

DLS NAVIGATOR

Helping the DLS community navigate the journey from one school to two



DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL

COMMITTEE

Updates & Reports

Transportation

What is the final transportation plan heading into choice?

At this point, the plan is to have direct busing from Stapleton and Park Hill pickup locations to DLS West and DLS East. We are working on details with DPS. DPS has modeling software that can be used to find the optimal bussing solution.

We also currently plan to purchase a shuttle bus. There is money in the budget to make this purchase. The plan is to bus from DLS East to DLS West in the morning and then back from DLS West to DLS East in the afternoon. We may also provide other bussing options between campuses. That is to-be-determined.

Both campuses will open at 7:20am allowing parents to drop at both locations in one morning, if needed.

After School Care

What is the final after school care plan heading into choice?

All Q&A Edition

With choice coming up at the end of the month, we have decided to do an all “Question and Answer” Edition of the DLS Navigator. With various events at DLS West, plus with many folks finalizing decisions, some key questions have emerged. As with all cases, these are questions from parents or faculty.

Question:

What has the faculty response been to the two-campus move?

Answer:

In general, faculty and staff have been excited about the growth of the school. Two campuses open up various educational possibilities, including collaboration, all-school assemblies, and more space at DLS West.



Question:

How will the DLS West campus be improved?

Answer:

The church has committed \$1 million dollars to improving the campus. This money resulted from a property sale finalized in December. Improvements include a soccer field, a playground, new windows, kitchen upgrades, HVAC work, and an elevator. DLS has the ability on their own to paint and make other aesthetic improvements. We will be spending much of the summer working on making DLS West the best possible learning environment for our students.

Updates & Reports (cont. from page 1)

We are working with Kaleidoscope to provide the same after school care at DLS West as currently at DLS East. This is an ongoing process, and we will share updates.

Leadership Structure

What is the final leadership structure?

As Principal of our entire school, Kathy will split her time fairly (proportionally) between both campuses. She will create a schedule for herself and her administrative team to ensure the right amount of support on a daily basis. She is also leading a search to hire an operations expert to help at both campuses next year. This operations hire will have experience as an administrator, preferably at a public school, and preferably middle school-experience as well. Kathy is finalizing the hiring of a project manager to help with some of the added responsibilities of the two-campus transition.

Curriculum

What will the curriculum be like at the DLS West campus?

It will be the same high quality immersion education already offered at the DLS East campus. We will offer specials, we will use the same materials and educational approaches, and our students will continue to excel. All efforts will focus on maximizing language learning in all modes: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. This move gives us the space to add more instructional activities on both campuses.

Contact Information

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Board Q&A (Continued)

Question:

How do we know the campus is safe and secure?

Answer:

The facility has met multiple DPS inspections for safety. During school hours, doors are locked, and people can only enter the school portion of the facility after being buzzed in using a similar structure to that currently at DLS.



Question:

Some of the classrooms are windowless. How will the curriculum be adapted in response to this?

Answer:

The kindergarteners will not be spending their entire day in their main classroom. They will be upstairs for specials and lunch and outdoors for recess. Kathy is also working with teachers to incorporate variety in the use of outdoor and indoor spaces with all classes, including our kindergartners. The plan is that, after this first year, the kindergarten classrooms will move to exterior rooms as more space in the building becomes available.

Question:

What will drop-off and pick-up look like?

Answer:

The short answer is we still need to finalize details. The longer answer is we will come up the best possible solution for our community. We have seen the plans used by previous schools and will adapt them to our needs.