



DHS Renovation Project Transition Plans for 9th graders

Dracut Senior High



Lakeview Junior High





FAQ's

- **Why is there a “transition plan” to relocate the incoming grade nine students to the Lakeview Junior High School?**

As a result of the impending renovation of Dracut Senior High School ten modular classrooms at Dracut Senior High School will be moved to Lakeview Junior High School. The relocation will leave the high school with an insufficient number of classrooms to house and educate grade nine students during this phase of the renovation project. The transition Plan will address all the elements that the district will have to deal with in ensuring that the ninth grade students will receive all the benefits of an appropriate education.

- **Will the ten modular classrooms provide sufficient additional space to instruct all grade nine students at Lakeview Junior High School?**

No. The high school program will need approximately six more classrooms and two additional office areas within the junior high building to provide grade nine students with instructional and support services.

- **Will there be science labs to support grade nine Physical Science classes?**

The ninth grade high school students will use science labs located in the main building of LJHS, within the area of the building designated for grade nine.



FAQ's

- **If the grade nine students are entering the main building for science labs and other academic classes, won't this create intermingling among the students of various grades?**

The grade nine rooms within the Lakeview Junior High School will be located close to the modular classroom wing and may be cordoned off from the rest of the school. The 9th grade "school" will have its own designated area of the building, including separate lavatories.

- **How many grade nine students will be housed at Lakeview Junior High School?**

Based on a trend analysis of 8th grade classes for the past several years, and the average size is 338-340 students. Generally, 30-50 students leave for other schools. We anticipate about 300 9th grade students for next year, number consistent with recent enrollment figures at Dracut Senior High School.

- **Will the grade nine students be considered "Dracut Senior High School" students?**

Yes. The students will be enrolled in Dracut Senior High School and their records, including transcripts, will indicate a four year high school career at Dracut Senior High School.



FAQ's

- **Which courses will be taught to grade nine students at Lakeview Junior High School?**

The complete core curriculum (mathematics, English, history, world language, and science) will be taught at the Lakeview Junior High School.

- **Who will teach these courses to the grade nine students?**

Instruction will be provided by high school teachers in the same manner as this year. The teachers are members of the DHS faculty.

- **Will there be honors level courses available to grade nine students?**

Yes. Honors courses will be available to grade nine students in the same manner as currently offered.



FAQ's

- **My child is advanced in the area of mathematics. Would he/she be able to access mathematics instruction at higher levels at Dracut Senior High School?**

Eligible students will be able to access the high school mathematics curriculum and instruction. This is one reason why access to the high school building is preferred. It is not likely that such advanced mathematics courses could be offered in both buildings.

- **How much time is allotted to transition (changing classes) at Dracut Senior High School?**

Presently, students transition throughout Dracut Senior High School in four minutes.

- **How much time will be allotted to transition between the buildings?**

The transition between buildings will require additional time. It is likely that the transition time will be seven to eight minutes.

- **How will physical education be scheduled?**

Physical education classes will be offered in both buildings. Both gymnasiums will be used whenever possible.



FAQ's

- **My grade nine child has an individual education plan/Section 504 plan. What will this transition mean for my child?**

Any accommodations or modifications that are presently defined within an "IEP" or a "504" plan will be implemented at Lakeview Junior High School as per regulations. High school special education faculty and staff will be assigned to the two buildings depending on the needs of the students. There will be no interruption of mandated services to students.

- **How will the educational needs of students with intensive special needs be met?**

Both the high school and the junior high school operate specialized programs to meet the educational needs of students with more severe disabilities. Programming and placement for students will be designed to meet these individualized needs. There will be no interruption of mandated services to students.



FAQ's

➤ **Who will be my child's school principal?**

The high school principal will be the principal for the grade nine students, in the same manner as is presently the case. The principal and vice-principals will oversee grade nine students and faculty as an aspect of their professional responsibilities. A satellite high school administrative office will be established at the Lakeview Junior High School.

➤ **The junior high school and the senior high school operate two different schedules. Wouldn't it be easier to simply place both schools on the same schedule?**

There are ongoing discussions regarding possible alignment and coordination of the DHS and the LJHS schedules. At this point the requirements of time on learning and other factors will dictate how much alignment is possible. The requirements of high school instruction may limit the opportunities to synchronize the schedules.

➤ **Will grade nine students be able to access electives and specialty courses such as band, art, and technology, among others?**

The high school is committed to offering a grade nine program that is complete in curricular offerings, including electives. Present plans allow students to travel to the high school to access electives, specialty courses and any other instruction necessary to their programs.



FAQ's

➤ **How will students transition between buildings?**

Students will be allotted sufficient time to move between the buildings. This transition would be limited to one or two classes per day.

➤ **Given the New England weather, wouldn't it be better to schedule students to spend the entire day at the junior high school?**

The advantage of a totally self-contained program at the junior high school must be weighed against the disadvantage of such an approach. If the junior high school students remained exclusively within the junior high school, specialty curricular offerings in the arts, technologies, and other areas would be much more limited. In addition, the high school is committed to ensuring that every grade nine student feels "connected" to the high school. This goal is met by creating access to the main high school building and supporting interactions with additional teachers and students. This goal is impeded when students are not physically present in the main high school building for at least a portion of their day.

➤ **Will my child be able to participate in high school athletics and high school clubs?**

There will be no change in student participation in either high school athletics or high school clubs. Students participate in these activities at the main high school campus in the same manner as in the current year.



FAQ's

➤ **Who will be my child's guidance counselor?**

A high school guidance counselor will be assigned to the grade nine students at Lakeview Junior High School. This will require an adjustment in high school guidance counselor caseloads for students in grades ten through twelve.

➤ **What will be the impact on the lunch schedule at the Lakeview Junior High School?**

Grade nine students will eat lunch in the cafeteria at Lakeview Jr. High School. The LJHS currently has 3 lunch periods. The 9th graders will eat during a 4th lunch period.

There will likely be a small adjustment to the lunch schedule at Lakeview Junior High School. Adjustments of about fifteen minutes to the present lunch schedule will enable the grade nine students to eat lunch at the Lakeview.



FAQ's

➤ **Will the grade nine students ever eat with the younger students?**

Grade nine students will be scheduled into their own lunch period. They will not eat lunch with students enrolled in grades seven and eight.

➤ **Why not schedule lunch for grade nine in the high school cafeteria?**

There are logistical considerations that impact serving lunch to the grade nine students at the high school. Lunch period transitions would be much more significant than periodic academic transitions. Academic transitions will involve far fewer students and be spread throughout the school day.

➤ **Will my child have a locker?**

Each student will be issued a locker at the Lakeview Junior High School. Plans are underway to place sufficient numbers of lockers for all students before the end of the academic year.