



# EDUCATION matters

## VOTE

Tuesday  
December 11, 2018  
1-9 p.m.

Middle School Cafeteria

**VOTER QUALIFICATIONS:** All voters must be United States citizens, age 18 or older on Election Day. Voters must be residents of the Cairo-Durham Central School District for 30 days immediately prior to Election day and registered to vote.

**VOTER REGISTRATION:** Voter registration is required. Voters can register to vote with the Greene County Board of Elections, or with the District on Thursday, November 29, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the District Office. You are registered to vote if you have voted in the Cairo-Durham CSD election in the past four years.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Residents who will be unable to vote in person can vote by absentee ballot. You can obtain an absentee ballot by completing an application in the District Clerk's office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on December 11, 2018.

Call 518-622-8534, ext. 25010 for more information.

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## Looking to the Future with Capital Project Proposal

The Cairo-Durham Central School District is looking to the future with its proposed capital improvement project. If approved by voters, the project would bring 21st century enhancements to the District's academic programs, facilities, security and more.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, December 11th, from 1 to 9 p.m. in the Cairo-Durham Middle School cafeteria.

The proposed project was developed based upon feedback from staff, students and community members who participated in forums held throughout the 2017-18 school year. Using collected input, the District collaborated with multiple stakeholder groups to develop a shared vision for its facilities and define the project scope. The resulting \$28.9 million project was designed to benefit all Cairo-Durham students as well as the surrounding community.

The main goals of the capital project are to enhance the Cairo-Durham educational experience and promote college- and career-readiness. It aims to strengthen academic programs by modernizing outdated instructional spaces so they reflect college and work environments.

The project includes upgrades and maintenance at all school buildings, such as air conditioning and additional parking at the Elementary School, as well as athletic field repair and asphalt replacement at the Middle/High School. These and other priority items were identified as areas most in need of

maintenance and repair, based on recommendations from the mandatory 5-year Building Condition Survey performed in 2015 (see pg. 2).

At the Durham School, a garage/workshop area would be constructed to support career and technical education programs.

The remaining scope of work focuses primarily on Cairo-Durham Middle/High School and includes enhancements to building security, the learning environment, academic programs, and spaces to benefit the community (read more inside).

"The development of this project was driven by our focus on the future," said Anthony Taibi, Superintendent of Schools. "We need to provide the types of programs and educational environments our future graduates will need to flourish in a global society. It is important that we place value on creating an environment where meaningful relationships are cultivated, an open culture of collaboration is embraced and learning thrives."

The cost of the project subject to voter approval is \$28,935,000. Approximately 64.2% of the cost would be eligible for state building aid reimbursement. Taxpayers would be responsible for the remaining portion. The estimated tax levy increase associated with this project is not to exceed two percent.

For more information about the project, estimated tax impact, and how to vote, visit [www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject](http://www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject).



The front of Cairo-Durham Middle/High School would be built to resemble a college campus or community center. The preliminary architect rendering shown above is one example of what the exterior could look like. To see more draft designs, visit [www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject](http://www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject).



# CAIRO-DURHAM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**A Layout for Community & Security:** The front of CDMS/HS would be reconfigured to maximize convenience, security, and the existing connection of the schools. The main offices would be combined to create a single, more secure point of entry. All visitors would sign in and access the schools through one centrally-located entrance.

Additionally, many services used by students and their families would be centralized. Currently, many shared school services—such as Guidance, Registration and the Nurse—are spread throughout CDMS/HS. The project would centralize these services, making them more convenient and accessible for all students as well as parents or families coming to the school.

One goal of the project is to restructure the CDMS/HS campus so it is more useful to the community as well as students and staff. The plan includes a new state-of-the-art Media Center and a Fitness Center, both of which would be available for community use outside of school hours.

The Media Center would be built at the front of the building to allow for public access to meeting spaces and Board of Education meetings. Other upgrades include new furniture, new equipment, collaborative work areas and a makerspace.

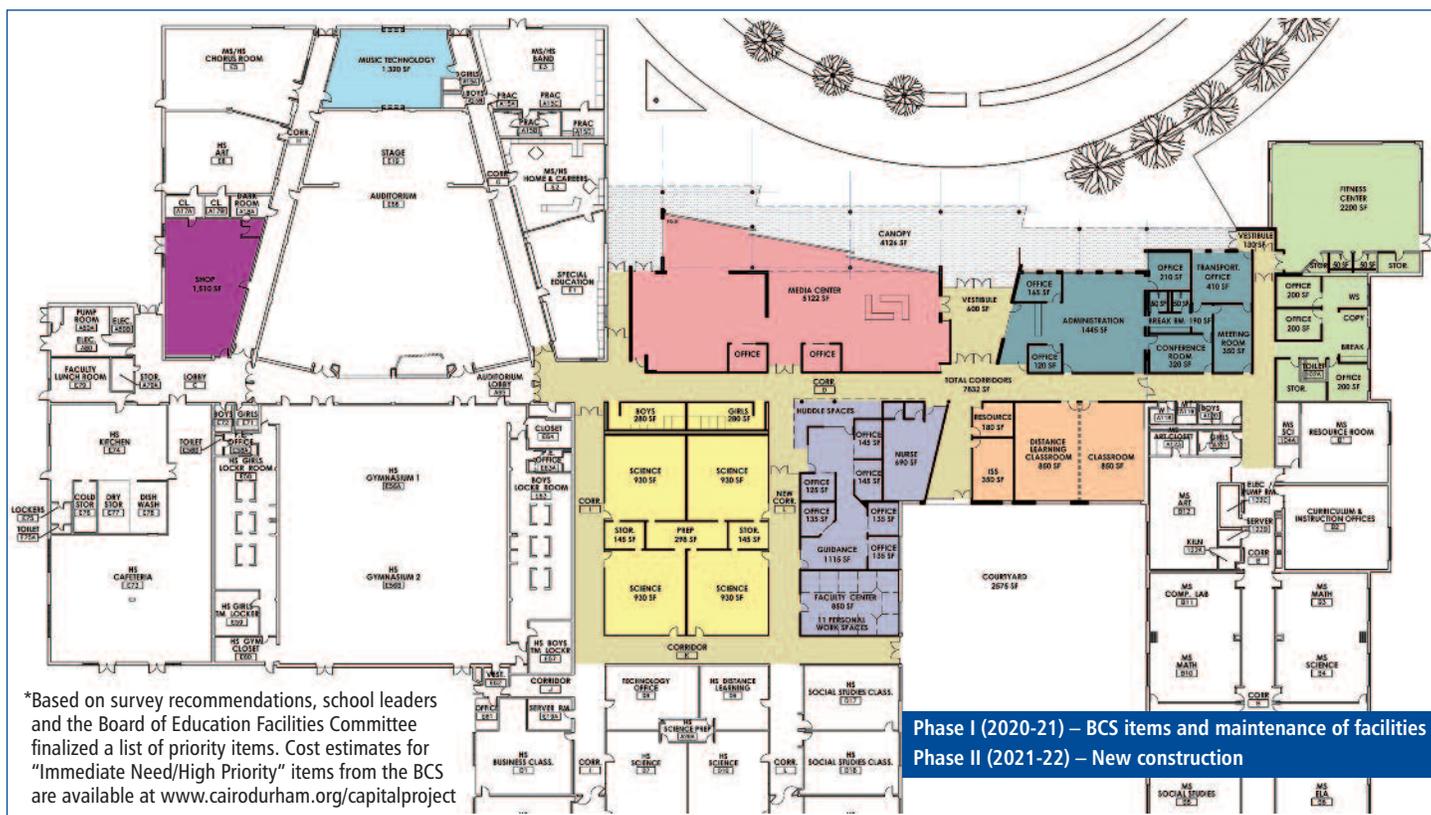
The Fitness Center would also benefit students and our Physical Education curriculum. It would replace the current middle school cafeteria. As a result, all CDMS/HS students would use the existing high school cafeteria, which was renovated in 2016 and equipped to support Grades 6-12 (based on enrollment data).

**Building Condition Survey:** Based on the 2015 BCS findings, the proposed project includes repair and maintenance work throughout the district totaling approximately \$4.4 million.\* Several priority items were addressed in a smaller capital project completed in 2016, such as a new playground and a single point of entry at Cairo-Durham Elementary. The current proposal includes the remaining BCS items:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Accessibility needs (e.g., Nurse's office, stage access)</li> <li>➤ Additional parking</li> <li>➤ Fire alarm system upgrades</li> <li>➤ Restroom and drinking fountain renovations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Replace asphalt in parking lots/driveway</li> <li>➤ Regrade soccer field and improve drainage</li> <li>➤ Resurface existing track &amp; relocate field events</li> <li>➤ New well and 200 KW generator to better support essential building functions</li> </ul>

**Improved Athletic Facilities:** Improvements to athletic facilities are included in the proposal, as recommended by the BCS. To prevent field flooding, which often leads to the cancellation of home games, the soccer field would be regraded to improve drainage. The track would be resurfaced and areas for field events would be relocated to allow adequate space for the soccer and football field.

"We've never had a home game at our school," said Nick Petulla, a senior football player. "To be able to play at our own school and have our own Homecoming would be a great feeling." Spectator seating and walkways are also being considered.



\*Based on survey recommendations, school leaders and the Board of Education Facilities Committee finalized a list of priority items. Cost estimates for "Immediate Need/High Priority" items from the BCS are available at [www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject](http://www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject)

# Transforming the Learning Environment for All Students

*The proposed project aims to transform the learning environment at all three Cairo-Durham school buildings. Enhancements would be made to support current academic programming and improve the physical learning environment. Current elementary students would be among the first to fully benefit from these enhancements.*

**Elementary School.** At CDE, air conditioning would be installed throughout the building to help maintain a productive learning environment during warmer months. On hot days, second-floor classrooms can reach temperatures over 90 degrees. A cooling system would alleviate some of the challenges associated with high classroom temperatures, such as physical symptoms related to heat and decreased student interest and alertness. Also, the likelihood of emergency closings due to excessive heat would be reduced, potentially saving hours of valuable instructional time each year.

**Durham Building.** The project would construct a large garage and workshop area at the Durham Building. This customized area would support career and technical education programs, such as Questar III's Heavy Equipment Operation & Maintenance program currently housed at Durham. If approved, this work would be dependent on the continued partnership with Questar III BOCES and would be budget neutral due to revenue received from our program partner.

**Middle/High School.** Many spaces would be updated or reconfigured to reflect college and work environments. This includes renovations to some high school classrooms, as well as new spaces to better support the District's mission of creating multiple learning pathways that empower all students.

## Renovations for the Future

To best prepare our graduates for successful careers, the proposed project includes renovations at CDMS/HS aimed at strengthening academic programs and improving the educational environment.

Outdated, deteriorating Science labs that are original to the 1976 building would be replaced. The goal is to provide students with better facilities and equipment that are in line with current educational, technological and safety standards. The project would build updated high school Science classrooms with new equipment to meet current standards, such as wash stations, hazard hoods and adequate chemical storage.

An outdated and inadequate Technology classroom at CDHS would be renovated to better suit the needs of Woodshop, Technology and Art courses (such as Sculpture). This would include upgraded equipment and an improved ventilation system, which would allow students to complete projects in a single workspace and not have to transport materials from a separate Technology room across campus.

**"Science, Technology and the Arts are some of the fastest growing fields, and we need to provide our students with current, cutting edge facilities for those subjects,"** said Mark Criswell, an Industrial and Visual Arts teacher. **"Some of our spaces for these subjects are more than 40 years old."**

Space behind the auditorium would also be renovated to serve the needs of our Music Technology curriculum, video production, and other Music and Visual Arts programs.

## Cultivating Collaboration

The ability to collaborate with peers is considered a top skill students will need to be successful in the workplace. Therefore, the project would create more collaborative learning spaces throughout CDMS/HS to foster skills such as complex problem-solving, active listening and coordinating with others. Examples include small group



*Many Science classrooms at CDHS are original to the 1976 building and function with inadequate equipment. For example, one lab has unusable storage cabinets, only one working sink, and deteriorating lab tables. The project would provide students with the appropriate classroom environment to seamlessly transition between lecture and collaborative STEM activities.*

spaces and a large group instruction area that would also support the growing Distance Learning program, providing students with more opportunities to collaborate with peers in school and online.

"Huddle spaces," or common areas with group seating, would also be added to create comfortable, informal learning spaces where students and teachers can collaborate on projects and complete group work independent from the classroom.



**CAIRO-DURHAM**  
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Produced by Questar III Communications Service



### **Project At A Glance**

- Classroom Renovations
- Centralized Offices/Services
- Modern Educational Environment
- More Useful Athletic Facilities
- Safety & Security
- Community Spaces

### **For more information:**

- Project Q & A with Superintendent Taibi on **November 27th & 29th** (CDE)
- Visit [www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject](http://www.cairodurham.org/capitalproject)

#### **Tax Impact = 2.00%**

Tax Rate Impact = 0.3375 cents per \$1,000 assessed value

Equal to \$33.75 annually on a home assessed at \$100,000

Equal to \$67.50 annually on a home assessed at \$200,000

*The project would renovate some high school classrooms to provide modern facilities and better support our Science, Technology, and Art programs.*