

## FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION FAQ

Gilbert Schools is excited about the future of the district. With 83 percent community support for our bond referendum in November of 2023, we are thrilled to be moving forward with new facilities throughout the district.

Construction on several projects is scheduled to begin in the near future. To keep our stakeholders and community members up to date, Gilbert Schools has put together a Frequently Asked Questions document pertaining to the construction process and we will continue to add information to this document as needed. This information, as well as other construction updates, can be found on our website at the following address: <https://gilbertcsd.org/district/bond/>.

### New Middle School Secure Entrance

#### Project Description

At Gilbert, safety will always be a top priority. As part of our master planning and referendum efforts, we are implementing a new and improved secured entry project at the middle school. This project involves adding approximately 850 square feet of space adjacent to the main entry double doors. Once this project is complete, visitors will be funneled into the main office before entering the school premises, enhancing security. The additional space will also provide more administrative office space.

#### Schedule

- ❖ This project has been bid out and is moving forward. Expect to see fencing and construction mobilization starting later this spring. Heavy construction activities will take place over the summer and we anticipate this project to be completed in the fall of 2024.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Where will students and visitors enter during construction?

- ❖ While Gilbert Middle School's main entry is closed due to construction at the start of the year, our current plan is for students and visitors to enter through the athletic entrance located on the northwest side of the building. This entrance is located near the main middle school parking lot. We anticipate shifting back to the main entrance sometime in early October.

Will this cause any delay to the start of the school year at the middle school?

- ❖ No, this will not cause a delay to the start of school for middle school students.

What will the new secured entry look like?

- ❖ Plans for the new middle school secured entry have been finalized. Renderings of the building's exterior can be found by visiting our website at the following link: <https://gilbertcsd.org/district/bond/>.



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## New Middle School Track Project

### Project Description

A new practice track is planned in the large grass field northwest of the middle school. Currently, the track at the intermediate school has aged beyond repair and will therefore be removed to prepare for future projects at the intermediate school. The new track will offer our middle school students a new area for athletics and physical education.

### Schedule

This project is planned to be bid out this summer. We anticipate this project will start in the fall of 2024. A completion date has not been established at this time.

### Frequently Asked Questions

How many lanes will be on the new middle school track?

- ❖ At this time, the new track is planned to be a 6-lane practice track.

Will this new track be used for competitions/meets?

- ❖ This new track will be used for practices only. Home middle school meets will continue to be held at Tiger Stadium.

Will lights and bleachers be installed around the new middle school track?

- ❖ Because this new track will be used for practices only, at this time there is no plan to install lights and bleachers. In the future, these upgrades could be made if deemed necessary.

How will the infield of the new track be utilized?

- ❖ The new track will have a grass infield that can be used for middle school and high school practices, as well as physical education classes, and youth and community recreational activities.



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## New Gilbert Elementary School

### Project Description

We are proud to provide high-quality instruction and facilities for Gilbert's PK-2 students. Our new 72,000sf elementary building will provide a neighborhood classroom feel for each grade level with a focus on student and educator collaboration. We understand pick-up and drop-off can be cumbersome, which is why we are extending the parking lot and adding a longer car drop-off/pick-up lane in addition to incorporating a completely separate bus lane.

### Tentative Schedule

- ❖ We plan on breaking ground in August 2024 with construction progressing to meet the target completion date of May 2026.
- ❖ Students will occupy the current elementary building through the end of the 2025-26 school year. They will then occupy the new building starting in the fall of 2026.
- ❖ Because demolition of the existing elementary school cannot begin until early June 2026, there will still be construction activity to finish site improvements and the bus lane through the fall of 2026. We understand this may cause some short-term obstacles, but we will work diligently to complete this project as soon as possible with minimal disruptions.

### Frequently Asked Questions

How was the location of the new elementary school determined?

- ❖ Based on feedback from stakeholders and community members, there was a strong desire to see Gilbert Elementary remain a neighborhood school. Several options were considered, but because Gilbert Schools already owned the land directly behind the current elementary, we felt this was the ideal location for the new building.

What will the new elementary school look like?

- ❖ Currently, plans are in the process of being finalized. Renderings of the building's exterior and a classroom neighborhood can be found by visiting our website at the following address: <https://gilbertcsd.org/district/bond/>. In the future, we plan to add video renderings as well.

What will happen to the current elementary school?

- ❖ Students will occupy the current elementary school until May 2026. When school is out for the summer, demolition will quickly begin to start the last phase of construction of the new bus loop.



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Will there be disruptions to school during the construction process?

- ❖ Instruction at the elementary school will continue throughout the construction process as planned. There may be minor disruptions, but the goal is to limit them as much as possible.

Will the walking trail be disrupted during construction?

- ❖ No, the plan is to have a full perimeter construction fence around the construction area that will not include the walking trail.

Will there be noise during construction?

- ❖ Yes, there will be general construction noise throughout the project's duration. If there will be periods of known excessive noise, the surrounding homeowners will be notified.

Will there be disruptions to the bus drop-off and parent pick-up lane during the construction phase?

- ❖ Our goal is to limit disruption to the bus lane and parent pick-up lane as much as possible. If disruption has to occur, the school district will communicate with parents in advance of the disruption.

How will the new construction impact youth sports and recreation?

- ❖ There won't be any negative impact on youth sports and recreation for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. However, beginning in the fall of 2024, a youth soccer field that is currently located on school property will no longer be accessible. Additionally, two youth softball fields that are also on school property will need to be removed due to the new building's footprint. Gilbert CSD is currently working with Gilbert Youth Sports and the Gilbert Soccer Club to relocate some of the activities to other areas on school property.

What will happen to Slide Mountain and the current playground?

- ❖ Slide Mountain will remain in its current location. We are in the beginning stages of working with architects to make much-needed improvements to the structure that has been a community favorite for so many years.
- ❖ A new preschool playground is planned to be constructed as well as upgrades and improvements to the current playground.

Will Kids Club continue to operate at the elementary school?

- ❖ During construction, Kids Club for K-2 students will continue to operate inside the elementary building, utilizing the gymnasium and commons area.
- ❖ During the summer months of 2024-26, Kids Club for K-2 students will relocate to the intermediate building.
- ❖ Once construction is complete, Kids Club for K-2 students will be housed inside the new elementary building.



# COMING SOON: GILBERT SCHOOLS





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Gilbert Middle School Entrance