

# BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D., Superintendent

6901 Charles Street Towson, MD • 21204-3711

## Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School Community Questions and Responses

Question	Response
1. Will Dr. Dance please consider grandfathering in siblings of current CVE students so that families are not broken up and divided between different schools?	All students currently enrolled in Cromwell Valley Elementary (CVE) for school year 2013-2014, Kindergarten to Grade 5, will be allowed to remain at Cromwell through Grade 5.
2. When will the decision be made regarding siblings for the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 school years?	For school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, siblings of enrolled students will be able to attend CVE.
3. What solutions can Dr. Dance offer for families that don't receive bus transportation, who will now be forced to have children at two separate schools? (For many parents it will be impossible to get their younger children onto buses and older children, who need to be driven, to CVE on time.)	If parents are driving their children to CVE currently, there are no plans to provide transportation for their children once the capital improvements and boundary decision are completed at CVE.
4. Given that CVE was recognized as one of the top 95 Magnet Schools in the USA in 2013, what is Dr. Dance's plan to maintain this educational excellence at CVE?	The program at CVE will not change; therefore, there will be no impact to the program or instruction the students receive as a result of the capital improvement plans or boundary change for CVE.
5. Will the technology curriculum be impacted?	There will be no impact to the technology curriculum as a result of the capital improvement plans or boundary change for CVE. CVE will participate in S.T.A.T. (Students and Teachers Accessing Tomorrow) when it is phased in for all elementary schools.
6. Will class sizes be impacted?	There are standards in place regarding class size that are consistent among all elementary schools in BCPS. CVE does, and will continue to, have the same standard as other elementary schools.

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7. What is Dr. Dance’s plan for students during construction/expansion to CVE?	The design is in the very early stages of development. However, it is currently anticipated that the project will be phased to allow all students to remain on campus. These students will have to be located either in portions of the existing building not under construction, in the newly built addition (which will be used as “swing space”), or in relocatable classrooms brought in specifically for this purpose.
8. When will construction begin? How long is CVE expected to be under construction? Will children be in trailers?	It is anticipated that construction will begin in the spring of 2015 with a substantial completion in August 2016. It is likely that some students will be housed at one time or another in relocatable classrooms during construction.
9. When expanding CVE, it is important to have sensible plans to expand parking, cafeteria, gymnasium, and outdoor play spaces. Can the CVE principal, and/or other key CVE contacts, please be included as part of this planning process?	It is part of the standard procedures for all projects to include the principal and other key curriculum and instruction representatives in the planning and design process.
10. Please define a “neighborhood magnet” vs. a county magnet school, and how this applies to CVE.	A neighborhood magnet is a school that has a definitive boundary and does not accept students outside of that boundary. The magnet program remains the same. Currently, CVE does not have a boundary and accepts students through the magnet application process. Once a boundary is established for the school, all students within the CVE boundary will be zoned to attend CVE.

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<p><b>11.</b> How will the integration into a neighborhood school be done?</p>	<p>The process for establishing a boundary for CVE will begin during the 2015-2016 school year based on the tentative completion date of the renovation in August 2016. Once a boundary has been established, families will be informed in early Spring 2016 to which schools their children will be attending.</p>
<p><b>12.</b> Will bus service continue for students who are not in the catchment area?</p>	<p>BCPS transportation is not provided for students who reside outside of the established transportation zone of a magnet program. School bus transportation is provided from established stops for elementary school students in the catchment area who must walk more than one (1) mile to the assigned school.</p>
<p><b>13.</b> For the siblings who are allowed in the next two school years, will they be “kicked out” when the boundaries take place, or will they be able to stay through completion of the fifth grade?</p>	<p>Sibling and walkers are eligible for priority placement at CVE for school years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, and are subject to Superintendent’s Rule <a href="#">5140</a>, Special Permission Transfer, when CVE has a defined boundary. This means that siblings/walkers who are in Grades K to 2, and do not have an older sibling in Grade 4 or 5, would need to go to their home school if not included in the new boundary for CVE. Those siblings/walkers who are in Grades K to 2, and have an older sibling in Grade 4 or 5, will be allowed to remain until their terminal year.</p>
<p><b>14.</b> Please explain why your February 10<sup>th</sup> letter to Cromwell Valley Elementary parents addressed the seat addition as a response to the overcrowding in the Central area. I have been to the numerous town meetings and am aware of the overcrowding issue. Bringing the Halstead students from a school that is underpopulated to CVE is not the same issue, correct? Please explain why you are labeling it as such.</p>	<p>The 189-seat addition to CVE and the 100-seat addition to the former Loch Raven Elementary School do increase the number of seats in the central area. The student population at Halstead will be relocated to the former Loch Raven ES. This allows the current building housing Halstead students to be repurposed with community input and would provide additional seats for the central area and countywide.</p>

