**Questions and Answers**

# 2020-2021 School Boundary Changes

**Staff Recommendation**

1. **What is being done with regard to transportation safety? Will start times be staggered to minimize traffic on Old Pasco Road? Are any other traffic considerations being made? Officers at intersections? Will there by AC on buses? When will old Pasco Rd. be widened (they are saying it’s not in 5-year plan)? Any idea of planned bus routes?** We will have all the same transportation safety considerations at Cypress Creek High School and Cypress Creek Middle School as we have with other schools. Transportation is considering Cypress Creek High School to be first tier (current start time) and for Cypress Creek Middle to be second tier. This has not been determined yet and will be decided when we finalize bell times. In general, we will not have law enforcement to control traffic at Cypress Creek. We sometimes have a law enforcement presence at some schools during the first few weeks of school and/or if there are traffic issues.We are currently working towards all of our buses being air conditioned. If we continue our current buying pattern, we will have a fully air conditioned fleet in 6 years. Bus routes will be determined in the spring and summer. We asked Pasco County when Old Pasco Road will be widened. There are some improvements planned for the upcoming year, but the road widening timeline has not been finalized. The County said that a study for the road widening is planned for next year.
2. **Why is the Denham Oaks Elementary feeder pattern split for middle school? Why was the decision not made to move all of Denham Oaks Elementary school students to Cypress Creek Middle/High School instead of Seven Oaks? If Denham Oaks Elementary School area moved to Cypress Creek Middle/High School, could Seven Oaks area be phased?**  The Denham Oaks Elementary School feeder pattern has been split for quite some time. It used to be split between Pine View Middle and John Long Middle schools and now it is split between Cypress Creek Middle and John Long Middle schools. As of January 2019, there were 157 middle and 226 high school students living in the Denham Oaks Elementary School zone that is east of I-75. This is compared to 446 middle and 613 high school students living in the Seven Oaks area. Moving the Denham Oaks Elementary School area instead of the Seven Oaks area rezones 289 fewer middle and 387 fewer high school students. The Denham Oaks Elementary School area was looked at to be moved, in addition to the Seven Oaks area, but it does potentially raise Cypress Creek numbers significantly above capacity.
3. **Are there 457 or 600 Seven Oaks students at Wiregrass Ranch High School?** As of January 2019, there were 446 middle and 613 high school students living in the Seven Oaks area proposed to be rezoned. Data is posted on the rezoning webpage.
4. **Which orchestra levels will be offered at Cypress Creek Middle/High School?** This has not been determined. We will be discussing this and determining plans soon.
5. **Is address verification being done on all 9th through 11th grade students or just a sample of them?** Address verification is being done on all students currently enrolled at Dr. John Long Middle, Wiregrass Ranch High and Cypress Creek Middle/High schools.
6. **Do we have a definitive number of student stations we are planning for the new technical high school? What programs? Will the school help with overcrowding at Wiregrass Ranch High School?** The latest number is a capacity of approximately 900-1,000 student stations. Yes, the school will help with overcrowding at Wiregrass Ranch High School, but we do not know the extent of the impact this school will have on any of the surrounding schools because we do not know which students will apply to attend the new school. Programs (economic sectors) include engineering, health sciences, transportation technology, digital technology and building technology. Business will be embedded into all of these economic sectors.
7. **What plans are there for future schools other than the technical high school? Will it for sure be 9-12 or could it go younger?** The district owns land on Handcart Road for a future middle and high school. We also own land in the northern Meadow Pointe area that could serve a variety of grades. Additional charter schools are also planning on opening in the area over the next several years including one that is slated for high school students.
8. **Will gifted students already in John Long Middle School stay there? Will they be able to go to Wiregrass Ranch High or would they go to Cypress Creek High?** We have had several questions about the Dreamcatchers program at John Long Middle due to the rezoning. John Long Middle currently has the gifted service of inclusion, not self-contained. Cypress Creek Middle will have inclusion services as well so the students impacted by rezoning will receive the same gifted services when they transition to Cypress Creek Middle. Both Cypress Creek and John Long middle schools feed to the “Center for Gifted Studies” at Charles S. Rushe Middle School. This is a self-contained gifted program and so any parents at either school interested in this service can send their gifted child to Charles S. Rushe Middle.
9. **Have parents of gifted students at John Long Middle (Dreamcatchers) who will be impacted by rezoning been notified?** There is no change, other than that they will be attending Cypress Creek Middle/High, since both John Long Middle and Cypress Creek Middle have the same service. Both schools also feed the same self-contained option, Charles S. Rushe Middle.
10. **Is consideration being given to additional growth and San Antonio students going to Cypress Creek Middle/High School?** Yes. Please see the future growth spreadsheet posted on the rezoning website. There is only a small amount of growth coming into the Cypress Creek Middle/High zone.
11. **What about growth in Union Park?** Please see the growth spreadsheet that is posted on the rezoning website. There are 137 additional middle and 164 additional high school students projected in Union Park over the next 10 years.
12. **Will there be an attempt to offer AP Capstone at Cypress Creek High School? If not, if students apply for Wiregrass Ranch High School AP Capstone in January and get accepted, can they stay at Wiregrass Ranch High? It’s after the choice window, can they still apply for choice for that program if it isn’t offered at Cypress Creek High?** We have been discussing AP Capstone for Cypress Creek High as well and a meeting is scheduled to review district programming at which we will discuss this possibility further. If a student impacted by the boundary change wants to be considered to attend Wiregrass Ranch High School for Capstone, they need to complete school choice during the December 3rd – 13th window. This would not guarantee placement but would allow them to be in the window to be reviewed.
13. **When the school district talks about “capacity” at Wiregrass Ranch High School, the portables are not included. It has been discussed how replacing the portables with a permanent structure doesn’t really add seats, but it does on paper with regard to the percentage of capacity, right? Shouldn’t portables be counted as part of a school’s capacity?** According to our Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) records, there are 1,719 permanent student stations and 725 portable student stations totaling 2,444 student stations. For high schools, capacity is calculated at 95% of student stations. The capacity then of Wiregrass Ranch High, with portables, is 2,322. As of 10/18/19, enrollment at Wiregrass Ranch High was 2,290. We need to be mindful that the core facilities, media center, cafeteria/lunchroom, etc. were all built for a capacity of 1,633, not for 2,322.

If you have additional questions or concerns,

please feel free to contact us:

* For the boundary map, please contact

Planning Services at 813-794-7970

[www.pasco.k12.fl.us/planning/page/rezoning](http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/planning/page/rezoning)

* For questions about school choice,

Please email us at:

[pascopathways@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:pascopathways@pasco.k12.fl.us)