

# CV-9: An Overview



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## OUR MISSION

CV-9 is a structure centered on helping students find their path through intensive community-focused school, whose priorities are:

- connections
- students
- ensuring that stakeholders collaborate so all students exit its doors headed on the pathway to success.

# INTRODUCING

There's no denying that Cumberland Valley High School continues to grow. With more than 800 students entering as freshmen in the 2021-22 school year, the existing high school will become home to more than 3,000 students. To address this expected increase in students, Cumberland Valley School District has been developing a concept for a 9th-grade campus, called CV-9, at the former Good Hope Middle School. While the development of a ninth-grade only building provides an opportunity to lessen the size of the student body at CVHS, it more importantly provides the opportunity for the District to focus on the specific social and emotional needs and academic growth of 9th-grade students. We believe, by doing this, we can successfully create a better school experience for all of our students in grades 9-12.

*We're proud to introduce CV-9*, an academy that will bring ninth-grade students together into a small learning community during an important transitional year. This structured center will help students find their path through an intensive, community-focused school.

## **Why CV-9?**

Simply stated, ninth-grade performance is a predictor of academic success during a student's high school career. Research indicates a strong correlation between a student's GPA in ninth grade and their GPA in 11th grade and it's often difficult to recover from a challenging freshmen year.

CV-9 will have an intensive focus on both academics and social-emotional wellness, ensuring proper supports are in place during this important transitional year, allowing these students to see both themselves and others in the best light.

By building a small learning community in CV-9, we will be able to increase student engagement:

- through closer educator-to-peer relationships while allowing students to feel more comfortable in their academic settings.
- by eliminating many of the social distractions that take their minds off of school work.
- by providing them with more opportunities to become involved in school-related activities amongst their peer group.

Additionally, we are confident that CV-9 will help prevent student dropout by focusing on attendance, behavior, and course performance.

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## INTRODUCING CV-9 (continued)

### **Goals of CV-9:**

The goal of CV-9 is to create an emotionally healthy, socially inclusive, and academically supported first-year experience for our freshmen by placing a greater emphasis on successful and positive transitions for students as they graduate from one school to another.

The building will be designed in a manner that allows for a creative, flexible, and supportive schedule, with coursework offering core-content teamed classes and non-teamed electives. A mandatory seminar course will help students navigate the freedoms and responsibilities of high school, while focusing on successful completion of courses, early college and career exposure, goal setting, and academic advising, all to ensure students are on track throughout their high school career. The CV-9 Seminar will also address skill development to include executive function and organization, technology proficiency, critical analysis, and communication while incorporating many important social-emotional learning practices.

Throughout their CV-9 experience, we want students to recognize that they have a voice, too, and will ensure ways by which they may use their voices.

### **CV-9 Staffing:**

Connections with adult mentors play a major role in a child's life. Therefore, it is critical that CV-9 be comprised of a mix of dedicated and carefully-selected administrators, educators, and staff with a sole focus on social-emotional growth. Identification of key staff will serve as one of our first priorities upon approval of CV-9.

### **CV-9 transportation and participation in extra/co-curriculars:**

Transportation schedules across the district will be re-evaluated and modified as necessary to accommodate the inclusion of a ninth-grade academy. While we currently cannot tell you exactly how the schedule will look, we absolutely plan to utilize a direct-delivery system where freshmen will be picked up at their bus stop and transported directly to CV-9.

One of the considerations related to transportation schedules is to ensure we are able to accommodate ninth-grade participation in extracurricular and co-curricular sports, clubs, and activities.

# FINANCES + CONSTRUCTION



**Total estimated cost:** \$16.5 million | **Funding stream:** Bond issuance

- Total estimated cost includes general construction, design fees, network and technology equipment, custodial and food services equipment, classroom furnishings and fixtures, and educational materials, and more.



**Estimated additional operating cost:** \$1.9 million annually

- It is estimated that CV-9 will include approximately \$1.9 million in additional annual operating costs – \$912,000 in new staffing, \$600,000 in transportation costs, and \$388,000 in utilities, maintenance and custodial services, supplies, and educational equipment and associated supplies.



**Scope of project:**

- Renovations to the existing HVAC system.
- Upgrades to the life-safety equipment.
- Replacement of interior lighting and ceilings.
- Aesthetic upgrades to include painting, new furniture and fixtures, and the incorporation of multiple learning commons spaces.

In addition, CV-9 will become home to an independent learning commons for Cumberland Valley Virtual Academy. CVVA students will have stand-alone access to this drop-in educational center.



# OUR TIMELINE



**OCTOBER 2020**

- Presentations and discussion to Curriculum and Finance Committees of the Board of School Directors.
- October 19, 2020: Presentation and discussion at the Board of School Directors meeting.



**NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

- Recommend approval to the Board of School Directors to proceed with bids to renovate the former Good Hope Middle School into CV-9.



**NOV. 9 - DEC. 30, 2020**

- Awarding of contracts and mobilization of contractors.



**DECEMBER 2020**

- Identification of CV-9 leadership team, who will work over the coming months to develop the CV-9 program.



**JANUARY 1, 2021**

- Construction begins.



**JANUARY 2021 - SPRING**

- Identification of staff, completion of professional development, and hosting of student transitional programs.



**AUGUST 2021**

- August 15, 2021: Construction completed.
- August 15, 2021, until first day of school: Installation of furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.



**START OF 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR**

*CV-9 will officially open for the 2021-22 school year. Date to be determined.*



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