



## Crestwood SS Accommodation Planning Q & A

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### **What exactly is being proposed?**

A new intermediate school is being proposed at Crestwood Secondary School, to accommodate Grades 7-8 students from the following elementary schools:

- Kawartha Heights Public School
- Millbrook/South Cavan Public School
- North Cavan Public School
- Westmount Public School (English stream only)

Westmount's Grades 7-8 French Immersion students will attend Adam Scott Intermediate, and James Strath PS will remain a Kindergarten-Grade 8 school. All changes would be effective September 2020.

### **Why is this being proposed?**

New housing developments have increased student enrolment, putting pressure on existing elementary schools. Westmount PS, Millbrook/South Cavan PS and North Cavan PS are all operating over capacity, and James Strath PS is close to capacity. Further growth in those schools is expected in the next 10 years. There is no room to add portables at Westmount, and no funding to build an addition at any of the schools. Crestwood has space available, and moving Grades 7s-8s to a new intermediate school there makes better use of available space.

### **Why didn't the Board plan for this increase?**

KPR has been working closely with municipal planning departments for many years, and has been planning for the increase. The Board does own land in the west end of Peterborough, and has requested an option site in the Millbrook municipal development plan, as contingency for future increases. Growth rates to date and current provincial funding pressures, however, do not justify building a new school now.

### **How will space be shared at Crestwood between the intermediate and secondary students?**

As is the case at six other KPR schools already operating with Grades 7-12, the intermediate school will have a separate wing at Crestwood. Intermediate students will have dedicated washrooms just for them.

### **How will students be protected from negative interactions with older high school students?**

There is limited interaction between the intermediate and high school students. Intermediate students follow a different class schedule and take their lunch and break at different times than the high school.

### **What spaces will be shared?**

Intermediate students benefit from learning in shared spaces including the library, gym, cafeteria, music room, track and field. The intermediate and high school classes will, however, be in those spaces at different times.

### **Will intermediate students have supervised recess? Will daily physical activity continue?**

Yes. Staff and students will work together to ensure ample play space and times in the yard. The board will work with the school to determine what is needed by way of equipment.

### **Who will teach the intermediate students?**

The intermediate school will be staffed with fully qualified elementary teachers. Some of the current Grades 7-8 teachers may move with their students to the new intermediate school.

**Will there still be extracurricular activities?**

Yes, there will be class trips and extracurricular activities. As in all schools, extracurriculars are coordinated voluntarily by staff and can vary based on staff availability, skills and interests.

**Will intermediate music and other programs be scaled down?**

No. To the contrary, students will benefit from facilities designed for specific programs.

**Will there still be a Grade 8 graduation ceremony?**

Yes.

**Will parents, students and staff be involved in planning how this transition works?**

Yes. If the Board approves the new intermediate school, a Transition Committee will be formed to include students, parents, guardians, staff and Board administrators. They will establish a plan to make the transition as smooth and welcoming as possible for everyone.

**Will intermediate and secondary students ride the same buses?**

Yes. Routes and stop times will be planned once the intermediate school is approved.

**What will be done to prevent bullying of younger students?**

Like all schools, Crestwood has a code of conduct which everyone is expected to follow. Bullying is never acceptable. You can read the code of conduct and learn about preventive programs by visiting [https://crestwood.kprdsb.ca/pdf/78837217/279432575/176018209#Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_2019-2020](https://crestwood.kprdsb.ca/pdf/78837217/279432575/176018209#Code_of_Conduct_2019-2020)  
It's also important to note that the intermediate school will have a dedicated vice-principal and head secretary who will get to know the students and support the principal in following up concerns.

**Have studies been done on the impact on younger students of moving into a high school?**

KPR has had Grade 7-12 schools for decades, and has been monitoring their success on an ongoing basis. We have seen no measurable differences in numbers or types of disciplinary issues, bullying or other concerns affecting Grades 7-8 students in Kindergarten-8 schools as opposed to Grade 7-12 schools. Establishing intermediate schools in high schools has helped, in many cases, to reduce the number of moves students make from elementary to secondary school; offered new opportunities for in-class support and mentoring by older teens, and enhanced teacher learning and planning for a smoother transition to high school.

**Students look forward to being the oldest group in the school in Grade 8. How are you going to replace this leadership and growth opportunity for them?**

The Transition Committee may wish to discuss and further explore ways students can continue to experience leadership opportunities among their peers.

**Can we give families a choice of either moving to Crestwood or staying at their home school?**

Unfortunately, this would not be possible logistically or financially.

**When will the final decision be made on the intermediate school?**

The Board of Trustees is expected to vote on the proposal at the January 2020 Board meeting.

**How can I stay up to date?**

We encourage parents to join us at a public meeting being held at Crestwood Thursday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m.; to email their questions and concerns to [crestwood\\_accommodation@kprdsb.ca](mailto:crestwood_accommodation@kprdsb.ca); and to visit our website regularly for updates at <http://www.kprschools.ca/en/CrestwoodAccommodationPlanning.html>