



THE FOX CHAPEL AREA COMMUNITY HAS MAINTAINED ITS COMMITMENT TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ITS CHILDREN.

SCHOOL RENOVATIONS ONGOING

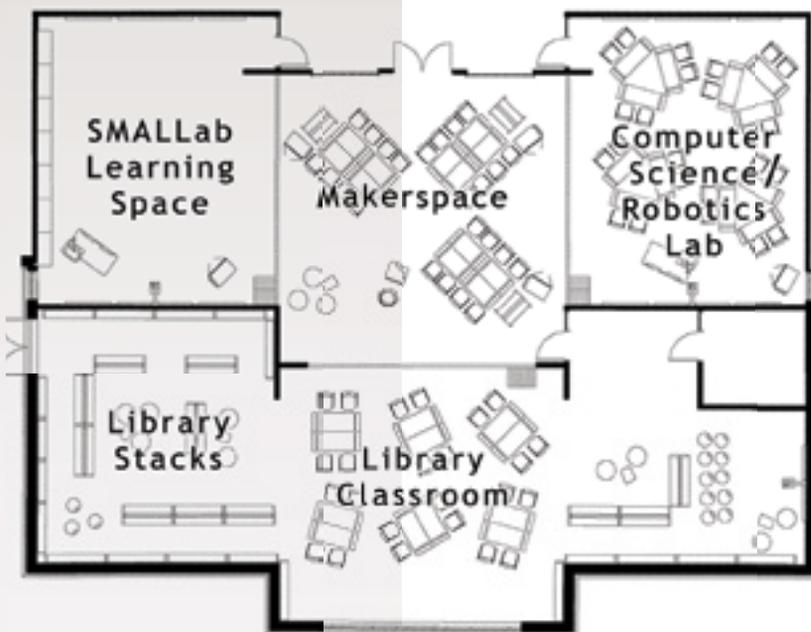
Major Projects Part of Facilities Upgrades

The Fox Chapel Area community has maintained its commitment to a high-quality education for its children. An important part of that commitment is a continual evaluation and upgrading of the district's facilities. With the completion of the major high school renovation in 2016, the school district has moved its focus to other schools in the district and the School Board authorized a new bond issue to fund upcoming construction and renovation work at its May 2017 meeting.

Plans for a New Kerr

This past spring, the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors approved a plan to begin preparations to build a new Kerr Elementary School to replace the oldest building in the district. It will be located on the present Kerr property and is slated to open by the end of 2019. The new Kerr will provide for critical updates including more advanced technologies designed to enhance student learning.

One of the highlights of the new school will be the inclusion of a collaboratory cluster – a large central area where students will come together to work on projects, conduct research, collaborate, and plan. Included will be a makerspace, a SMALLab, and a computer science and robotics lab classroom, as well as the library.



Another proposed feature of the new Kerr is the addition of a language immersion program that would allow students to be taught in both English and Spanish during the entire school day. Students from all four elementary schools would have the opportunity to enroll in the new program. Additionally, there are plans to include open areas outside of the building that would be designated for instructional purposes and a pre-kindergarten program is being proposed to help children better prepare for school.

The decision to build a new Kerr came after lengthy research and discussion when the School Board and administration concluded that even with extensive renovations, the nearly 90-year-old building would be inadequate, both structurally and programmatically. Additionally, a renovation would not have been cost-effective in the long run. Public meetings have been held with parents, Kerr neighbors, and other interested residents. Planning for the new building will continue throughout the 2017-2018 school year and there is no plan to redistrict students to different elementary schools. Additionally, Kerr students will not be displaced during the construction of the new building.

Additional Renovations

Renovations began in the summer of 2016 at Dorseyville Middle School and the summer of 2017 at Fairview and O’Hara elementary schools. Renovations at all three schools include new office spaces and upgrades to improve the safety and security of students and staff, as well as mechanical upgrades. Additionally, makerspaces are being added at DMS and O’Hara, and common spaces were renovated. To make the entry and exit from Hartwood and Dorseyville safer and easier to navigate, a new driveway was also added. Dorseyville Middle School had upgrades to the gymnasium, the food lab, and the art classrooms. O’Hara is also receiving upgrades to the library, art rooms, and hallways; is getting three new special education classrooms; and is getting a new playground area and equipment.

