

**HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL**

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Principal Steve Guerrero

Motto: Mens sana in corpore sano (A sound mind in a healthy body.)

May 24, 2017

Austin High School Parents and Students:

With the school year winding down, I wanted to take a moment to update you on some changes for the coming school year and share some great news.

As you know, HISD is rebuilding Austin High School as part of the 2012 Bond Program. After spending the last couple years in planning and design phases, we're finally ready to begin moving toward the final and most exciting phase — construction.

This is an exciting time for the Austin community, and it marks the beginning of what will be a new era for our students. Once our new school is complete, we will have a state-of-the-art, modern learning environment that enhances our academic and career training programs and inspires community pride and student success.

Of course, there are some logistical challenges that accompany the construction process. To ensure the safety of all students and staff during construction, our school will be relocated to a temporary campus directly behind our current building.

You will see the temporary campus made up of modular buildings begin to take shape along South Lockwood Drive as construction begins later this summer. It will formally open to students in January 2018, when we return from winter break. The move will not impact our fall 2017 semester. We will start the 2017-2018 school year, as usual, in our current building.

While it is exciting to be moving forward, I understand you may have questions. Attached to this letter is an FAQ that will provide you with additional information. I encourage you to review it.

Rest assured that our primary focus throughout this process will be the safety of our students and the continuity of our academic and athletic programs. Our goal is to ensure school continues every day, as normal.

I know change is never easy, even when it's temporary — and just across the street. But I hope that you will remember that this puts us one step closer to our ultimate prize — a beautiful, new, 21st Century learning environment that will inspire Mustang pride for decades to come.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our school office at 713-924-1600.

Sincerely,



Steve Guerrero, Principal
Austin High School

Austin High School: Construction Transition Plans

FAQ

CONSTRUCTION/LOGISTICS

What is happening? Why?

Austin High School students and staff are relocating to a temporary campus located just northwest of the current school to allow for construction of our new building, which is part of the 2012 Bond Program. The planning and design processes for our new building are complete, and construction is slated to begin in early 2018. We must relocate prior to the state of construction to ensure student and staff safety.

Where exactly will the temporary campus be located?

The temporary campus will be located at the rear of our campus, directly across South Lockwood Drive from the current Austin High School building. You will see the campus begin to take shape along South Lockwood Drive as construction on the temporary campus begins in July 2017.

What does the temporary campus look like?

The temporary campus will be made up of modular classroom buildings, similar to charter schools in our neighborhood. We will retain access to the track, field house and ROTC buildings throughout most of the construction process. (See attached site plan.)

When are we moving to the temporary campus?

We will start the 2017-2018 school year in our current school, but we will transition to the temporary campus over winter break. When students return for class on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, they will report to the temporary campus. Detailed information about the transition, including floor plans and classroom locations, will be provided to students during the fall semester, as we get closer to the move-in date.

Will we have to go to a different HISD campus?

No. We will not go to a different HISD campus. We will remain in the East End. Our temporary campus is located directly adjacent to our current school, which should alleviate any potential transportation issues.

How long will we be on the temporary campus? When will our new school be complete?

We expect to remain on the temporary campus throughout the duration of the construction of the new Austin High School. The new building is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2019.

Why was this option selected? Were there other options?

District and school administrators looked at a variety of alternatives before recommending this transition plan. After a thorough review, this option was selected as the best solution for our school community. In addition to being the least disruptive, this option also best suits our space requirements and building budget while also allowing us to keep our focus on student safety.

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Austin High School: Construction Transition Plans

FAQ

ACADEMICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

How will academic programming be impacted? Will this move limit course options?

All academic and career courses and training programs currently offered at Austin High School — including ROTC and the maritime program — will be offered at our temporary campus.

How will this plan impact my student's academic achievement?

Though our location will change temporarily, we still we have the same teachers, same programs, same students, and same level of academics. As a result, we do not expect this location change to impact students' academic achievement.

How will athletics be impacted?

Austin High School will continue to offer all teams and activities currently offered. In fact, the school is in the process of expanding some sports teams.

SAFETY & PARKING

Will my child be safe?

Yes. The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. Our temporary campus will be made up of multi-classroom modular buildings equipped with restrooms, security cameras and administrative offices. The temporary campus also will be securely fenced and gated, just as our campus is now. Also, we will continue to have an HISD Police officer assigned to our campus.

Will enough parking be available?

Yes. Current teacher and student parking lots still will be available. We also are constructing a new 89-space parking lot next to the temporary campus.

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