



## South Washington County Schools

Keith Jacobus, Ph.D., Superintendent

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### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Members of the School Board  
Keith Jacobus, Superintendent

FROM: Julie Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: August 24, 2016

TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: Valley Crossing Monthly Update

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: Strategic Objective #2 – Cultivating Inclusive Environments

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Information

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: None

### REPORT

First, we would like to thank Valley Crossing Principal Dr. Lela Olson and Office Coordinator Merita LaPlante. They have worked tirelessly this summer to make sure that the transition for Valley Crossing families, staff and students goes as smoothly as possible. The Open House at VCES is set for August 31 from 5-6:30 p.m. We are excited to open the doors with approximately 740 students enrolled.

The staff at Valley Crossing had the opportunity to participate in New Teacher Academy on August 25, 2016. The day was customized to meet the needs of Valley Crossing teachers including learning about the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS), running records and conferring. In addition, time was spent learning about the district's Strategic Plan and discussing collaboration time at VCES. The afternoon was spent working in classrooms at the school.

The construction of the walls at Valley Crossing has been on hold as the focus has been on the transitioning of Gateway staff and families to the school. The original plan included the construction of more permanent walls in each of the neighborhoods and open doorways that would allow students to move back and forth to collaborate and work with other students and teachers. The following is the timeline as we approach the need to make a final decision on the construction of walls in time for the 2017-18 school year.

### Timeline for Construction Plan of Walls/Interior Space of School

Sept.-Oct. 2016	How is the space working? Conversations with school staff.
October 2016	Reconvene Steering Committee
Late October	Parent Session regarding physical space
Early November	Steering Committee Meets to finalize plan

If the decision were made to continue with the construction of walls for the 2017-18 school year, the following would be the timeline:

Dec. 2016	Final plan shared with architects
March 1, 2017	Bids sent out
March 22, 2017	Bids opened
Early April	Contract awarded

There is the potential that the construction of walls in the school would be delayed until attendance boundary students move into the new space and have the opportunity to see how the space works. Should that occur, the timeline for considering the addition of walls would be moved to the fall of 2018.

### Enrollment for 2017-18

During the month of December we will be working with all existing Valley Crossing families and those that will be part of the attendance boundary transition to determine if they would like their student(s) to be part of the single grade option or multi-age option. Families will need to designate the delivery system they would like their students to be part of. The selection of single grade or multi-age will need to occur in December so that staffing can be assigned to the school based on number of students interested in each.