



## Federal Way grew up here

When Federal Highway US 99 (Pacific Highway) opened in 1928, it stretched from the border of Canada south to Mexico. For those residing between Tacoma and Seattle, it meant better access to the surrounding Puget Sound area. In the ensuing decades, it also meant a reasonable commute to jobs at growing companies like Boeing.

In the 1920s, communities only a couple of decades past their pioneer days were still served by small, individual school districts. There was a statewide movement afoot to encourage these micro districts to pool resources and the responsibilities of educating their youngsters. Federal Way School District #210 officially opened on May 22, 1929, consolidating five of those small districts.

That fall, the district opened what was known simply as “the Federal Way School” to serve 142 students in grades 1–8. District administrative offices were in the same building. Students were from what is now the City of Federal Way, as well as parts of Des Moines, Auburn, Kent and unincorporated King County. The district now serves around 22,000 students in that same area.

The original Federal Way School has undergone at least a dozen major additions and remodels on its way to becoming the current-day Federal Way High School. In 1938, Federal Way High School opened



as a separate building next to the original building, and in 1944, the two buildings were connected with a new section devoted to junior high students. The building then served over 1,000 students.

*In a photo taken between 1938 and 1944, the original Federal Way School is on the left. On the right, partially showing, is the original Federal Way High School.*

By 1963, state experts had advised the district that the original elementary school building was structurally unsound, and not cost effective to remodel. It was torn down, making way for a new section of the building that now houses the theater and classrooms.

Remodels and additions continued through the following 40 years. As the community grew, it adopted the school district’s name—Federal Way. Years later, Federal Way formally incorporated as a city, cementing the ties to the school district and the district’s first school.

Source: The Historical Society of Federal Way, Federal Way Area School History by Dick Caster, [www.federalwayhistory.org/powercms/files/FederalWayAreaSchoolHistoryMay282008](http://www.federalwayhistory.org/powercms/files/FederalWayAreaSchoolHistoryMay282008).

We’re not just building schools.  
**We’re building community.**



Local schools are an important part of everyone’s quality of life. Youth organizations, churches and sports teams regularly use school facilities. Children too young for school enjoy our playgrounds and preschool facilities. Even those who don’t have children benefit, because modern facilities enhance property values throughout the neighborhood.

Federal Way High School has a hallowed place in our community’s history. Even as the physical structure aged, the school has remained a source of pride and fond recollections by alumni.

### MAKING A GOOD PLACE BETTER

There’s been no debating for some time now, though, that the building’s condition and structural limitations have impacted students’ learning environment. Now, the school is

being rebuilt, thanks to the 2012 capital levy.

The community was offered an extremely cost-effect way to rebuild the school, and responded with a solid “yes” vote. The district structured the primary financing for this rebuild as a capital levy, saving taxpayers approximately \$29 million in interest. That’s because the six-year levy is funding construction as we build it—when the building is complete, the levy will be too. What the levy doesn’t pay for will come from a previous voter-approved bond measure and state match dollars.

What is the levy costing our taxpayers? The estimated cost for a single-family home appraised at \$240,000 is 60 cents a day.

### WE STARTED BY LISTENING

When you set out to rebuild a school with as much significance as Federal Way High School has for this community, it’s important to listen, and we’ve worked hard to do just that.

Before the work was started, even before the levy passed, architects and district staff spent many hours at Federal Way High School, listening to staff and students tell them all about the school—the good, the bad and the ugly.

In the past three years, the district has sponsored a forum to talk about rebuilding Federal Way High, and SRG Partners, the architects who designed the building, have held multiple open houses to gather information and feedback as the design has evolved.

Throughout, we heard from alumni and long-time residents that we needed to find a way to preserve aspects of the old structure. Federal Way High School abounds with memorabilia that honors important people and moments in our past: the trophies earned by Federal Way High School teams, which could line every hallway of the school if all were displayed; memorials to students who’ve passed away too soon, in war and in their normal daily lives; the plaque with the school name from the original Federal Way High school building; and some of the red brick of the building adorned by the plaque.



### THE NEW BUILDING WILL HOLD THE OLD CLOSE TO ITS HEART

As we move forward into the future, we are creating a place where these memories can be kept alive.

A wall is being built near the front entrance and will incorporate brick and the plaque from the

original Federal Way High School. Other pieces of the school’s history will be preserved in the school as well. Old floorboards from the current gym will serve as an architectural accent in the athletic complex. Student memorials will be handled respectfully in the new design. And, keeping with tradition, there will be eagle art in the building, from the gym to a floor somewhere in the building.



To get the most timely updates on the construction process, please send your email to [FWHSBuildUpdates@fwps.org](mailto:FWHSBuildUpdates@fwps.org). We’ll add you to a list serve for construction updates only. We’re also using social media: Twitter: [@FWHSBuild](https://twitter.com/FWHSBuild) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FWHSBuild](http://www.facebook.com/FWHSBuild)



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### THIRD PLACES

Another key feature of the school are areas near the classrooms that provide space for small groups and one-on-one conversations and work.



### THEATER

Facing Pacific Highway South, the new theater will be the eye-catching gem of the new building. The appearance of the gleaming metal shingles on the theater's exterior will change depending on the light. The theater will seat 388 people, but with the addition of portable seats and standing room, around 400 people can view a performance. And the back can be opened so performers can face into the commons as well.



### THE CLASSROOM WINGS

It's a fact: people learn and work better in natural light. In the old FWHS, there are some classrooms without any windows. Those will soon be a thing of the past. Classrooms will have plenty of natural light, as will hallways and other parts of the building. The wing has three "fingers," each of which has three stories.

The ground level classrooms in the western-most section have higher ceilings than the rest of the classrooms. This section is devoted to Career and Technical Education (formerly Vocational Technical) classes. Like the rest of the building, and all new schools in the district, the school is

being built with the realization that future program changes may require walls to be moved. The school has 100 year walls, 50 year walls and 20 year walls. The latter are made up of studs and drywall primarily, allowing for easy and inexpensive remodeling.

### COURTYARD

The courtyard will provide a natural, relaxing environment with rain gardens incorporated throughout to capture and clean stormwater runoff. You can see a rain garden in action near Lakota Middle School's entrance.



### SOUTH ENTRY

This entry, facing Pacific Highway South and South 308th, leads directly to the classroom wing of the building and the library. Throughout the school, the interior will have ample daylight and an open layout.



### LIBRARY

Libraries remain a vibrant and important part of schools. This one will have a mixture of books and technology, allowing students the best of both worlds. It will also offer a quiet study place.



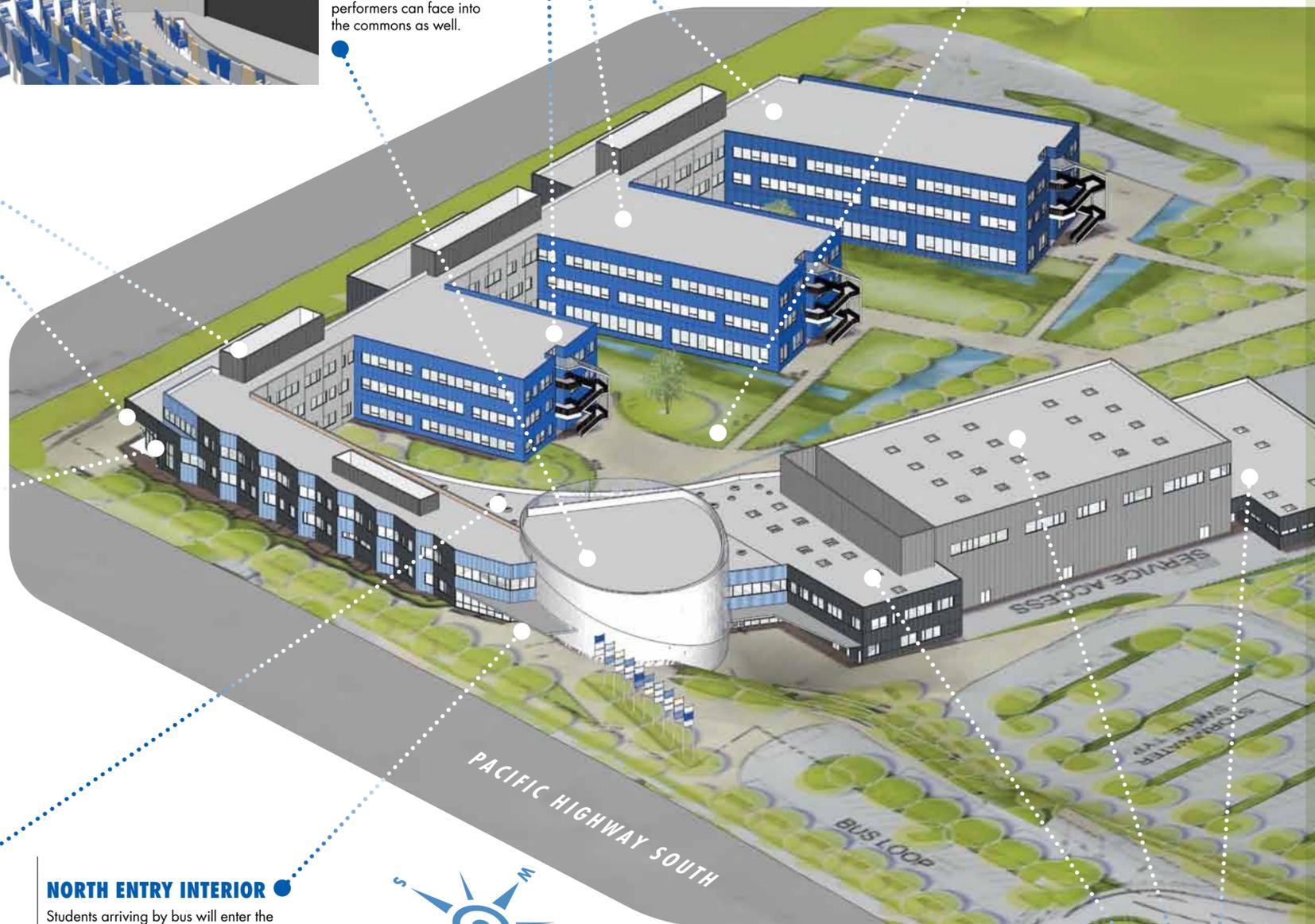
### COMMONS

Inside the main entrance, a stairway descends a story into the commons. This hub has views of the center courtyard through a three-story glass wall. It doubles as a lunchroom. In addition to tables and chairs, a tiered wall opposite the window wall provides additional casual seating.



### NORTH ENTRY INTERIOR

Students arriving by bus will enter the school here, the building's second level. Stairs descend to the commons, a level below. Offices are on the left, and classrooms are beyond those. This is the primary entry for the public.



### WHAT WE HEARD

Here are some common themes we heard from students, staff and community members:

The new Federal Way High School should be

**flexible**  
*versatile* **SAFE**  
*warm* **welcoming**  
**inviting** **OPEN**  
*inspire* students  
**INSPIRE**  
**PRIDE** *in*  
*history* &  
*traditions*  
**comfortable**  
*adaptable*  
**CONNECTED**

### THINGS YOU WON'T SEE IN THE SCHOOL BUT ARE IMPORTANT

Heating systems, the roof, plumbing are all on their last legs at the existing Federal Way High School. This all-new school will have an all-new, state-of-the-art infrastructure.



### ATHLETIC COMPLEX

There will be a main gymnasium with enough seating for the entire student body. Next door is an auxiliary gym, which offers a moderate amount of seating. Other rooms throughout the athletic complex provide room for gymnastics and wrestling practice, as well as other indoor sports.

# Construction on Federal Way High School growing closer



Since the passage of the construction levy in February, 2012, much of the district's focus has been on creating the vision for Federal Way High School's next century. Those two years have been filled with extensive planning and information gathering, including getting feedback from the community. Now, construction prep work is underway. This summer, a new storm drainage system was installed under the student parking lot. A new water retention pond is nearly complete on the west side of Memorial Field.

To the west/northwest of the current building, a campus of 24 new double-classroom and six restroom portables is growing, with nearly half of the classroom units already on site. These will provide the majority of the instructional space during construction. Construction crews will continue working on and around the campus during much of the first semester to hook up sewer, electrical and data, and make other modifications in order to make the portables classroom-ready.

At the end of December, most teachers will be moved from the current building to the portables. Then, the south portion of the school will be turned over to the contractor for demolition and construction of the new facility. The building north of and including the current office areas, as well as the science labs, will remain in use through the 2015-2016 school year.

## Classroom construction begins in 2015

Once the southern portion of the old building has been demolished and removed, construction of the new three story building that will house the majority of learning spaces, administration, library, theater and the commons will begin. This work will continue through the entire 2015-16 school year. During the summer of 2016 the portable campus is scheduled to be removed.

Students and staff will begin occupying the newly-built portion of the building for the 2016-17 school year. They will continue to use the old athletic facilities and cafeteria while the new theater, gyms and other athletic areas are built, along with the new food service area. This phase of construction will last for the entire 2016-17 school year including part of the summer of 2017.

Finally, students and staff will have full use of the new building beginning in the fall of 2017. That won't be the end of the construction work, however: The old gym/cafeteria will then be demolished and new parking lots will be completed in their place.

*The new high school building's courtyard will be framed by the athletic facilities on the left, the classroom wing on the right and—straight ahead—the commons/lunchroom.*



*In this aerial photo taken October 3, 2014, the highlighted area shows where the work has been concentrated to date—on the water retention pond on the west side of Memorial Field, and on the creation of a portable village the west/northwest of the current building.*

## JUST A FEW REASONS WHY WE'RE REBUILDING



**It's nearly impossible to install wiring for current technology.** The current building can't be easily reconfigured for instructional changes. Here's one example: Throughout Federal Way High School, brick walls restrict wiring for modern technology. Multiple additions have resulted in many interior walls that were once exterior walls. These thick, solid walls add dollar signs to virtually every effort to incorporate modern technology in the school.

This room above has four brick walls, including one that's a former exterior wall. When the school decided to convert it to a digital video lab, computers were positioned along the outer perimeter of the room and cables were zip-tied and bundled neatly along the walls. Since then, reconfiguring the room to meet changing instructional needs has proven to be difficult and messy.

In new schools, conduit or 'trays' are installed along the ceilings. When new wiring/cabling is needed, it is simple and inexpensive to do. Wireless will also work well in a newer building.



**Hallways in Federal Way High School are crowded and dark.** The worst of them may be the infamous 'T', where four separate hallways come together at the south side of the school. During class passing times, students have five minutes to negotiate up to a quarter-mile of hallways to go from one class to another. At the 'T'—and in locations throughout the school—foot traffic jams form daily as over 1,500 students jostle their way through.



**Many of Federal Way High School's bathrooms were built for elementary and junior high students.** When you put high school students in them, it's just not a great fit.