

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35 (LANGLEY)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Catchment Boundary Information Sessions Smith Middle and Secondary Schools

January/February 2026

Below are some of the main themes and frequently asked questions that parents/guardians asked at the Parent Information Sessions held in January/February 2026 and submitted in emails to the District. These Information Sessions were part of the Boundary Change Process Round 1 Information Sessions held in advance of the opening of Smith Middle and Secondary schools.

If you have any questions, please e-mail: feedback@sd35.bc.ca

Will the new Smith Secondary School offer an IB or Pre-IB program?

The District cannot move the existing IB program (grade 11/12) from REMSS. Moving the IB program would require the closing of the REMSS program and starting up a new program in a school which would be costly and would require the certification of staff. The IB program (grade 11/12) and the pre-IB program (grade 9/10) at REMSS will remain. The District is reviewing the possibility of offering pre-IB (grade 9/10) at Smith Secondary. Students in the Smith Secondary catchment will not be at a disadvantage in applying for the IB program (grade 11/12), because the IB program (grade 11/12) is a District program and is open to all applicants.

Will current students be grandfathered (including siblings)?

The District is reviewing options, but no decisions have been made in relation to grandfathering (allowing students to remain at their existing school). The District is reviewing grandfathering; which cohort of students could be grandfathered if any, and how to keep siblings together, while still ensuring there are sufficient students at all schools (balanced number of students). Grandfathering poses planning challenges and can imbalance enrolment projections. Based on feedback provided, some families are advocating for the grandfathering of students entering grade 12 at REMSS in September 2027, and the District is taking this into consideration.

What electives, trades programs, and specialty courses will be available at Smith Secondary?

In general, the plan is for the same electives to be offered at both REMSS and Smith Secondary as is the case with most comprehensive secondary schools across the District, with some slight differences based on building configuration. Planned facilities at the new Smith Secondary school will include a wood shop, maker space rooms, labs, and a 250-seat theatre. It is important to note that across the District, some programs differ across schools (no large theatre at REMSS but one at Smith Secondary). Courses and electives will depend on other factors including staffing, student interest, and enrolment.

How will the new catchment boundaries be determined?

Catchment boundaries are based on a variety of factors including geography, distance to school, demographics, projections, and feedback from families. When it comes to transitions, the District recognizes that the Yorkson Creek Middle School student population may need to be split, meaning some students will transition to REMSS, and some students will transition to Smith Secondary. When it comes to transitions, some elementary schools may need to be split, meaning some students will go to any one of the three middle schools. The District is in the process of determining which schools will be split and which students will be impacted.

Will students need to move schools multiple times in their education career?

The District acknowledges it is fast-growing, and there is continued increasing enrolment. The district recognizes the challenges of multi-transition years for families. The goal is to keep siblings and families together, when possible; though this goal is not always guaranteed. The goal is to keep whole elementary school students together as they transition in their K-12 education career, when possible; though this goal is not always guaranteed.

Who will teach at Smith Secondary, and will the staff be experienced?

In general, hiring is based on qualifications and seniority. As was the case with the opening of new schools in the past, early hiring is planned. Many experienced REMSS staff may apply to Smith Secondary due to a decrease in enrolment at the existing school. Many educators may be attracted to applying to teach at one of the new schools.