



Leodis V. McDaniel High School Modernization

Frequently Asked Questions

Revised March 2021

Why is Madison/McDaniel getting a modernization?

A full modernization addresses all of the deficient systems and significantly renovates a school creating a healthy and resilient environment for learning. A fully modernized school will deliver highly efficient building systems; sustainable, clean and maintainable interior finishes; bright and healthy classrooms and public spaces: and be fully accessible (ADA) and compliant with all applicable building and safety codes. It will also be flexible, functional and focused on educational needs while accommodating desired community activities. This includes building changes that create flexible spaces for teaching and learning, and other improvements that support student achievement.

What are the highlights of the new design?

- **Cafeteria / Commons and Crossroads** - The McDaniel's Commons will serve as the heart of the new school and will act as a welcoming space at the main entrance on 82nd Ave. The Crossroads Atrium will connect all major wings of the building and all three classroom levels. These design features were key components that the citizen-based Design Advisory Group advocated for.
- **Science Wing** - Science labs will be consolidated near the front of the school and highlighted to serve as a shining example of the new school along with the main entrance commons.
- **Performing Arts** - A brand new, state-of-the-art music & theater facility will serve the school and local community.
- **Community Resources** - A child care center, public health clinic, and community food pantry will continue to serve the community.
- **Athletics Facilities** - An entirely new gym building will include a 1,700-seat main gym, auxiliary gym, weight room, wrestling/dance room and a new turf field for softball and baseball.
- **Career Technical Education CTE** - Students in the newly modernized school will have access to specialty labs for digital design, engineering, digital art, biomedical, sculpture, construction, computer science, and sustainable agriculture, in addition to a brand-new maker space.

Why was the school's name changed from James Madison to Leodis V. McDaniel High School?

At the July 14 Board of Education meeting, Portland Public Schools released a plan that lays out a procedure for renaming its buildings and other spaces. The move to reexamine district names comes in response to the continuing unrest across the country, including in Portland, in reaction to the systematic racism brought into public focus this summer. The effort to rename Madison came from the students themselves.

For several months, the Madison Renaming Committee engaged the school and larger communities through robust outreach efforts, gathered nearly 2,500 community comments, made hundreds of phone calls and spent countless hours in careful consideration of the most appropriate name that fits the school's (currently named) C.R.E.E.D (Community, Respect, Education, Equity, Diversity) values.

Leodis V. McDaniel, a Lincoln High School graduate, was a greatly respected, well-loved, and highly celebrated Portland community leader who gained an impeccable reputation as an administrator at Madison High School in the 1970s and 1980s. Prior to becoming principal at Madison. McDaniel was one of only a handful of Black High school principals in Oregon in the 1980s and was tasked with leading Madison through desegregation and busing. McDaniel embraced these challenges as he did all of his administrative duties with the singular purpose of fairness to all. He was well-known for his kind demeanor, contagious laugh, absolute integrity, and his instinctual ability to deeply connect with all people. McDaniel was wildly popular with students and staff while earning numerous awards and accolades from the many community organizations to which he contributed.

[For more information about renaming schools please visit the PPS Naming and Defining website here.](#)

What happens to McDaniel during Construction?

Because of the size and scope of construction, McDaniel is closed during the two-year construction period. The entire McDaniel community, staff and students have moved to Marshall Campus in SE Portland. Throughout the construction period, Marshall will be designated temporarily as McDaniel High School at the Marshall Campus.

Why was Marshall High selected as the temporary home for Franklin and McDaniel?

During the planning for the voter approved bond measure, the Marshall Campus was selected as the best site to act as the temporary home for schools under construction (Franklin, Grant, McDaniel and soon Benson). As a recently closed high school facility, Marshall has all the space and infrastructure needed to provide a temporary home for high school communities whose schools are being remodeled. Funding from the 2012 & 2017 Bond Program was specifically allocated to upgrade the Marshall Campus.

How long will McDaniel students be at the Marshall Campus?

McDaniel High School staff and students will be at Marshall High School from the beginning of the 2019-20 school year until the end of 2020-21 school year. Students are expected to return to the fully modernized McDaniel High School at the beginning of the school year in 2021.

How are McDaniel students getting to the Marshall Campus?

Many McDaniel Students will be able to use both private and free public transportation (TriMet) to reach the Marshall campus at 3905 SE 91st Ave. Portland Public Schools does not normally provide regular yellow school bus service to high schools in the District. However, students in certain neighborhoods with relatively long commute times are receiving some form of assistance from PPS Student Transportation. PPS has created a family advisory that describes transportation options to reach the Marshall campus in greater detail. [View the Madison Transportation to Marshall Family](#)

[Advisory](#) | [Español](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Русский](#) | [Soomaali](#) | [中文](#)

Also please visit the Transportation Department website for any information on COVID related impacts at <https://www.pps.net/Page/115>

How will students use TriMet to get to the Marshall Campus?

All McDaniel students are eligible for a free Portland Public Schools High School Student Transit Pass. The MAX Green line offers a very direct and efficient option to reach the temporary campus. To learn more about MAX and bus routes for your trip to the Marshall Campus check out the TriMet schedule page: <http://trimet.org/schedules/index.htm> or, if you're looking for the right TriMet app for your mobile device, go here: <http://trimet.org/apps/index.htm> The Student Transit Pass program is a partnership among TriMet, the school district and the City of Portland.

Will buses be provided for some evening and extracurricular activities?

The Student Transportation Department is working closely with McDaniel administration to provide limited bus service to certain neighborhoods after the conclusion of activities and sports in the evenings.

Why would some school buildings be modernized rather than replaced?

The decision to fully modernize or completely replace a school building depends on its age, historic significance, condition, deficiencies and size and programmatic space needs. PPS has many historic neighborhood schools. Historic buildings are being rehabilitated through the School Building Improvement Bond in a way that is consistent with the building's historical designations and building components, while providing up-to-date teaching and learning environments and more durable, sustainable finishes. Teachers, staff and families are involved in planning to help preserve the unique aspects of each school and its integration into the surrounding community.

What is the impact of construction on the surrounding neighborhood?

To learn more about the impacts of construction please [View the Madison Construction Impact fact sheet](#) | [Español](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Русский](#) | [Soomaali](#) | [中文](#)

How did community members, students, teachers and families have input on the new design of McDaniel High School?

McDaniel High School was designed through an extensive community engagement process that included obtaining input from teachers and school staff stakeholders, the McDaniel Design Advisory Group as well as students, families, neighbors, and service providers.

Although the school district has common educational goals and design guidelines, each school has a unique community. Particular factors might include: partnership opportunities, services to be offered to students, historical significance of the building and community use of the school facilities.

A Design Advisory Group (DAG) was formed for the McDaniel High School modernization project. The Design Advisory Group consisted of parents, teachers, students, alumni, service providers, and the community. The DAG was engaged in master planning and design through design development providing feedback to the design team and facilitating outreach to the broader community.

In addition to the DAG, the McDaniel High school staff working in the building – including principals, teachers, aides, secretaries, nutrition workers and custodians – were a targeted resource to the design process. They provided the design team with unique insights since they know the operations of the school, the students who learn there and the opportunities that exist for improvement.

How did Design Workshops offer community members an opportunity for input?

Both Master Planning and Schematic Design workshops were held at formerly Madison now McDaniel High. These workshops were followed by Open Houses where the preferred master and schematic design plans were presented to the community. These open meetings gave members of the community an opportunity to directly engage with the Design Team in defining a collective vision for their school.

People were able to share their thoughts and ideas on: What should the future McDaniel look and feel like? What parts of the building and campus work well? What parts don't? How can McDaniel better support its students and families? These sessions were designed to allow everyone to equally contribute their unique perspectives, priorities, ideas and comments.

Who are the Design and Construction Teams?

[Opsis Architecture](#) has designed a number of innovative k-12 schools with a specific emphasis on STE(A)M education. To create an atmosphere of connectivity and inclusivity, Opsis has collaborated with DAO Architecture for additional perspective to the engagement and design process—DAO is a small, highly qualified, MWESB-certified firm. It is important to Opsis to include a team that represents the diversity and inclusiveness of Madison High School. [The Opsis | DAO](#) team is looking forward to transforming McDaniel High School into a true 21st century learning environment and vibrant center for its thriving diverse, multicultural, and multi-ethnic community.

Portland based [Fortis Construction, Inc.](#) is the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) for the McDaniel modernization project. Founded in 2003, Fortis is an employee owned company dedicated to building educational facilities across Oregon. The Fortis team is honored to be a part of this community changing project and the impact it will have on generations of students to come.

How do I learn more about the project?

For more information please join our mailing list email: schoolmodernization@pps.net. Visit our Bond Program website : www.pps.net/bond or the McDaniel Project website <https://www.pps.net/Page/1840>