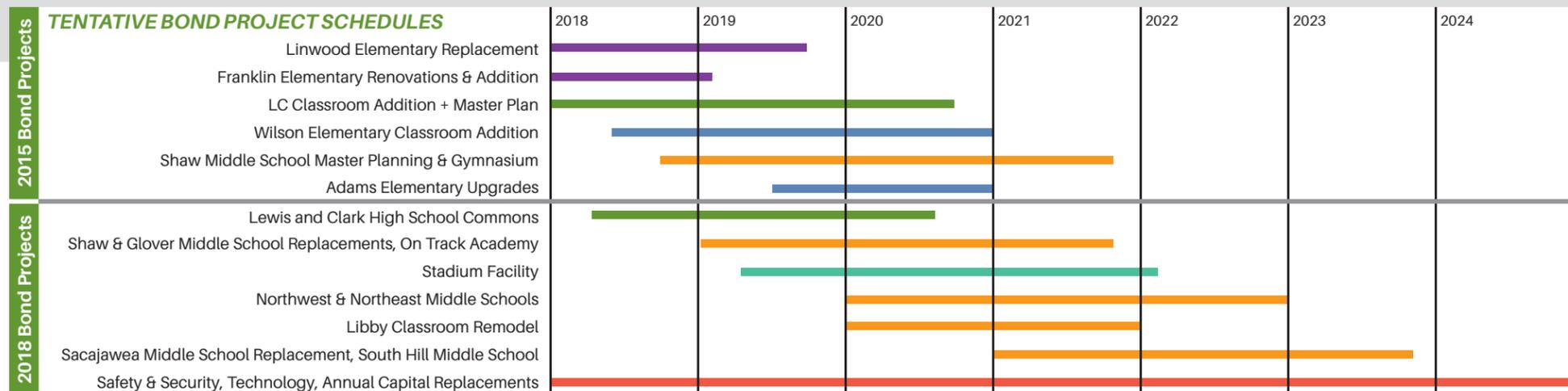
2015 bond project updates



The new **Franklin Elementary** is complete! The modernization and addition project included renovation of the original, historic, three-story structure and construction of 36,000 square feet of new space.

The **Linwood Elementary** project is on time and on budget. Scheduled to open in August 2019, this project is a complete replacement of the building originally built in 1957.

The **Lewis & Clark High School** addition and cafeteria project will begin this spring. This project improves student safety and provides needed space for lunch and other activities. An eight-classroom addition at **Wilson Elementary** will begin this summer. This project also includes playground improvements. During construction, students will attend "Camp Wilson" in the old Jefferson Elementary building.



We have so many interesting stories to share about the great things happening around the district.

Watch: spokaneschools.org/stories

Read: spokaneschools.org/readmore

Community shares thoughts about safety

Safety is a primary concern for SPS, and we are always looking for ways to improve. To that end, our district contracted with Safe Havens International to conduct a study of our safety systems and practices this year. In addition, a Safety Task Force, made up of parents, staff and students, has been working since August 2018 to collect input about what SPS is doing well and where opportunities remain.

Part of this work included a Thoughtexchange community conversation on school safety in November. More than 2,500 participants shared 2,337 thoughts, and also rated the thoughts of others regarding the question: What are some perspectives to consider as we work to ensure our schools are as safe and secure as possible for our students and staff? Many of the responses mentioned student behaviors, mental health, secure single point of entry, communication, and policies and procedures.

Explore the results at spokaneschools.org.

New year, new website

Spokane Public Schools is updating spokaneschools.org to become a more user-friendly communication and engagement tool. We are reorganizing content based on user interests, and putting the most frequently visited pages and essential information front and center. Our design and organizational decisions are based on user data and analytics from the current site.

We plan to launch a test site this spring and will be eager to hear your feedback. Watch spokaneschools.org for opportunities to share your thoughts.

Connecting kids to careers

To encourage career exploration, SPS holds two career fairs every year for fifth and eighth graders. In November, over 2,600 fifth graders visited with professionals at more than 75 booths that represented a wide range of industries: veterinarian services, STEM-related college programs, aerospace professionals, and legal and financial services, to name a few. Thank you to the community businesses that signed up to inspire our students in their postsecondary aspirations.

Do you know a business or organization that wants to share their profession with SPS eighth graders? The Eighth Grade Career Expo takes place April 23 and 24 at the NEWTech Skill Center. Sign up for booth space at bit.ly/8thcareer2019 or call Paul Gannon at 509-354-7376.



Superintendent's message

Our community has shown remarkable support for SPS. Approved in record numbers, the 2018 bond will further transform the student learning environment, allowing us to focus in new ways on academic, social and emotional, and learning environment considerations.

Innovative programs and new facilities help shape development of the whole child and positively impact student achievement. The results are evident in the record graduation rate that surpassed 88 percent last year, and the rise in the number of students challenging themselves with Advanced Placement and career and technical education courses.

Those outcomes will only continue to grow with new opportunities available to students. Many SPS ninth graders are participating in a national pre-AP pilot program that gives them access to the tools and supports to evaluate, process, and apply information at a high level. Our five comprehensive high schools were among 100 chosen nationally for the pilot, and SPS was the only school district to have all of its schools selected.

A healthy, successful student is also well nourished. Student nutrition received a huge boost this month at Franklin Elementary with the opening of the district's first kitchen designed specifically for scratch cooking. Kitchens around the district have been retrofitted to make healthier food choices available, ensuring students are ready to learn. As we begin design work on six new middle schools, we are intentionally creating spaces with those needs in mind.

Every day SPS staff is focused on the singular mission of giving students the love, care, supports, and confidence they need to reach their goals in the classroom and beyond. That work takes a supportive community, and we are very fortunate to have you with us.

Thank you and happy New Year.

Shelley Redinger, PhD

spokaneschools.org

