



AHS Building Project - Phase 4 Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 2025

ACCESS (refer to the map on page 3 for more detail)

Q. How do students access the school during construction?

- A. Students will access the school primarily through the Mass. Ave. entrance, although the Mill Brook Drive entrance at the back of the building near the cafeteria will remain open.

Q. What is the drop-off and pick-up location for students?

- A. The Mass. Ave. entrance remains the primary drop-off and pick-up location for high school students. There is a drop-off lane on Mass. Ave. directly in front of the school to allow vehicles to pull over for students.

Q. How do pedestrians access the school?

- A. There are two entrances to the school. During Phase 4 construction, pedestrians should use the Mass. Ave. entrance. During the spring, Mill Brook Drive will only be accessible for limited access. There will no longer be a pedestrian walkway through the Mill Brook Drive parking lots. Please use the Mass. Ave. entrance whenever possible.

Q. Where is accessible parking?

- A. There is accessible parking along Schouler Court for access to the Mass. Ave. entrance and there is an elevator in the STEAM wing.

Q. What parking is available around the school?

- A. As has been the case, there is no parking for students during the school day. The neighborhoods around the high school have 2-hour parking. We do not recommend that students drive to school. The traffic loop off Mill Brook Drive routes traffic through the parking lots. There is staff parking in the lot on Mill Brook Drive and in a new lot on the West side of the school (staff will receive notices on parking). Accessible parking spaces along Schouler Court provide access to the Mass. Ave. entrance. Visitors have access to 2-hour parking in the neighborhoods. For meetings, visitors should communicate with their hosts.

Q. How is Peirce Field accessed during this phase of construction?

- A. Access to parking for Peirce Field will be through Schouler Ct. only. There is no access to Peirce Field from Mill Brook Drive. A pedestrian path from the West parking lot off of Schouler Ct. will lead spectators and participants to Peirce Field. A pedestrian path will also connect locker rooms to Peirce Field.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Q. What gyms does the new Athletics Wing have?

- A. The new wing has three gyms (Large Gym #1, Medium Gym #2, Small Gym #3) that will be used for athletics and PE classes. The Large Gym (#1) is large enough for the entire student body for

assemblies and holds approximately 2,000 people. The Medium Gym (#2) has nets for baseball and lifts for wrestling mats. The Small Gym (#3) has wall mirrors for dance and fitness. In addition, the wing houses the new Fitness Center/Weight Room and new Locker Rooms.

Q. What classes will now be in the new spaces?

- A. With the completion of Phase 3, construction of the new AHS building is now finished and all classes are in the new building. Wellness and PE classes will now be held in the Athletics Wing. Drama classes that formerly took place in the Discourse Lab, will now move to the Black Box theater.

Q. Will indoor Athletics events be held in the new gyms?

- A. Since the opening of the Athletics wing occurs midway through the winter athletics season, the season schedule is already set and some competitions will remain off-site. Teams that have qualified for post-season play may play in the new Athletics wing.

Q. What other new spaces are now open?

- A. Phase 3 also includes two final components of the Performing Arts wing: a Black Box theater and an outdoor amphitheater. The 3,000 sf Black Box drama classroom is a flexible space to be used by all arts programs for one-act plays, theater classes, and productions. The amphitheater (adjacent to the Black Box theater) is an outdoor performance and event space that will be used for outdoor classrooms, performances, and gatherings. Final landscaping for the amphitheater will take place in the spring.

Q. Where are the Principal's Office, Attendance, the School Nurse, and the Guidance Counselors offices located?

- A. The Main Office (aka Principal's Office and Attendance) now resides at the Mill Brook Drive/Cafeteria Entrance. The Assistant Principal offices are located on the 2nd floor by the Mass. Ave Entrance. The Nursing Office and Counseling Offices are on the 1st Floor of the new Humanities Wing near the Mill Brook Drive entrance.

Q. Is there an open campus for all students?

- A. Open campus remains in effect for students who are eligible. Students will gain access to the new building courtyard areas as the weather becomes warmer. Inside the building, the Student Center, Cafe, Library, and lobbies are open for student use. Details of the [open campus program can be found here](#).

CONSTRUCTION

Q. What construction activities are going on in Phase 4?

- A. Construction of the new building is now complete. Phase 4 construction will consist of demolition of Down's house and construction of two additional athletic fields. Phase 4 is all exterior and encompasses construction of two additional full-sized artificial turf athletic fields with lights for soccer, lacrosse, baseball and softball and completion of the Minuteman Bikeway connection.

Phase 4 will also entail demolition of Downs House. Demolition is expected to take place from early March to mid-April. During this time, increased truck traffic is anticipated on Mill Brook Drive. During

demolition, water trucks, street sweepers, and staff will be employed to reduce dust on the construction site and surrounding areas.

Q. How is construction noise mitigated?

A. In the new buildings, noise will be mitigated through distance, increased sound proofing and improved windows. Additionally, improved air circulation eliminates the need to open windows. The AHS administration will also monitor noise levels and relocate classes if necessary.

Q. How is student and staff safety be ensured during construction?

A. The same safety practices will be in place as for Phases 1 through 3: physical separation of student/staff from construction work and workers, covered walkways in areas required for student movement, excellent communication between AHS, district administration and the project team.

Q. When will the entire project be completed?

A. Phase 4 (begins February 2024) is the final construction phase of the project and includes construction of new athletic fields (two additional full size multi-use artificial turf athletic fields with lights) and completion of site work (including the Minuteman Bikeway access ramp), with final project completion scheduled for September 2025. Refer to the project [Phasing Diagram](#).

Refer to the [project FAQ](#) for additional questions and answers.

Arlington High School

