

JUST THE FACTS

- Community High School District 99 serves nearly 5,000 students at North High and South High in Downers Grove.
- District 99 is considering placing a bond measure on the March 2018 ballot to fund facility improvements at both North High and South High.
- The proposed improvements will extend the life of existing facilities, address safety and security issues, improve accessibility for people with disabilities, provide air conditioning in classrooms that are not currently air conditioned, and create modern instructional spaces that leverage new instructional technology and evolving teaching methods, including STEM and collaborative, project-based learning.
- With a 20-year bond issue about to be paid off, this is a unique opportunity to improve our aging high school buildings at the lowest possible tax impact.
- District 99 has purposely waited for an outstanding bond issue to mature before considering asking voters to fund facility improvements.
- Over the past four years, district administrators, teachers, architects, engineers, construction professionals and community members have identified and prioritized District 99's facility needs.
- A 40-member Citizen Task Force—comprised of business leaders, civic leaders and other stakeholders—has also weighed in on proposed improvements and funding options.
- While the improvements are not identical at each school, the funds to be allocated improving each high school will be.



THE BOTTOM LINE

As further addressed in the enclosed mail survey, District 99 is evaluating three options: (1) reinvesting in your schools by addressing the highest priority capital improvements outlined in the Master Facility Plan at a cost of \$136.6 million and an estimated tax impact of \$65 per year for a \$300,000 home; (2) limiting the scope of the improvements to \$81.6 million, including eliminating the auditorium expansion at South High and new gymnasium at North High, resulting in no tax rate increase; and (3) not reinvesting in your schools, and continuing to maintain aging facilities, resulting in a decrease in taxes of \$132 per year for a \$300,000 home. We seek your thoughts and recommendations.

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PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED AT BOTH HIGH SCHOOLS

Key renovations and upgrades being considered for both North High and South High include:

- **Security enhancements**, including the installation of entry vestibules to prevent visitors from entering building until cleared by personnel.
- **Americans with Disabilities (ADA) improvements**, both inside and outside the two high school buildings, to enhance accessibility for students, staff and visitors with disabilities.
- **Air conditioning** in all instructional spaces. About 35% of classrooms currently do not have air conditioning.
- **Updating classrooms and science, culinary and visual arts labs** to leverage new instructional technologies and evolving teaching methods, including STEM and collaborative, project-based learning.
- **Creating a Learning Commons** that will serve as the educational “Main Street” for each building. These flexible spaces will meet the ever-evolving academic requirements and social emotional needs of students. Key resources, including college and career counseling, social workers, psychologists, counselors, activities, technology support, deans, cafeteria, library and bookstore, will be centralized so they are easily accessible for students. The new spaces will be used for teaching and learning during the day and be available for community use during off hours.
- **Outdoor enhancements** to athletic fields, including bleacher replacements and the addition of locker rooms and training rooms.



Preliminary Rendering of Proposed South High Auditorium



Preliminary Rendering of Proposed North High Gymnasium

TARGETED IMPROVEMENTS AT EACH HIGH SCHOOL

The bond measure would also fund improvements specific to each school, including:

South High

- **Expand and improve the auditorium.** There are 2,700 students at the school, yet the auditorium only seats 800 students. There is even less seating when the stage is expanded to accommodate concerts and plays. Performances are often held in the gym, which limits programming. South High was designed to house grades 9 and 10. The auditorium was not expanded when it was converted to a 9-12 school.
- **Create a secure main entrance.** Relocating the main entrance will improve traffic flow and allow for the school's dated exterior to be updated.
- **Improve outdoor physical education space.** Adding a second synthetic field will allow students to use the outdoor space more frequently, as they do at North High.

North High

- **Improve safety and security.** By moving the loading dock, students will no longer be placed in the same space as delivery trucks.
- **Replace the original gym.** The aging, undersized gym will be converted to a loading dock. The new gym will be sized to meet the needs of North High's physical education and athletic programs and be similar to the physical education space at South High.
- **Expand and improve the cafeteria.** This 59-year-old space is undersized for the current student population. It will be expanded and made more accessible.