



## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the New Mansfield Elementary School**

### ***When will the new school open?***

Starting in September 2022, all three elementary schools will consolidate and become "Mansfield Elementary School" (MES)

### ***When will the new MES building open?***

At this time, there is not a set date for the completion of the building. However, we are expecting to move in by mid to late fall of 2022.

### ***Where will students attend school before the new building is finished?***

Mansfield students, Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1 will attend MES at the current Vinton School location.

Students Grades 2 through 4 will attend MES using the current Goodwin School location.

### ***Will there be Before/After School Care?***

Yes, we will continue to offer this support on-site using the services of Mansfield Parks and Recreation.

### ***Why can't each site host students PreK through Grade 4?***

The work of transitioning from three schools to one has focused on building community and belonging as staff and students move from three smaller, familiar schools to one new, larger school. We can be successful in this work by keeping all students from a grade together in one building, with the teacher they will have for the full year. Any other arrangement would require a second transition and coming together once we have moved into the new school. In addition, transportation is actually less complicated in this arrangement.

### ***Can we delay the opening of the building for an entire year?***

No, given the contracts that include construction and moving costs, we need to move at the appropriate time when the building is ready.

### ***Can you delay the demolition of Southeast Elementary School?***

No. In order to move in, we are required to have a finished parking lot and bus entrance which will be built over the old Southeast School building site. The demolition will take a minimum of

10 weeks due to the required abatement of materials with several additional weeks needed to complete the parking area.

***Will there be an Open House this fall?***

Yes

***How will the new building open? How will you support students, families, and staff?***

Once we know the opening date, we will begin preparing students, families, and staff through various activities. We will have family information sessions and tours. Staff will be onsite prior to opening to set up and establish procedures/expectations. There will be family events and Meet/Greets. When we are ready for students, we are hoping to plan a soft, staggered opening that will allow us to begin with reduced numbers of students and traffic. Teacher materials and items will be professionally moved quickly into the building.

***Will you plan the move during a vacation or on a weekend?***

With the current expectation of a move-in date around mid to late fall, we will build in additional time for staff using natural breaks within the calendar. The plan will ensure that there is time for moving, unpacking, setting up classrooms, and orientation of the new building before students arrive.

***How will bus transportation be provided at the start of the school year?***

All students have an assigned bus. Each bus will drop students off at the Vinton location and then travel to the Goodwin site. Siblings attending schools at different locations will ride the same bus. They will be picked up and dropped off at the same times. Most students will continue to ride this bus when the new MES is open.

***How long will it take the bus to travel from Vinton to Goodwin?***

Approximately 10 minutes

***What time does school start and end?***

Vinton (PreK through Grade 1) doors open for students starting at 8:35am. School starts at 8:55am. Dismissal begins at 3:30pm.

Goodwin (Grades 2 through 4) doors will open for students starting at 8:45am. The school day starts at 9:05am. Dismissal begins at 3:40pm

***Can families opt out of bus transportation?***

Yes, families may drop off and pick up students. However, given that more students will be in each of these buildings than we experience now, we expect more traffic and encourage all families to use the bus transportation provided.

Drop Off for the Vinton site is from 8:35-8:55am

Drop Off for the Goodwin site is from 8:45-9:05am

***Is there a Parent-Teacher Organization for MES?***

Yes, the MES PTO started meeting in the spring of 2022. All are welcome to attend meetings. Express your interest by registering [here](#).

***What will happen to the old schools once we move into the new building?***

Southeast School is being demolished this summer and will become the parking area for the new building. Vinton and Goodwin School buildings are Town properties that will transfer to the Town Council once we move into the new MES building. The Town of Mansfield is undergoing a facilities study, and ultimately Town Council will decide how to best use these buildings.