

# Spring Lake Elementary School

## Frequently Asked Questions

Updated Oct. 17, 2017



**1. When will the new school open and what grades will the school be when it is completed?**

Spring Lake Elementary will open with transitional kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes at the start of the 2018-19 school year. We will develop a plan for opening grades 4 – 6 this school year.

**2. What will the grade span of the school be and how many classrooms will it have when it is completed?**

When construction is fully complete, the new school will be a transitional-kindergarten (Tk) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade school with approximately 400 students. There will be one Tk class and two classrooms at the other grade levels. The school's Tk through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes will open at the start of the 2018-19 school year with approximately 225 students.

**3. Why was the start date moved back?**

On Feb. 23, 2017, the WJUSD Board of Trustees learned that higher than average rainfall has pushed back the construction timeline, making it impossible to open the school in August of the 2017-18 school year. Based on the adjusted timeline and community feedback from the new school's Facilities and Program committees, the Board moved the opening back to ensure that students receive the best educational experience possible without rushing the opening process.

To read more about the decision, please visit <http://www.wjUSD.org/apps/news/article/677022>

**4. With the open date moved back, do Spring Lake families still have enrollment priority?**

Yes, all students need to be enrolled through the open enrollment process, with the Spring Lake families having priority. More about this criteria will be available soon.

**5. Will the new school offer a unique program?**

The new school will focus on STEAM education, an interdisciplinary approach to learning in which science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics connect rigorous academic concepts with authentic, real-world problems.

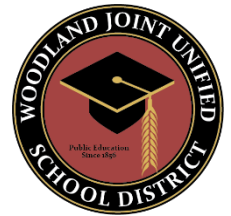
Students will be investigating and responding to engaging and complex questions, problems or challenges using a teaching method called Project Based Learning. Other examples of learning will be using the Engineering Design Process, a series of steps that study teams will use to create solutions or solve problems. This means designing a prototype to test as many times as needed, and make improvements along the way until the team agrees about the solution. Computing and robotics will be part the curriculum, along with university interns who are expert in this area.

Teachers will have the option to integrate art into any subject by using visual representations, creating models, and fine arts. We will be a 1:1 school with technology (one computer per student), along with large moveable monitors in each classroom, projectors and the use of many computer applications and web-based programs that the students can use as "tools" to support learning - both at school and at home. The students will enjoy flexible seating arrangements, so that individual, partner or groups can work in various areas of the room depending on the projects and activities.

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As we prepare our students for the future by building 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills such as the 4 C's – critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity, the students will be engaged in rich, rigorous, joyful learning throughout the day.

**6. What are the boundaries of the new school?**

The new school will offer a unique program, open to students throughout the District (the school's boundaries will be the same as the district boundaries). However, students living in the [Spring Lake development area](#) will have first priority during the Open Enrollment process.

**7. What will be the languages of instruction be at the new school?**

Instruction will be in English. The goal is to focus on the STEAM model when the school opens. A language component may be added to curriculum after the school is opened and we gather more community input. There are many ways to bring in languages as a supplement to the existing program.

**8. Why has it taken so long for the district to build a new school?**

As a result of the recession in 2007-2008, anticipated funding never materialized for the building of a new school. Now that the economy has recovered, funding has begun to emerge for the construction of the new school. Significant rainfall this winter also impacted the construction schedule this past winter.

**9. When will the school staff be hired?**

The principal has been hired to begin preparation for all that goes into a new school. Teachers and other staff will be hired in late 2017, early 2018, and in most cases, as an adjunct to their current duties until June 2018.

**10. Will there be an after-school program?** The principal is looking into a variety of after-school options for the varied needs at the school site. Those details will be announced in Spring 2018 so that families can determine their participation.

**11. How will the District relay construction updates to the community?**

Updates will be provided through the district website, news releases and community outreach. At the present time, the buildings have been framed with siding and roofs. The interiors are undergoing finishing work, as well as the outside of the buildings and concrete work.

**12. When will the new school be named?**

The new school has been named! It is Spring Lake Elementary School. The board officially voted on the name at its Sept. 14 meeting.

**13. Will the district provide transportation to students attending the new school?**

We do not provide transportation for open-enrolled students or for neighborhood students.

**14. What will food service look like for these students?**

Food for breakfast and lunch will look similar as in other schools in our district, as there are similar menus throughout the district.

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**15. If I live in the Spring Lake area, but want my child to stay at his/her current school, can s/he stay?**

If you want your child to stay at their current school, then you do not need to apply for enrollment at the new school. You only need to apply if you want to move your child to the new school.

**16. What if my child wants to ride his/her bike to school?**

We are encouraging as many students as possible to either walk or ride their bikes to school if they live in the neighborhood. We will be having family bike workshops with safety routines and practice rides to the school (locking and unlocking bikes, how to wear your helmet correctly, hand signals and much more) starting in the spring of 2018 and into the summer. There will be incentives for students and families who ride their bikes to school. This helps cut back on pollution from cars going to and from school, especially while cars are running and waiting for students.

**17. How many playgrounds will be at the school?**

There will be a transitional-kindergarten and kindergarten playground just for those students, and a separate playground for the 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. When the school is complete, there will be another playground for the 4-6 graders as well.

**18. Will there be a school garden?**

The principal is looking at a variety of options for the school to have gardens, including hydroponics.

**19. Will there be a school library?**

Yes, but it will not look like other school libraries. There will be tables and sitting areas for students to use their computers to read e-books, do activities, as well as a variety of books and games to play as well.

**20. What if parents want to volunteer?**

Parents are welcome to volunteer! We will have a parent volunteer coordinator to help parents with a variety of options such as:

- Helping with safe arrival to and from school (parking lot, crossing streets, bike safety),
- Helping in classrooms (reading and working with small student groups, helping prepare materials, etc.)
- Helping with supervision at recess, on field trips, with career topics (showcasing your career), fundraisers and much more.

**21. Will there be community events at the school?**

Yes, definitely! We will have after-school and evening family events for STEAM activities, maker-space workshops, math, reading, art, music, performing arts and much more!