

MacArthur: Next Steps for a New High School

Overview

In March 2022, DC Public Schools announced plans to open a new high school in Northwest Washington, DC. The new school will be a neighborhood high school in the former Georgetown Day School building (4530 MacArthur Blvd NW) and will open in August 2023.

As DCPS makes plans to open this new high school (referred to in this document as “MacArthur” until a name is selected for the school) we commit to keeping you informed throughout the process. This document outlines important focus areas and next steps for planning and implementation.

Please note that as of March 2022, the high school formerly named Woodrow Wilson High School (3950 Chesapeake St NW) has been renamed Jackson-Reed High School. The name Jackson-Reed HS is used throughout this document.

MacArthur Overview

MacArthur High School

Location	4530 MacArthur Boulevard NW
Expected opening date	August 2023
Grades served	9 to 12
Boundary and Feeder Pattern	In-boundary neighborhood school for all students living in the Hardy Middle School boundary. Destination school for all students attending Hardy MS or one of Hardy’s feeder elementary schools (Eaton Elementary School, Hyde-Addison Elementary School, Key Elementary School, Mann Elementary School, and Stoddert Elementary School). Once MacArthur HS opens in School Year 2023-2024, Hardy MS will no longer be a feeder school to Jackson-Reed HS, but current (SY21-22) 6 th and 7 th graders will be eligible for phase-in policies, or “grandfathering”. Please see the FAQ section of this document for information on boundary rights, feeder rights, and phase-in policies.

To support planning for the new high school, DCPS is convening a MacArthur Community Working Group (CWG) of impacted families and stakeholders starting June 2022. The DCPS Facilities team will also engage the CWG in lieu of establishing a School Improvement Team (SIT). The CWG will help advise DCPS on specialized programming and on school naming and branding. DCPS heard a lot of interest from the community in considering a specialized program pathway for a new high school at MacArthur, and we plan to build on these discussions within the CWG.

Prior to the school’s opening in August 2023, DCPS will identify a principal to lead the new school and will complete facility updates including selective painting, IT infrastructure, and kitchen updates. DCPS will share updates on these processes with the CWG throughout the coming school year.

MacArthur Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

School Program and Planning

Is “MacArthur” the final name for the new high school?

No, MacArthur is a placeholder name for the school based on its location on MacArthur Blvd NW. DCPS will engage communities in the process to determine a final name for the school.

What types of programming does DCPS offer at other DCPS neighborhood high schools?

DCPS offers a wide range of programming at the high school level. To learn about the programming available across all DCPS high schools, download the DCPS High School Booklet at

<https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/46>

- All DCPS neighborhood high schools offer rigorous academics through either Advanced Placement (AP) courses, International Baccalaureate courses, or some combination of both.
- All DCPS neighborhood high schools offer National Academy Foundation College & Career Academies, often referred to as NAF Academies. These academies prepare students with technical and academic skills in 16 areas related to high-demand careers such as architecture, biotechnology, computer science, and engineering.
- All DCPS neighborhood high schools offer robust arts programs which may include choir, dance, band, visual arts, and digital arts.

How will MacArthur serve students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and students receiving English Learner (EL) services?

Like all DCPS neighborhood schools, MacArthur will be prepared to serve students with special needs and English Learners. Special education programming will include both inclusion and self-contained programming. The feeder pattern from Hardy to MacArthur will ultimately include students receiving special education support in self-contained classrooms.

What sports will be offered? Will students be able to participate in sports teams at other schools?

The sports offered at MacArthur will be determined by facility space and student interest. Based on the DCIAA handbook, DCPS students who attend high schools in which a particular sport is not offered may request authorization to participate at any other DCPS high school offering that sport if certain conditions are met. See 5.2.16 of the [DCIAA student handbook](#).

Boundary and Feeder Changes

What will be the shape of the boundary of MacArthur High School?

The boundary for MacArthur HS will be identical to the boundary for Hardy MS. Once MacArthur opens, all students living in-boundary for Hardy MS will have the right to attend MacArthur HS and will no longer be in-boundary for Jackson-Reed HS.

What middle schools will feed into MacArthur High School?

Hardy MS will feed into MacArthur HS. Any student who completes 8th grade at Hardy MS will have a right to attend MacArthur HS.

What is the difference between feeder rights and boundary rights?

Many DCPS schools are part of a feeder pattern, meaning that when a student graduates from one school they have a right to enroll at the next school in the feeder pattern, called the *destination school*. An elementary school may feed into a destination middle school. A middle school may feed into a

destination high school. A student's feeder pattern is based on the school the child currently attends. View a school's DCPS School Profile to view feeder and destination schools <https://profiles.dcps.dc.gov/>.

A child's in-boundary school is solely based on the child's home address. Every home address has an assigned elementary, middle, and high school. Visit <https://enrolldcps.dc.gov/node/41> to view current boundary assignments. Note that any address currently assigned to Hardy MS will be assigned to MacArthur HS when it opens.

How will the new MacArthur HS boundary and feeder pattern affect my children?

For students enrolled in Jackson-Reed High School:

- Any student enrolled at Jackson-Reed HS before MacArthur HS opens may remain enrolled at Jackson-Reed HS.

For students enrolled in Hardy Middle School:

- Hardy MS will feed into MacArthur HS. Any student who graduates from Hardy MS will have a right to attend MacArthur HS once it opens in August 2023. Based on phase-in policies, the feeder rights of a Hardy student depend on the school year the student will enter 9th grade.
 - Any Hardy student entering 9th grade in School Year 2024-2025 or earlier will have dual feeder rights to both MacArthur HS and the former destination high school, Jackson-Reed HS. This includes current (SY21-22) 6th and 7th graders.
 - Any Hardy student entering 9th grade in School Year 2025-2026 or later will have feeder rights only to MacArthur HS. Based on phase-in policies, an exception will be made for siblings. A student maintains the right to enroll at the former destination school, Jackson-Reed HS, if they have a sibling enrolled at Jackson-Reed at the time of their entry to high school.

For students enrolled at one of the elementary schools that feed into Hardy MS (Eaton, Hyde-Addison, Key, Mann, or Stoddert ES):

- Any student who graduates from Hardy and enters 9th grade in School Year 2025-2026 or later will have feeder rights only to MacArthur HS. This includes current (SY21-22) PK4-5th graders. Based on phase-in policies, an exception will be made for siblings. A student maintains the right to enroll at the former destination school, Jackson-Reed HS, if they have a sibling enrolled at Jackson-Reed at the time of their entry to high school.

For students whose address is re-assigned to MacArthur while not enrolled in Hardy MS or a feeder elementary school:

- When MacArthur HS opens, all students living in the Hardy MS boundary will be re-assigned to MacArthur HS as their in-boundary high school. These reassigned students will no longer have an in-boundary right to enroll in Jackson-Reed HS. Students living outside the new boundary of Jackson-Reed HS will need to apply through the My School DC lottery to attend. An exception will be made for siblings. A student maintains the right to enroll in their former in-boundary school, Jackson-Reed HS, if they have a sibling enrolled at Jackson-Reed at the time of their entry to high school.

What phase-in policies are being implemented for impacted families?

Phase-in policies, or "grandfathering", allow boundary and feeder changes to be implemented gradually and provide special considerations for siblings. At MacArthur HS, DCPS will provide the following phase-in policies:

- Students already attending Jackson-Reed HS when MacArthur HS opens will not be required to change schools.
- Students whose addresses have been reassigned from in-boundary for Jackson-Reed HS to in-boundary for MacArthur HS will maintain their former in-boundary rights to Jackson-Reed HS only if they have a sibling enrolled at Jackson-Reed at the time of their entry to high school.
- Students who graduate from Hardy MS and enter 9th grade in or before School Year 2024-2025 will have dual rights to both MacArthur HS and the former destination high school, Jackson-Reed HS. See chart below.
- Students who graduate from Hardy MS and enter 9th grade in School Year 2025-2026 or later will have feeder rights only to MacArthur HS. An exception will be made for siblings. A student maintains the right to enroll at the former destination school, Jackson-Reed HS, if they have a sibling enrolled at Jackson-Reed at the time of their entry to high school. See chart below.

The feeder rights of a Hardy student depend on the School Year the student will enter 9th grade.

Grade in SY2021-2022	Grade in SY2022-2023	Year Student Enters 9th Grade	Feeder rights from Hardy to MacArthur	Feeder rights from Hardy to Jackson-Reed
8th grade	9th grade	SY2022-2023	n/a	YES
7th grade	8th grade	SY2023-2024	YES	YES
6th grade	7th grade	SY2024-2025	YES	YES
5th grade	6th grade	SY2025-2026	YES	No, unless a sibling is enrolled in SY2025-2026
4th grade	5th grade	SY2026-2027	YES	No, unless a sibling is enrolled in SY2026-2027

How will MacArthur impact out-of-boundary student access?

Like other DCPS neighborhood schools, MacArthur HS will participate in the My School DC lottery. This means that families living outside of the school boundary may apply for out-of-boundary seats. MacArthur HS will be included as a school option in the School Year 2023-2024 lottery opening in December of 2022. The number of lottery seats MacArthur will offer will be determined in early 2023, as is true of all DCPS schools.

Some lottery seats will be reserved for students who meet the criteria of the Equitable Access Designated Seats program. The program's criteria includes students who are experiencing homelessness, in the District's foster care system, receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or high school students that are one year older, or more, than the expected age for their grade. The number of seats that will be reserved for the Equitable Access Designated Seats program has not been determined.

What will the size of the student population be at MacArthur?

Enrollment projections for MacArthur HS will be drafted in December 2022. DCPS is currently planning, pending final enrollment projections, for approximately 200 9th graders and the possibility of a smaller 10th grade.

Students will enroll at MacArthur HS in four ways: (1) Students who graduate from the feeder middle school, Hardy, will have feeder rights to attend. (2) Students living in the school boundary will have in-boundary rights to attend. (3) Students who want to attend from outside the boundary or feeder pattern can submit a MySchoolDC lottery application. Some seats will be reserved for students furthest from opportunity through the Equitable Access Designated Seats program. (4) Students will be placed based on special education needs.

Facilities and Traffic

Will DCPS provide transportation to MacArthur?

DCPS will not provide transportation to families impacted by the boundary or feeder pattern changes. DCPS is committed to working with WMATA and DC Department of Transportation on ways to support family travel patterns. DCPS anticipates the Kids Ride Free program that provides free bus and Metrorail service will be in effect.

Transportation will be provided to students with disabilities who have transportation included as a related service in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), as is true of all DCPS schools.

Community Engagement and Outreach

How were communities informed and engaged in the decision-making process for MacArthur?

Between February and June 2021, DCPS conducted a joint school planning engagement process to inform impacted communities of the elementary school at Foxhall Road and MacArthur HS that included many elements:

- A **Community Working Group (CWG)** of school, parent, and community representatives.
- **School and community meetings**, including **student focus groups**
- An **online survey** to ensure broad feedback opportunities
- A **community listening session** to hear testimony from the community.
- DCPS also received input through direct emails, ANC resolutions and civic group reports.

Through this process, DCPS engaged over 2,000 stakeholders and heard constructive and thoughtful input on the options for Foxhall and MacArthur. The results of this engagement process, including final recommendations from the Community Working Group, were shared with DCPS and city leadership to inform the final decisions on Foxhall and MacArthur. The Foxhall and MacArthur planning and engagement process has been summarized and documented publicly on the [DCPS School Planning Blog](#).

How can I stay updated on the planning process for these two schools?

As the planning process continues, DCPS will conduct additional targeted engagement with impacted parents and stakeholders until the schools open. Enrolled families should look out for information from their school leadership and DCPS in the coming months around updates on the planning process and additional engagement opportunities. Additionally, DCPS will continue to post updates and materials from upcoming meetings on the [DCPS School Planning Blog](#). For questions in the meantime, please reach out to the DCPS School Planning team at dcps.planning@k12.dc.gov.

Who can I contact if I have any questions about MacArthur HS?

If you have questions, please email the school planning team at dcps.planning@k12.dc.gov.