



CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Dear Manchester CBG Community,

Thank you so much for the great feedback that we have received over the past two weeks. As school board members, we have listened closely to your excellent feedback. After working diligently with the school division administration, we have looked at almost every option that has been presented to us. The following letter should be considered a supplement to the action plan shared with the Manchester community today. In looking to continue to support the work of the Gifted Education Advisory Committee and the active site changes with the new construction cycle at Manchester Middle School, the public was provided with the working proposals that had been presented to the School Board for their review. As the original information posted presented a variety of options, this letter represents an adjustment with Option 5 incorporating thoughts shared by parents, staff, and students who provided input in various forms (like public meetings, letters, and phone messages).

With this in mind, we know we have to make a difficult decision and must reduce the size of Manchester before we enter construction. **Next year it is our intent to add a CBG program at Swift Creek Middle School; however, it will start with only the 6th grade class and will add additional grade levels each year for the next three years.**

Knowing that you may have many questions about how the CBG transition will work for rising 6th graders, we would like to share the following information in addition to the action plan that was shared today. Rising sixth graders zoned to attend Swift Creek Middle School or Tomahawk Creek Middle School who planned to receive CBG services at Manchester Middle during the 2018-19 school year will now attend Swift Creek Middle as their CBG site. Bus transportation will be provided to Swift Creek Middle for these students. Waivers will not be granted for these students to remain at Manchester MS. Parents of newly CBG-identified rising sixth graders who originally declined the option to receive CBG services at Manchester Middle for 2018-19 may reconsider their decision and elect for their child to receive CBG services at Swift Creek Middle in 2018-19.

Related to this scenario, all CBG students who are zoned to attend Bailey Bridge MS, Falling Creek MS, Manchester MS, and Providence MS will remain at the Manchester MS CBG program and those students will complete their course of study at that CBG site. No additional CBG sites are planned for expansion in 2018-19, though the school division and school board will continue to consider further expansions per Option 5 next school year. As we look at transitioning Bailey Bridge students starting with new 6th grade students in 2019-2020 to Matoaca MS, we will continue to study transportation logistics working towards a final action plan for the remainder of Option 5. It is our plan to phase in new sites in this same manner, one grade level at a time, in the future expansion planned in Option 5. Additional transportation information may be accessed at [Attachment A: CBG Transportation Plan](#)

Swift Creek MS has confirmed no CBG teams will be located in trailers next year as part of this plan. Current SCMS Health and Physical Education staff will be relocated to ensure CBG teams are housed inside the main school building.

Course Offerings

All required CBG courses will be offered at both Manchester and Swift Creek MS at each grade level. For example, grade 6 CBG courses will be identical: English 6 Honors (single block); Social Studies 6 Honors (single block); Science Systems 1 Honors (single block); Math 6 Honors (single block - as applicable to students' pathways); Math 7 Honors (single block - as applicable to students' pathways); Algebra Honors (single block - as applicable to students' pathways); Academic Success and Enrichment (ASE); and World Language (French, German, Latin, Spanish).

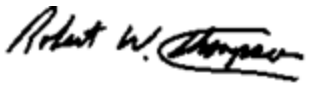
Manchester and Swift Creek MS Principals have collaboratively reviewed the electives currently offered for CBG students. A wide variety of electives will be offered to CBG students at both sites, which may include (based on student interest) but is not limited to: Earth Science, Band, Orchestra, Health and Physical Education, Art, Exploratory 6, and Writing Workshop. Both schools have committed to providing a pathway for students who begin a sequential elective such as a World Language so that those students may complete their program without disruption.

Final Thoughts

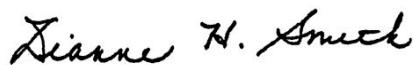
We will present this proposal for board adoption next week and believe it works with the reality of the construction schedule with Manchester Middle School while staying on course with an expansion of gifted services to other areas within the community. The process, however, reflects a phased-in approach versus a full shift this upcoming school year for all grade levels. It also looks to support students who are already in CBG at Manchester Middle School remaining for continuity purposes while starting one of the shifts toward a new western site. For this reason, we want you to know that it is our intent to vote for this new plan when proposed to the board.

Again, please consider this as a supplement to the action plan and that we hope that between the two documents we have provided answers to the many questions we have received. Thank you again for your feedback and please know our board is always prepared to adjust to fit what is best for our school community.

Sincerely,



Rob Thompson
Vice-Chair of the Chesterfield School Board
Matoaca District



Dianne Smith
Chesterfield School Board
Clover Hill District

ATTACHMENT A: CBG Transportation Plan (linked above)