

FAQ: Grade Reconfiguration

■ Is Fitzgerald Public Schools re-opening Schofield Elementary?

- The Board of Education will make the decision on April 13.
- Earlier this school year, the board asked the superintendent to research options for adding more space because of increases in our elementary school enrollment, particularly in kindergarten.
- After much study and many conversations with staff and parents, the superintendent has recommended re-opening Schofield.
- Over the next few weeks, the board and superintendent are asking the community to learn about the recommendation and weigh in with their questions.

■ Why is the district opening Schofield Elementary?

- We are re-opening Schofield Elementary because more families are choosing Fitzgerald Public Schools.
- Our enrollment has gone up in the elementary grades, and all indications are for the growth to continue.
- Last year, we were up 30 students in kindergarten, and we expect to be up by at least 25 more kindergarteners next year.
- We are at capacity in some grade levels with minimal openings in other grade levels.

■ What will happen to the other elementary schools?

- The board is considering a reconfiguration in how our grades are organized. They are considering placing PreK and Kindergarten at Schofield, grades 1-2-3 at Westview and grades 4-5 at Mound Park.
- This configuration will allow for growth in enrollment at each school.
- The proposed configuration will provide space for additional programs that support student achievement.

■ How will this new grade configuration impact my student?

- The new grade configuration will have a direct, positive impact on our students. The benefits include a more intense focus on each developmental stage in each building.
- Staff will be able to focus all lesson planning, staff development, technology and special programs around one developmental stage.
- It builds on the family-like culture we value at Fitzgerald because all of our children at each grade level will move through their entire school career together.

- It will help us reduce the bumps some students experience as they transition into middle school because they will already know most of their classmates.

■ **How will I get my kids to school on time if they are at different elementary buildings?**

- Transportation will be provided to students that live outside of the walking boundaries of their assigned school.
- We are learning how other districts with this configuration make sure everyone is on time, and we will share our plans with families as soon as possible.

■ **Will my child attend specials classes?**

- Physical Education, Music, Art and Technology will be available in each elementary school.
- Math Extension (grades 1-5 only) will be available in each elementary school as currently scheduled.

■ **How will my child receive special education services?**

- Resource rooms will be available in each school to meet the needs of students with an IEP.
- A psychologist, social worker, speech/language therapist and behavior specialist will be available in each school.

■ **How can I learn more?**

- Superintendent Barbara VanSweden will host a Community Forum on Monday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. in the FHS Media Center.
- A second Community Forum has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. in the FHS Media Center.
- Parents may also contact the superintendent by calling (586)757-1750 or by sending a message to barvan@myfitz.net.