

KENT COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE LOCATION MEETING

September 6, 2023



KENT COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
LOCATION EVALUATION
 September 6, 2023

Step 1: Assign a Weight to each Locational Factor

Relative Importance	Weight
Extremely low importance	1
Low importance	2
Neutral	3
High importance	4
Extremely high importance	5

LOCATIONAL FACTOR	WEIGHT
ACADEMIC – Students	
Core Academics	5
Non-Core Activities	4
Student Support	5
ACADEMIC - Faculty	2
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	5
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	4
COMMUNITY	2
OTHER	
Facility & Facility Operations	3
General Perceptions	

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Step 2: Assign a Rating to each Location Factor

RATINGS: Site has a:	
Very negative influence	-4
A negative influence	-2
No influence, or balanced influence	0
A positive influence	2
Very positive influence	4

CHESTERTOWN SITE		WEIGHT	RATING	SCORE
PROS	CONS			
ACADEMIC – Students				
Core Academics		5	4	20
Opportunity for walking field trips to Sultana, rise, waterfront, Wilmer Park, public library, Washington College, hospital etc.				
WAC teacher pathway opportunities				
Chester River: Natural habitats for environmental studies.				
Ability to collaborate with WAC Center for Environment and Society, Student teaching, Tutors, Athletics				
Non-Core Activities		4	4	16
Chester River: Natural habitats, recreation opportunities (canoeing, kayaking, etc.)	Middle-school-students unable to access CTE-programming during school year.			
Increase access to WAC student volunteers that can walk to the Chestertown site.				
Easier access for volunteers from county's largest employers (Dixon, WC, Lamotte)				
Access to Businesses in downtown Chestertown including WAC and Hospital.				
Student Support		5	4	20
Ability to collaborate with WAC Center for Environment and Society, Student teaching, Tutors, Athletics				
ACADEMIC - Faculty		2	0	0
	Will miss out on collaborating more closely with KCHS for curriculum articulation.			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		5	4	20
Greater access to after school programs at YMCA, etc. within walking distance	Small site may restrict physical education opportunities.			
Use/access of their own sports fields on Chestertown campus				
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT		4	4	16
Separate ownership and identity from KCHS, allowing middle school students to be middle school students and not engaged with high school students	8th grade unable to participate in some clubs and extracurricular activities during the school year.			
Avoids inappropriate age mixing.	Specialists who provide services at middle and high school lose contact time in transit.			
Graduation marks major transition from middle school to high school by change of venue.	Concerns about childrens' safety during construction.			

COMMUNITY		2	0	0
Community feel and pride for greater Chestertown area with school-community partnership and shared uses	Town is too congested (survey)			
Increased economic viability and vitality for Chestertown which will increase school revenue (existing properties, etc.)				
Demo of vacant school building in Chestertown, no left over vacant building in the town.				
Better connectivity between school and surrounding neighborhood for increase outreach opportunities for students.				
Positive impact on economic development of Chestertown and of County as a whole				
Relocating out of town will increase gentrification and inequity (survey)				
Reduce neighborhood blight (survey)				
Will attract families with walkers (survey)				
OTHER				
Facility & Facility Operations		3	3	9
Protects land and possible campus expansion at Worton campus for KCHS.	Some disruption to existing middle school program during construction (noise, dust, distraction).			
Less congestion during drop off and pick up with a separate location from KCHS. Better for administration with logistics.	Current site is too small (survey)			
Safety:	Site lacks parking, difficult to access (survey)			
Sidewalk etc. in place for safety with walking trips.				
Increased safety and security; more accessible for daily police patrol, faster response by EMS and FD, adjacent to hospital				
Lower volume of high speed traffic and more walkable community				
More pedestrian and bicycle friendly site.				
General Perceptions				
Greater access to the Choptank community health center in Chestertown				
Also increase employment opportunities within walking distance of the school. Closer to industry and career placement opportunities in Chestertown (using the community as a classroom)				
No clear financial efficiencies/savings to move the location (transportation)				
				101

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Step 2: Assign a Rating to each Location Factor

Site has a:	
Very negative influence	-4
A negative influence	-2
No influence, or balanced influence	0
A positive influence	2
Very positive influence	4

WORTON SITE		WEIGHT	RATING	SCORE
PROS	CONS			
ACADEMIC – Students				
Core Academics		5	2	10
MS and HS shared campus will provide the opportunity to expose students to:	Schedule: Conflicting schedules may mean middle school students will not be able to access high school programming.			
College and career pathways in earlier grades.				
Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs for MS students.				
Advanced classes (language, math, computer skills, etc), (as age and skill level permit).				
Streams, wetlands, meadows, etc. for environmental education.				
Agricultural activities (join FFA)				
General sharing of resources: academic, other (survey)				
Non-Core Activities		4	4	16
Participation in band, chorus, theater, some clubs (as age and skill level permit).				
Use of high school Planetarium, other facilities when not in use by high school students				
MakerSpace (students are currently bussed from KCMS to KCHS)				
Student Support		5	3	15
Opportunity to provide structured programs, such as Big Sister, Little Sister, KCHS high schoolers mentoring KCMS middle school students, helping them with academic Peer mentoring programs.	Decreased access to WAC student volunteers who can walk to the Chestertown site.			
Easy access for all students, with no transportation barriers.				
Specialist teachers and counselors sharing time more effectively and efficiently between school populations.				
ACADEMIC - Faculty		2	0	0
Sharing resources: Easy access to shared staff opportunities and easy access to shared teachers, substitutes and support personnel.				
Professional development: Easy access to shared professional development for both KCHS and KCMS staff, before, during, and after the school day				
Continuity: MS and HS teachers and counselors can collaborate across the schools to: Ensure curriculum and expectations are aligned. Identify students who may need extra support.				
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		5	-4	-20
Access and exposure to high school athletics for MS-students.	Will need to share some outdoor fields with KCHS, possibly limiting access (HS sports and athletics are likely to have priority)			
Use of high school physical education facilities and equipment (e.g. weights, track).	Distance from on-site outdoor physical education facilities, even when available (lost instructional time).			
Access to Kent County Parks and Recreation Community Center building and fields. After School programs available at the Community Center (fields, gym, pool, recreation)				

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT		4	0	0
Opportunity for high schoolers to mentor KCMS middle school students, helping them with social challenges; future teachers observe middle schoolers	Difficult for rmiddle school to maintain separate identity			
Offers middle school students more time to learn and internalize aspects of the KCHS school culture and expectations earlier, facilitating the transition to high school.	Less walkable community activities, no sidewalks			
Students gain familiarity with venue, staff, older students.	Potential for inappropriate mixing of age groups in buses and on-site.			
More outdoor area; more beautiful (survey)				
Students not displaced or disrupted during construction (survey)				
COMMUNITY		2	0	0
Vacant Chestertown site provides opportunities for development (housing, WC, hospital, park).	Leftover vacant building in Chestertown.			
More central location for entire county (survey)	Lack of environmental planning in Worton (survey)			
Older students can drive younger siblings (survey)				
Beneficial to parents who have children in middle and high school (survey)				
More equitable, benefits more families (survey)				
Less congestion (survey)				
OTHER				
Facility & Facility Operations		3	-2	-6
KCHS is the HUB for the KCPS network. Being on the same campus would offer network redundancy in an outage as well as reducing operating costs for fiber runs.	Not be within walking distance of WAC and downtown businesses (increased transportation costs)			
Reduced grounds maintenance costs.	More traffic and congestion possible, with increased traffic volume for arrival and dismissal adjacent to KCHS			
No disruption to middle school program during construction.	No overwhelming long-term financial gains to this location (transportation, etc.)			
Room for growth in future (survey)	Some disruption to high school program during construction (noise, dust, distraction).			
Easier to access by car (survey)	No chance that number of walkers will increase (survey)			
Beneficial for bus transportation (survey)	Giving up site in Chestertown (reducing flexibility)			
Utilizes Community Center more (survey)				
General Perceptions		0		0
Move children away from problems of town (survey)	Contrast of new MS will make old HS appear worse.			
Fresh learning environment (survey)	"like being in the same school for 7 years" (takes away the variety of making the transition to high school) (survey)			
More security (survey)				
		TOTAL:		15

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Step 3: Compare scores

LOCATIONAL FACTOR	CHESTERTOWN	WORTON
ACADEMIC – Students		
Core Academics	20	10
Non-Core Activities	16	16
Student Support	20	15
ACADEMIC - Faculty	0	0
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	20	-20
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	16	0
COMMUNITY	0	0
OTHER		
Facility & Facility Operations	9	-6
General Perceptions	0	0
TOTAL	101	15