



BOLD: Building better Opportunities for Learning in Decatur *FAQ for Parents*

Released: January 3, 2019

Parents/Students

Why are district leaders recommending combining schools with some school closures?

District leaders believe it is time to address our oldest and aging facilities so DPS#61 can invest our resources in support for programs that will better serve our students. To address building utilization, magnet school waitlists, and other capacity issues, the recommendation to combine and close schools will allow us to provide all of our students with an equitable learning experience no matter where they live and to create a more sustainable future for District #61.

Macon Piatt Special Education

Where will life and essential skills students attend for the 2019-2020 school year??

- Life skills RISE will attend Parsons Elementary School (3591 MacArthur Road 62526).
- Life skills classes will attend Enterprise Elementary School (2115 S. Taylor Road 62521). See facility timeline for future plans.
- Essential skills classes will attend Hope Academy (955 N. Illinois 62521).

Any questions or concerns please contact **Kathy Horath, Director of MPSED at 217-362-3053.**

Curriculum & Instruction

How will the consolidation of the two schools impact instruction?

- The curriculum will be a unique blend of the Daily 5 and International Baccalaureate programs that will benefit the learning experience for all students.
- The district will ensure classroom furniture and materials are made available to maintain consistency between classrooms at Hope Academy (ie. flexible seating).

Student Enrollment (Student Services)

I am a current Harris/Hope parent, do I have to apply to Hope Academy's magnet program for the 2019-2020 school year?

- Current Harris and Hope families who have children entering K-6th grades for the 2019-2020 school year DO NOT have to apply for the magnet status.
- Current Harris families with a student entering the seventh grade for the 2019-2020 school year WILL NEED TO APPLY for magnet status at Hope Academy.
Parents are REQUIRED to attend an orientation on one of the following dates:
January 7, 2019 at 5:30pm
January 14, 2019 at 10:00am or 3:30pm
January 28, 2019 at 10:00am or 3:30pm
- Current Hope families with an incoming seventh or eighth grader for the 2019-2020 school year will not have to apply for magnet status.
- Families with incoming students K-6th, NEW to Hope who lives in the boundary will not have to apply for magnet status.

Any questions or concerns about enrollment please contact **Heather Ethell, Interim Principal at Hope Academy at 217-362-3280.**