



Suitland High School Swing Information Session | March 25, 2025 Questions & Answers

What is the final move-in date for the new building and the new auditorium?

The project's substantial completion is scheduled for early Spring 2028. The final move-in date will be identified later.

When will the current auditorium be torn down?

The auditorium will be demolished as part of Phase 2 construction. Phase 2 will begin in late spring 2026.

In my opinion, CVPA students (especially older students) lose in this scenario despite the project schedule being sped up. Why wasn't this plan an initial part of the phased construction project if it did not negatively impact the student experience?

This plan wasn't implemented initially because the project wasn't behind schedule, and Forestville HS was occupied by James Madison MS and was unavailable. This revised plan was developed following the Extended permitting delays and James Madison's move back to their home location.

How will CVPA students still be able to attend their AP courses? Will they have to be shuttled back and forth during the day?

We are reviewing the process for students to access the advanced placement courses, and we will share that with parents. The goal is to ensure that students will be able to access the AP courses offered at Suitland.

For our scholars who are unfortunately in between 9th and 10th, what is the plan for those scholars?

The goal is for all students labeled as 9th graders to be with the 9th graders. All of our 9th graders will be in the 9th-grade building.

So, incoming 9th graders will not be in Suitland Proper until their 12th grade year?

That is incorrect. Non-CVPA students will only attend Suitland Extended at Forestville for their 9th-grade year. For 10th through 12th grade, they will return to Suitland Proper. CVPA students, however, will remain at Suitland Extended until the project's substation is completed in 2028, regardless of grade level.



Since the decision to proceed with this swing plan for the CVPA students has been finalized without parent input, how are you accommodating students to be shuttled back and forth between the main campus and Forestville? Will the window between classes be Extended in the main building to accommodate traffic delays?

It is our goal not to have to transport students back and forth to each campus. Our goal is to have all CVPA classes and the 9th-grade classes in the Forestville Extended building. The only time we foresee them needing to go back to the main building is for extracurricular or athletic programs, possibly if they need to. In terms of classes, it's our goal to accommodate all of the courses they need at the Forestville-Suitland Extended building.

Does Forestville HS already have the specialized spaces needed for CVPA built out (e.g., ventilation systems for art and specialized equipment), or will this need to be completed in the coming months? If so, have any potential permit needs already been applied for/approved to avoid delays for the work?

We have the necessary spaces and will retrofit where necessary to fit the program's` needs. None of these require any permits that we are aware of and so we do not anticipate any program delays for any work that is needed in preparation for this upcoming school year.

When you said the students will have “access” to learning, what does that mean? Will their didactic learning be via distance learning, or will it be done in person?

The students will engage in in-person learning. The teachers needed to support the students at the Forestville HS site will be stationed there.

Will parents of students attending Suitland at Forestville be able to walk through the school before the beginning of school and be introduced to the staff and teachers? This will help us as parents become comfortable with the new arrangements and ensure our scholars are receiving the same level of teaching and security.

We can definitely incorporate that into our plan to hold an open house at the Extended building.

Will the 'Suitland Proper' student have a shorter school day?

No, the day will not be shortened for either site. There will be a staggered drop-off time, but the day will still be the same.

How are the CVPA program students going to get to college track in the evening? Will there be transportation back to Suitland, or are the parents responsible for getting them back to the area?

We will work with the athletic department to schedule transportation for our extracurricular events, which we have already been doing. It should not interrupt what we already have been experiencing with transporting extracurricular activities. In addition to athletics, we understand that college track is one of the academic programs at Suitland, so we will be looking at providing transportation for students who need to go from Suitland Extended back to Suitland Proper.

What is the difference between Suitland Proper and Suitland Extended?

Suitland Proper is the main campus, and Suitland Extended is at Forestville HS.



Will the CVPA students continue to have the same bus pickup time in the afternoons at 4:30?

Yes, that should not change.

Is there a plan to have professional counselors and a school nurse at the Extended?

Yes

Can someone please describe a typical day for a 12th-grade CVPA student (with multiple AP classes) in this swing scenario? That would help parents understand the impact.

It will look the same as it does for them now, just in a different building. They will not have to go back and forth to the other building for any of their coursework. In terms of the swing, the only time there's a possible need for it would be the latter part if they're in activities, but the goal is for them to obtain all their instructional courses at the Suitland Extended building. Their CVPA Extended courses and AP courses would all be housed in the Extended building.

As a parent of what will be a CVPA senior, I'm disappointed. My child has attended Suitland since freshman year but will now be separated from the rest of her senior class or inconvenienced if she wants to participate in events.

We did note that students would want to participate in activities with their class at different points in the school year. We also understand that senior year is a critical time in a student's high school experience, so we will be researching how we can ensure that students are included in fun activities like homecoming and senior meetings. We will be working with all of the departments, including transportation so that they're not excluded from senior activities. It will take some planning and preparation on all parts to schedule these things so that it does not interrupt their senior experience.

Will CVPA students have their core instruction at the Forestville campus, or will they be transported back and forth?

CVPA students will take their courses at Forestville HS.

Will only 9th graders attend the Forestville location? What will the transferring of the student's documentation process entail?

It will be 9th graders and CVPA students from all grade levels. Our student services team is an integral part of the project planning and is working with us to ensure a seamless registration/record transfer process for our incoming 9th-grade students.

Why weren't the details provided before the transfer windows closed? I certainly would have removed my child from the school during that time.

Certainly, we understand the potential impact that a move of this significance has on the students and families. We worked as diligently and as quickly as we could to access the available options. We needed to make sure that this would actually work and provide us with the acceleration to the construction schedule and still be feasible from an instructional standpoint. We certainly understand and take that feedback, but we moved as quickly as we could with the information that was available.



It really seems like the CVPA kids currently at Suitland will suffer significantly with this plan. My current sophomore will never see the inside of the new school, but she is getting kicked to the dungeon to accommodate the schedule. Suitland was not able to offer advanced courses that would fit in with the CVPA program when they were at one school. How is it possible that, somehow, these advanced courses will be offered in two locations?

As it relates to the current plan, we took into account the CVPA students being able to be together in one school without transportation back and forth. This may allow for additional support flexibility around AP courses. Unfortunately, a lot of our specialty programs often have a set schedule that they have to follow to meet the demands of a CVPA program. We have used Forestville as a swing space for several years now, and it is in good shape as it relates to a school building that is smaller than Suitland. We will take the parents' consideration of an open house so you can see it's an older building, and we need to take measures to move the project forward. We have designated swing space schools throughout the school district, and this is a regular part of what we do when renovating and building new schools. We move students out to do a complete rebuild or particular renovation. Forestville High School is one of those swing locations that we have in place. Prior to Suitland High School, Forestville was utilized for James Madison Middle School, Drew Freeman Middle School, and District Heights Elementary School.

Will CVPA students be able to take non-required classes? (psychology, anatomy, etc.)

Yes.

Great Presentation! How soon will this recording be made available on the Suitland project page?

The recording and English translation of the presentation will be posted by tomorrow. The rest of the translations and Q&As will be posted next week.

Will there be a main office at Suitland Extended with a secretary and administrative counselors?

Yes.

How will specific amenities be implemented in CVPA courses? (Old equipment and dark rooms)

We have looked over the building with staff. We have talked with the management company and Building Services about what is needed to build out specific spaces that have been identified for the school. Our plan is to replicate some of the conditions in the classrooms that exist at the current Suitland and the Annex over at Forestville.



You all keep saying that CVPA students will be able to access core classes, AP classes, etc., but no one really seems to have an answer to how this will happen. It's disappointing that parents and students were not included in earlier conversations because we are the ones who are impacted by this.

When we talk about offering classes in a separate building, we consider various staffing models and the course offerings students need based on the scheduling requirements. We are currently beginning that course request process. The students' requested and required courses will be offered at Suitland Extended. We are making sure that our students aren't missing out on any coursework that they could have had at the actual Suitland building. In some cases, we foresee them not having as many conflicts in their schedule to gain more access to the AP classes.

For the class of 2026 students that aren't in CVPA, will they be at Forestville or Suitland Proper?

They will be at Suitland Proper.

Will honors and AP classes be available for CVPA students at the Forestville location?

Yes

Will the CVPA, located in the main building's wing, stay there?

A few programs are currently in the main building. We plan to offer all Suitland courses at Suitland Extended.

As a current CVPA student at Suitland, I am concerned about busing students back and forth to classes. Buses do not typically come for early dismissals and/or delays to take us to the Annex. How will this work?

We're still organizing and planning. Once that plan comes to fruition, we will be able to share more with our families about how the shuttle will work. As Dr. Marrow stated, we are not busing back and forth to classes; it's like a school within a school. We have two stand-alone building instructional programs that will be running: the 10th through 12th grade at Suitland Proper and the 9th grade in the CVPA self-contained at Suitland Extended.

Will there be an orientation for all grades next year?

We will take that into consideration and ensure that the students receive an orientation to learn about the Forestville building and so forth.

Where will the incoming 9th graders go next year? Forestville or Suitland Proper? And where will this year's 9th graders be next school year? Forestville or Suitland Proper?

Incoming 9th-graders will go to Suitland Extended. Rising 10th-graders will go to Suitland Proper.

I am concerned about my child, a Senior in the CVPA program, being separated from her friends at the main campus. Have we considered the socio-emotional impact this may have on scholars?

Yes, we have, and we will provide opportunities for students to engage with one another because we want it to be two campuses but one Suitland. We want to ensure there will be opportunities for all students to engage with each other throughout the school year.



Will the academic classes be virtual, or will a teacher be in the classroom for the VPA students?

It is our goal to have all classes with teachers and in-person staff.

So, the Class of 2026 and 2027 will never be at the main building? And will Forestville be ready when the next school year starts, as far as cleanliness and parking lot traffic are concerned?

Yes, Forestville will be prepared and ready to accept students for this upcoming school year.

The class of 2026 will be moved into their new building next spring. We are planning to move to the main Suitland Proper campus in April 2026. There will be opportunities for 9th-graders, CVPA students, and 10th -12th graders to all interact and be a part of what's going on at that new building. Since we have CVPA and 9th grade at Suitland Extended, it does not mean that they will never have an opportunity to come to the main campus.

Will there be a follow-up session provided prior to the end of this school year with confirmed logistics for making all classes/sports/extracurricular activities "accessible"?

Yes, this is one of many meetings. In preparation for this move, there will be ongoing meetings with the community and staff. This is a large transition that we know requires us to keep information at the forefront. We will also have additional meetings with stakeholders. We will post information and updates on the school's website.

How will the food services program work? Will the current staff be split, and will breakfast be the same start time?

Food services will continue to operate as normal at both campuses. Our Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) team will continue to provide both breakfast and lunch for all students. FNS will work closely with the administration to align with the bell schedules, ensuring that meal service remains smooth and efficient. Additionally, FNS will plan accordingly to provide appropriate staffing for both campuses so students receive the same level of service and quality meals.

I thought I heard that the students at Suitland Extended will start at 8:45 and leave at 3:25. Is this correct?

Yes

My scholar already does not have a bus to pick her up in the evenings, and sometimes, her morning bus does not come. How will this differ?

We are constantly working on a plan to hire and recruit more drivers. As we build from year to year, we want to ensure that we have enough drivers, but ultimately, we want to establish strong communication. If that bus is not coming on time to provide the means, you are notified about the bus.



CVPA students take general classes along with CVPA. How is it possible that they will not have to go back to the main building? They also take regular classes, not just CVPA classes. They take CVPA classes and science, math, and English.

We are in the process of scheduling course requests, and it is our goal to ensure that every course that students need as it relates to 9th grade and CVPA is offered at Forestville Extended. Whether it's a science, math, or English AP class, they will be able to have a teacher who teaches that course in the Extended building.

I agree that the CVPA students lose in this scenario. They are spending their last couple of years essentially segregated from their peers as they move toward graduation. What accommodations are being made to ease this?

As it relates to them being included with their actual senior class, we will have a plan in place so that they will be able to interact with their senior class in both buildings. We will work with the school to address the socioemotional component and ensure that we have activities. We will also include the student voice by including our student government association and our senior class officers so we can get input. There are many opportunities and activities that can be woven into the fabric of students being engaged.

It sounds like additional educators will be needed to accommodate duplicate AP and general education classes. How will this be addressed with the current critical shortage of educators?

If there is an additional need, we are working with human resources. Looking at the students' schedules will determine if there is, in fact, an additional need for teachers and support. When we look at the enrollment of students requesting AP courses, in addition to their specialty courses, we will ensure that they have the needed resources and staffing to handle these courses.

Why not have the 11th & 12th grade finish at the main building?

We explored several options as we finalized where and who would be in each building. As we met with staff, various stakeholders, CVPA teachers, and different departments within the school system, we were able to prevent students from being moved from one building to the other. This was the best solution, and the teachers will be the CVPA teachers that our students are familiar with. They were very excited to have a school community of a program where they can be CVPA. We would not have the ability to have all the CVPA classes in two places. We can definitely house all the CVPA programming in the Suitland Extended building.

Is this only for their 9th-grade year? If the building is still delayed, will they be moved to the main campus during their 10th grade year, and then the new 9th class will be at the Extended campus?

That is correct. We will occupy the current Forestville High School campus until March 2028. The current 9th graders for that particular year and the CVPA students participating in the program will always be present. As you matriculate from 9th to 10th grade, if you're not CVPA, you'll move into Suitland Proper.



How will pep rallies and grade-level activities work?

We will be working with the school to prepare a schedule so that we can ensure that there is student involvement at all levels. Whether it's a pep rally or an activity for seniors, it can be held at both campuses. One thing about the Forestville building is that it was a high school and so it does have the likes of a high school. We are going to work with the school system and the school to plan activities and create a calendar of events so that we can ensure that our students still have their socioemotional needs met.

How will SATs work for CVPA students?

If testing is needed, we will have it in both buildings. We will not transport students back and forth for testing.

So, is it the plan to offer advanced classes (AP and Honors) in both locations even though many of these classes could only be offered during 1 period per day- which often does not work with the CVPA schedule- when everyone was at one school?

That is correct. Being in an isolated building allows you more flexibility with your schedule as well.

Has the use of a computer lab been considered for the students to take classes from Suitland Proper?

Yes, we are exploring all educational options for our students.

In the last meeting about the transition, it was communicated that they would move back into the new school in April 2026. Is that no longer the case? Today, it sounds like they will stay there until graduation.

To clarify, the Suitland building will only be occupied through April of next year. At that time, all 10th-12th graders will move into the new main building and then will continue construction on the remaining phases of the project, which will conclude in March of 2028.

How soon will the non-boundary CVPA students' transportation be in place?

We will follow the normal schedule for delivering routes to our families. Right now, it will be early August before everything is shared with everyone.

While I appreciate you all for considering the needs of the students in the swing space, specifically seniors, communication from the school has not always been adequate. By that, I mean I often hear about non-CVPA events or activities from my child long before I hear about them from the school. What is the plan for communication on activities happening on the main campus, given that our children will not be there to hear about events in passing?

We are in the process of establishing various committees around the work. Internal and external communication is one of the committees we are establishing because ongoing and frequent communication will be more critical than ever.



Why weren't all aspects of the student experience (clubs, social experience, etc....) assessed for feasibility BEFORE this was implemented? Is there a guarantee that students (in a variety of clubs) will not be excluded due to this scenario? I'm concerned that there is no guarantee.

We've considered many different variables relevant to the construction schedule relative to the funding we're expanding. We've also considered the student experience, academic program, and how to support scholastic athletics as we move through this significant transition. We are confident that this is the best path forward to accomplish the goal of getting all students into the new building as quickly as possible.

Does Forestville have an auditorium?

No.

Were any students on this "evaluation board" when making the decision or gathering the details on what the students may need when making this transition to push the construction timeline forward?

Right now, parents are at the initial phase of our process. The number of resources that are available would be the head of various programs that are assisting Suitland with moving or swinging to Suitland Extended and Suitland Proper as well. Students, parents, and teachers will now be added resources since we have our definitive move in place. Meetings that are to come will give us an opportunity to include other stakeholders in our decisions. There have been conversations through our CVPA leaders with students in the program. We will continue to have communication with the students because we want to hear their input through the transition.

Will Principal Wright be at the Forestville location?

Yes, he will strive to be at both locations.

With the teacher shortage, how will the potential need for extra personnel be addressed?

We are working with human resources to ensure that we have the Proper staff in each building. Even with the shortage, this is being addressed as a priority for the school system because we know we have to staff two buildings.

Where will this year's 9th graders be next school year? Forestville or Suitland Proper?

Suitland Proper

Will there be tutoring available for students?

Yes, we currently offer tutoring through the school system and at the school site. Our curriculum instruction department will continue to offer tutoring free of charge to parents and students.

The counselor told the upcoming seniors they would have the option to become teacher's aids. Is that still possible for the CVPA seniors at Forestville?

We will need to explore what information accounts are shared with the students around teacher's aids because we need to address that on both sides.



Will there be administrative staff at the Extended campus? Will there be another principal, or will he run both campuses?

An administrator will be stationed down there to handle immediate concerns. You'll have administrative support in both buildings.

There is already a divide between CVPA and non-CVPA students. Now, CVPA will be separated from the rest of their class for the next 3 years. How is this One Suitland? I understand that this plan wasn't finalized before, but it would have been nice to know this was a possibility when we still had the opportunity to remove our students and send them somewhere else.

It comes down to culture. We have a principal who is committed to having two campuses and one school. We are going to work hard under his direction/leadership and ensure that all students, staff, and members of the community will not feel separated. We are committed to the planning process and supporting Principal Wright with whatever resources he needs. Whether it be transportation or staffing support, we will ensure he has opportunities to bring his school together.

Will both schools be fully staffed with educators in the fall?

It is our goal to ensure that both schools are fully staffed in the fall.

High school students require more support and infrastructure as compared to middle and elementary students which previously worked in this swing scenario. Where do you expect challenges accommodating high school students and ALL of their courses/activities/clubs?

We have used Forestville as a swing space for more than Elementary/ Middle School and currently have two buildings on the current campus of Suitland. Our students are in two buildings but one Suitland, and we want to continue that model down the street versus on the same campus. When we had schools at the Forestville site, we actually did not have any challenges related to the building or activities. We are definitely being strategic and working with the school staff to ensure all students can have all of that in the full high school experience.

Will there be a follow-up meeting once the plans have been revised?

Yes, there will be multiple additional meetings.

This swing scenario may potentially require duplicating all course offerings in both buildings, which sounds expensive. Was this the lowest-cost solution, or was it the best solution for project completion?

Yes, it is the best and lowest-cost solution.

Buses already do not pick the kids up or are late. Please work with them. My child is already missing a 3:10 bus, so when she does not have 5th, I have to Uber her home. I hope you guys will work with transportation.

We are continuing to work through the transportation that we face. We are improving, but we certainly know we have more work to do.



Wouldn't CVPA classes also be delayed? Start at 8:45 and end at 4:55.

The CVPA bell schedule is still the same.

Will senior VPA students be able to drive and park at Suitland's Extended?

As long as students meet the administration's requirements, they will certainly be able to park at Suitland Extended. It is a full high school fit-out, so there's adequate space for everything we need to accommodate the students there.

How will athletes get picked up for games when the buses usually arrive at the school at 3pm to get to games that start at 4 pm/4:30 pm? Does that mean you'll be sending 2 sets of buses, and the athletes will meet up at the game when the buses get there?

The athletic director works with the transportation team and the athletic office to ensure that the schedules are coordinated and synced so that the buses arrive on time. We make that commitment at all of our schools so that students can participate in all activities.

Do you plan to shuttle those 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade students to Suitland Proper for Honor Roll Assemblies and Grade Level Assemblies?

We are going to continue to work with the area office and Principal Wright to ensure that we have a comprehensive list of activities. It is important to note that there are approximately 225 CVPA students, which equates to five buses. We feel like we have the capacity to transport the CVPA students to the main building and back for activities.

Not only seniors are impacted. My student is a rising junior who is highly involved in SGA and cheerleading, in addition to CVPA. I really look forward to the logistics details.

We appreciate your daughter being fully immersed in the Suitland program. That sounds fantastic!

Will electives be offered in the Extended Suitland building?

Yes

Transportation has been a major concern all year. How will transportation be addressed for this transition?

We are in the midst of a transportation action plan and are continuing to recruit drivers.

Will Suitland Extended students still have to wear uniforms or the same one to differentiate between the two?

It will still be a uniform school. It will remain the same.

Can there be a possibility to obtain our scholars schedules earlier than May with the swing move to see if they were accepted into their AP course requests. This could allow for more time to hire additional staff for our scholars.

I'll need to check with the IT department, but I am going to say probably not. The scheduling process doesn't end that early in the school year. This is definitely something I can check on to see what we can possibly do in terms of the timeline. You will have a preliminary schedule by May.



If this decision had been made earlier in the school year, parents may have had an opportunity to explore other academic options, such as another specialty program or CTE program. Will PGCPSS allow any flexibility to explore alternative academic pathways?
The transfer window has already opened and closed. Please follow up with the school or the area office specifically so we can investigate that question.

This is not a question but a comment: I'm excited that our school system values the arts and programs, specifically CVPA. Although this is an atypical situation, the end result will be a state-of-the-art school building that will provide thousands of students with the training and opportunities future PGCPSS artists deserve.

We appreciate that! The good news is that a brand new, state-of-the-art Suitland High School is coming. Through this short-term challenge, we will be able to provide access to this beautiful facility as quickly as possible.

My student informed me that some of her current art classes are packing up in April, so what's the plan for the remainder of the year for those classes (2024-2025)

We will address that with the staff because we are not ready to transition as of yet. All classes are expected to be held through the end of the school year on June 23rd.

Can Dr Coleman please clarify again? When is the scheduled return to the main building for CVPA students? I thought the auditorium was substantially completed in 2026, but I didn't think the new CVPA building was also complete in this phase. Is this correct?

You're correct. The new CVPA building will be finished in February 2028, and the main general education building and auditorium will be finished in 2026.

Will students be allowed to have parking passes at Suitland Extended?

As long as students meet the administration's requirements, they will certainly be able to park at Suitland Extended. It is a full high school fit-out, so there's adequate space for everything we need to accommodate the students there.

You mentioned that CVPA students would be able to visit the new building from time to time once it's finished in April 2026. What specifically will they visit the new building for, and how often? It seems unfair that grades 10-12 will get to experience the new building, while the current CVPA students will pretty much finish their high school experience at Suitland Extended.

There are going to be many opportunities for students who are at Suitland Extended to still report back to Suitland Proper for activities. We're going to be intentional about ensuring that they have the opportunity to do so. That way, all students will have the opportunity to benefit from the new Suitland Proper campus that will open in April 2026. We will be able to accelerate when they have access to the athletic fields because they will be delivered sooner, and finally, the CVPA building will be delivered between 12-19 months sooner.



Since Forestville does not have an auditorium, where will the students perform?

We're working with the CVPA program to establish where they will actually do their performance. One of the things that was actually talked about with having CVPA in Suitland Extended is that it allows us to come back together as one department to do our recitals. We're looking at how CVPA can have its program and specialty nights as a whole program. They will still be able to have their practices in Suitland Extended.

Given the current political climate, including reported challenges to the Department of Education and our status as a Title I school, what is the projected fiscal impact of this move? Specifically, has it been budgeted, and will it affect our allocated resources?

This move is designed to save millions of dollars for the school district by accelerating the delivery of the building and removing many of the permitting requirements from the construction schedule. As far as the move specifically, there is funding allocated that will not take away from students but will be used to affect the move.

Hello, I am a student of Suitland High School and a theater CVPA student. I am aware that all CVPA Will be transferred to Forestville high school next year but because of the transfer some parents are not allowing their children to go and they have to leave what they love so is there any way that a petition can be signed by students, parents and staff for this to change??

We hope that by providing this level of detail and information, families will consider what we are saying and continue to have confidence in the Suitland High School program. We are committed as a collective school system to providing a quality experience for all students whether they are at Suitland Proper or Extended. We have a number of different schools in our system that operate out of multiple buildings that have education academies as a matter of best practice. What we're trying is not novel or new. This is a proven way in which we can still provide a quality education for students. 9th-grade.

Will Ms. Saldaña be on the calls moving forward concerning CVPA students and parental questions regarding Forestville?

Yes, she will be present.

What will be the first CVPA class to use the new building?

The CVPA spaces will be finished in February 2028. It will be the 2028-2029 school year

Dr Coleman confirmed there are anticipated transportation challenges, which we all experience now. Why wouldn't that challenge be shared with parents up front (when we asked about anticipated challenges)? This is already difficult for us parents, so we appreciate your patience and transparency.

We are committed to transparency. As a school district, we have been working through Transportation challenges and are committed to getting better!