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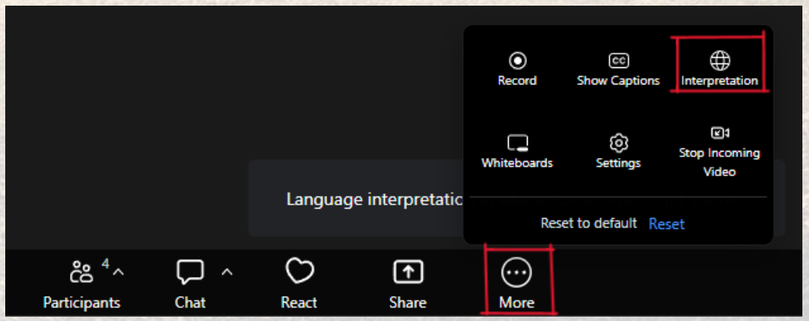
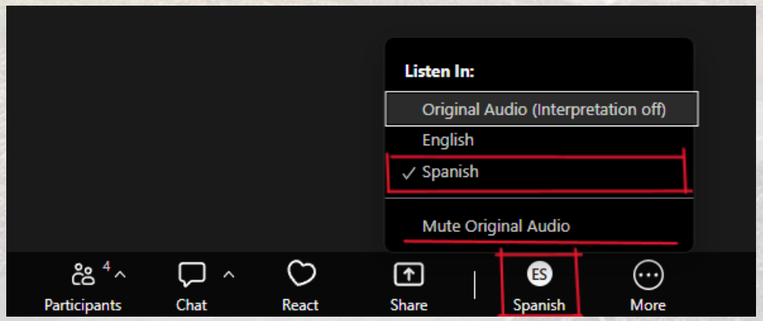
EASTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Community Engagement Meeting No. 3

Translator service available
Servicio de traductor disponible





November 5, 2026

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meeting Schedule and Agenda

Community Engagement Meeting #1 (Virtual) — **October 5, 2026 at 7pm**

Team introduction, project timeline, program opportunities, and information gathering regarding site design

Community Engagement Meeting #2 (Virtual) — **October 19, 2026 at 7pm**

Review preliminary design options and gather feedback

Community Engagement Meeting #3 (Virtual) — **November 5, 2026 at 7pm**

Review evolving design and gather additional feedback

MCPS project page:
https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/easternms/

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AGENDA

Eastern Middle School Replacement

- **Project Outline**
- **Site Plan**
  - Progress to Date
  - Refined Approach
- **Building Plan**
  - Educational Specification
  - Superteam
  - Progress to Date
  - Refined Approaches
- **Questions/Feedback**



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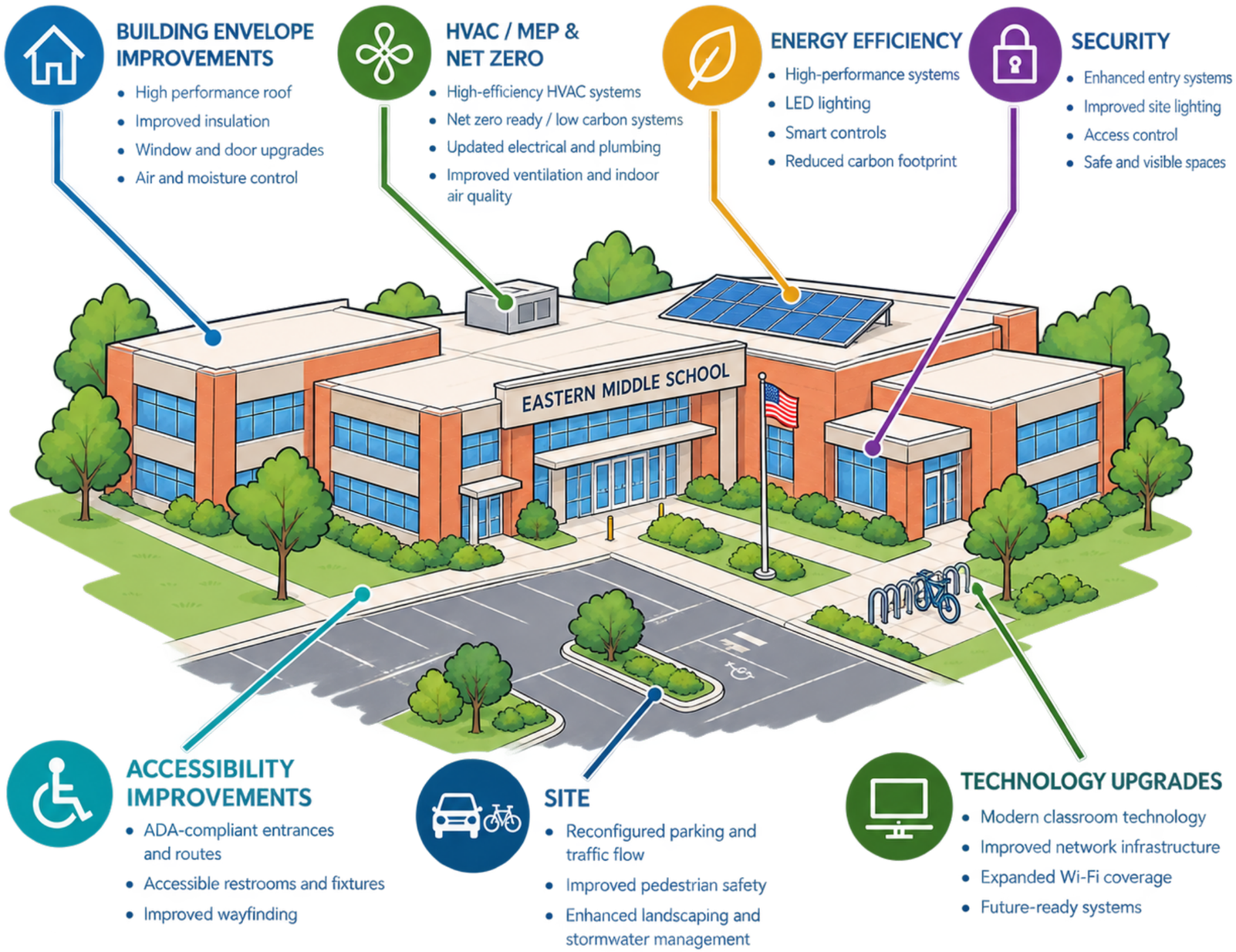
PROJECT OUTLINE

Overview

- *Building Our Future*
- Square Footage
  - Existing: 152,030 SF
  - Proposed: +/- 166,000 SF
  - Increase of: +/- 14,000 SF
- Student Capacity
  - Existing: 1,012
  - Proposed Capacity: 1,112
  - Core Capacity: 1,300
- Master Planned Addition
  - 6 additional Classrooms
  - 2 Additional Science Labs
- Highlights
  - Net Zero ready
  - 8 additional teaching spaces
  - Enlarged cafeteria & stage
  - Enlarged gymnasiums
- Construction Budget: $110M



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PROJECT OUTLINE

Project Schedule

Oct 5 · Oct 19 · Nov 5 — **Community meetings**

SCHEMATIC DESIGN
September 2026 - January 2027

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
January 2027 - June 2027

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS
June 2027 - January 2028

DESIGN PHASES

Aug 2030 — **Occupy New School**

BIDDING

CONSTRUCTION
June 2028 – June 2030

DEMO & SITE
July 2030 – June 2031

CONSTRUCTION

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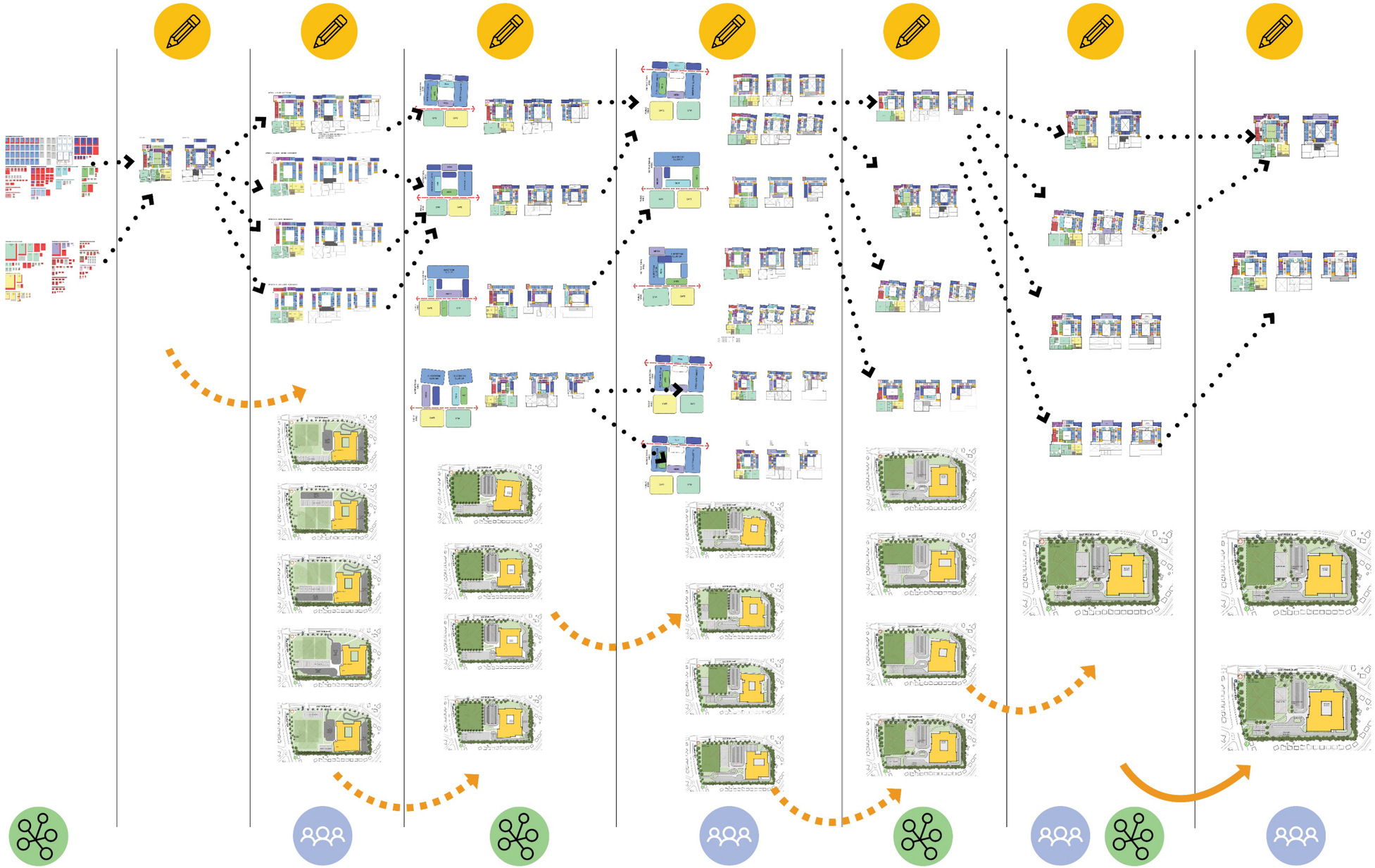
PROJECT OUTLINE

Schematic Design Process



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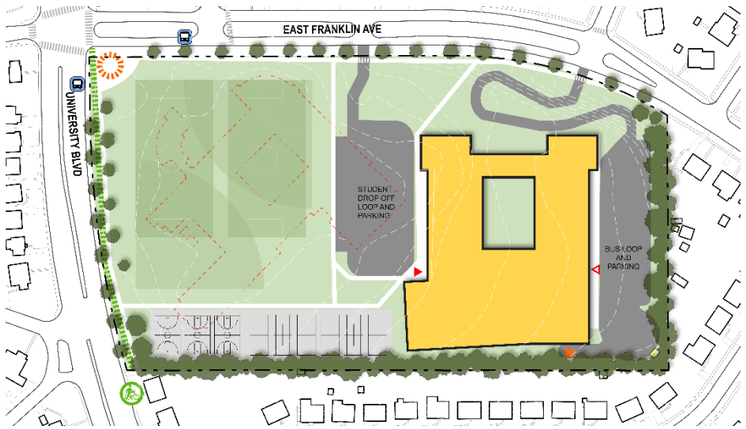
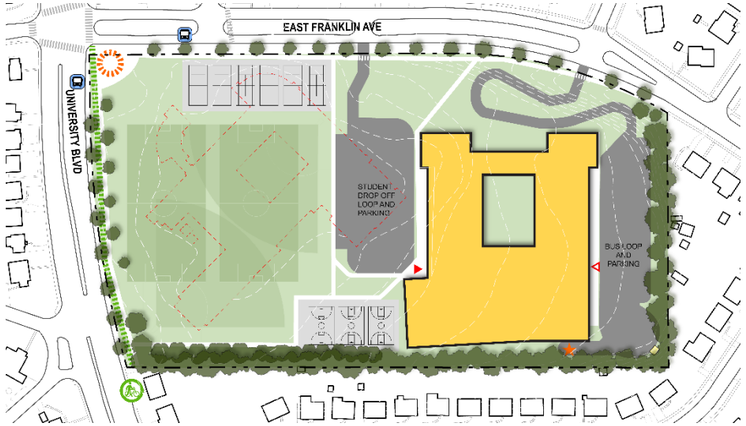
SITE PLAN

Community Meeting 1 Options



Option 1A

+ Main entrance highly visible from intersection
+ Drop offs adjacent to entrance
- Tennis close to neighbors
- Playfields relatively remote from school



Option 1B

+ Main entrance visible from intersection
+ Drop offs adjacent to entrance
- Tennis on E. Franklin
- Playfields relatively remote from school



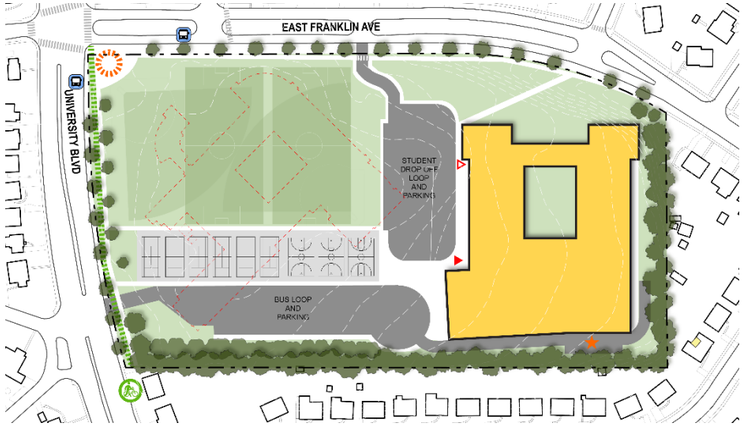
Option 2

+ Playfields close to school
+ Large buffer to neighbors
- Parking & courts on E. Franklin
- Drop off remote from entrance



Option 3

+ Playfields close to school
+ No parking between intersection and entrance
- Significant traffic concerns on University
- Main entrance behind tennis fencing



Option 4

+ New construction furthest from ex. building
+ Centralized main entrance for all students
- Traffic concerns on University
- All parking visible

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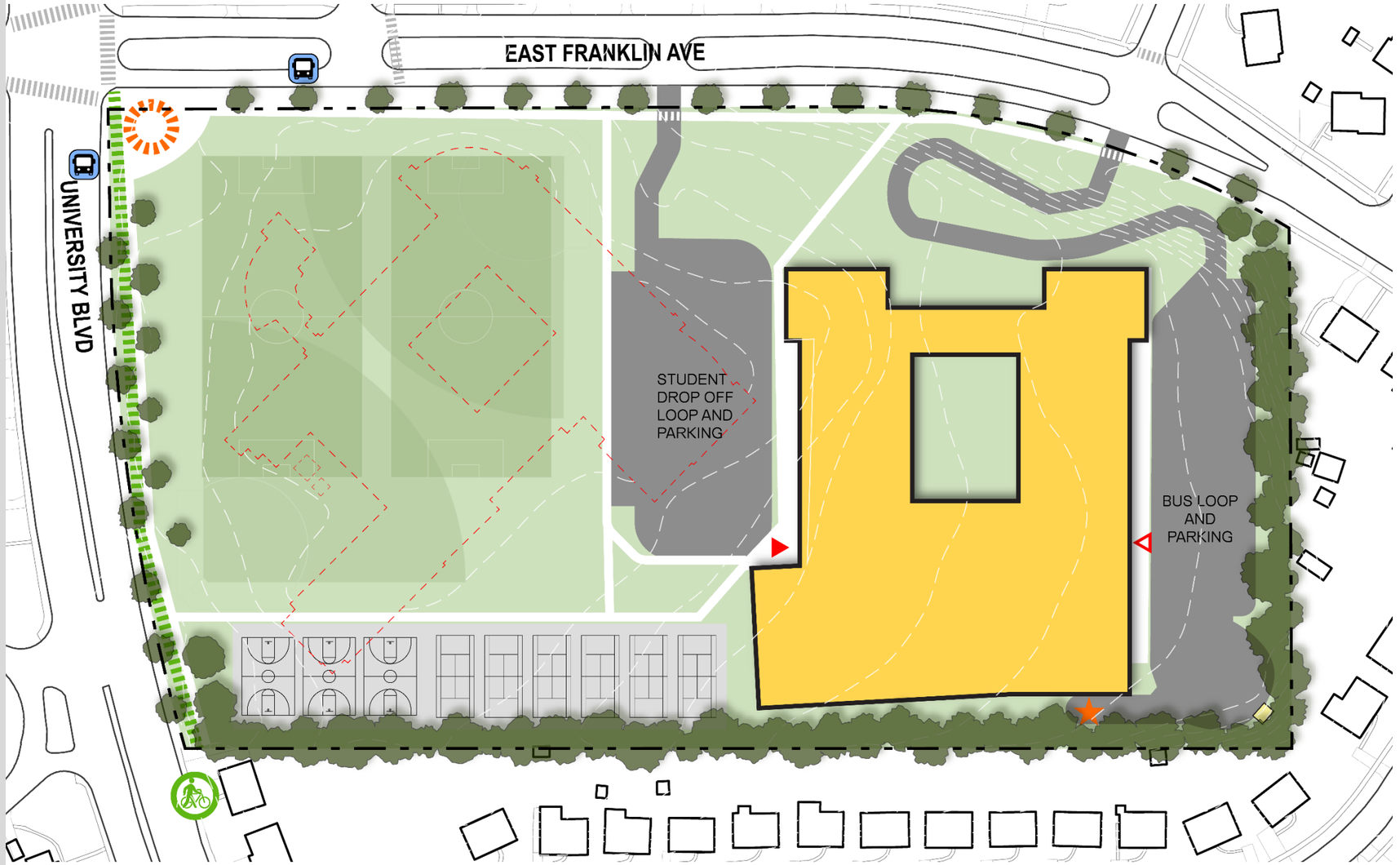
SITE PLAN

Feedback between Meetings 1 & 2

- **Security**
  - Students entering and exiting the building on opposite sides of the building
  - Supervision concerns
  - Situation causing problems at middle schools across county
  - Neelsville Middle School
- **Special Education**
  - Special Education buses must drop off directly on curb
  - Cannot utilize platform lift when parked in chevron pattern
  - Special education bus riders must have equitable access (cannot enter the building in a segregated manner)



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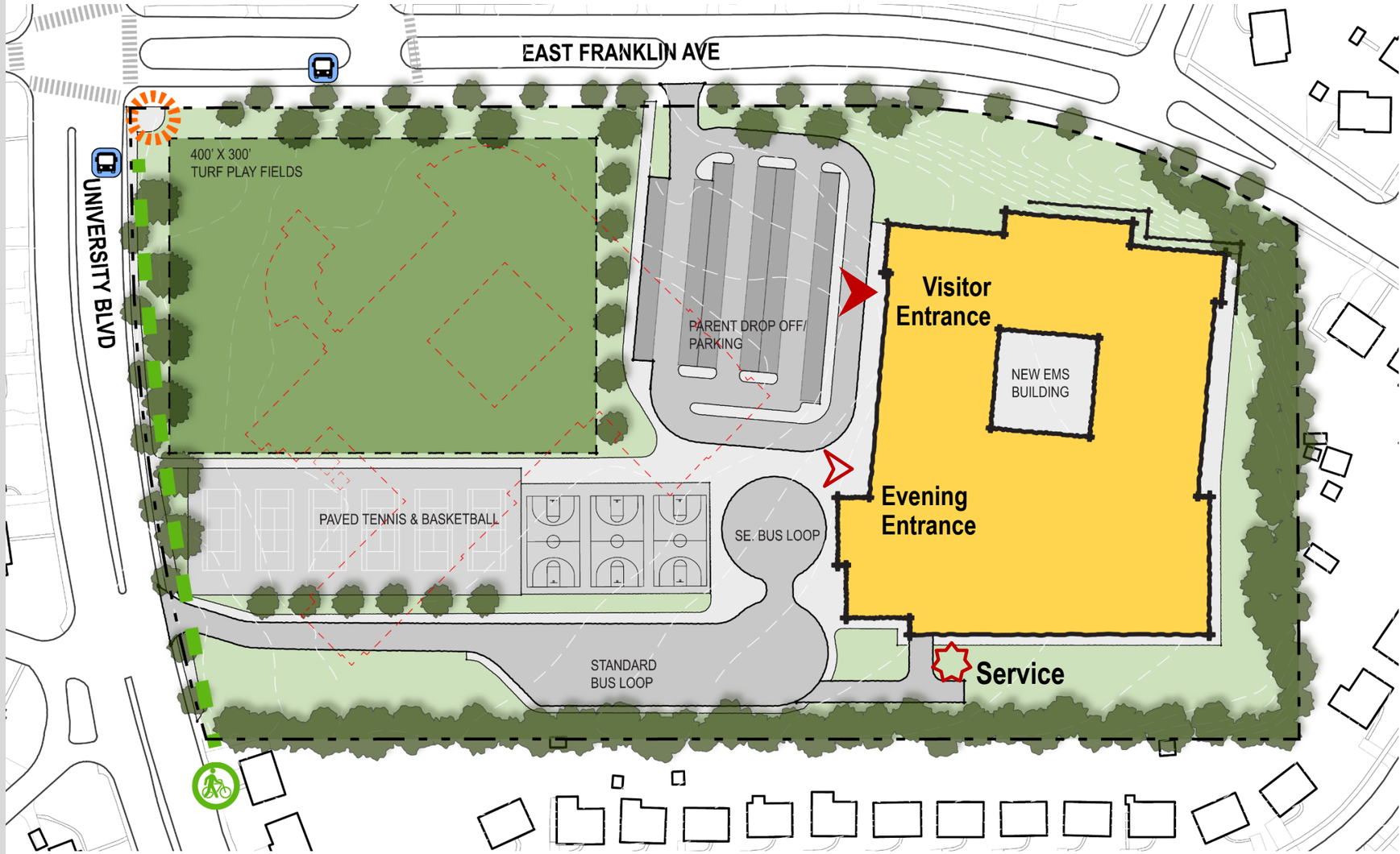
SITE PLAN

Community Meeting 2 - University Blvd Bus Loop

- **Entrances**
  - Walkers, bus riders & car riders on West
- **Bus Loop**
  - Access off University Boulevard
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - Accessed off bus loop
  - South of building
- **Playfields**
  - Across main parking lot and bus loop
- **Playcourts**
  - Across main parking lot and bus loop



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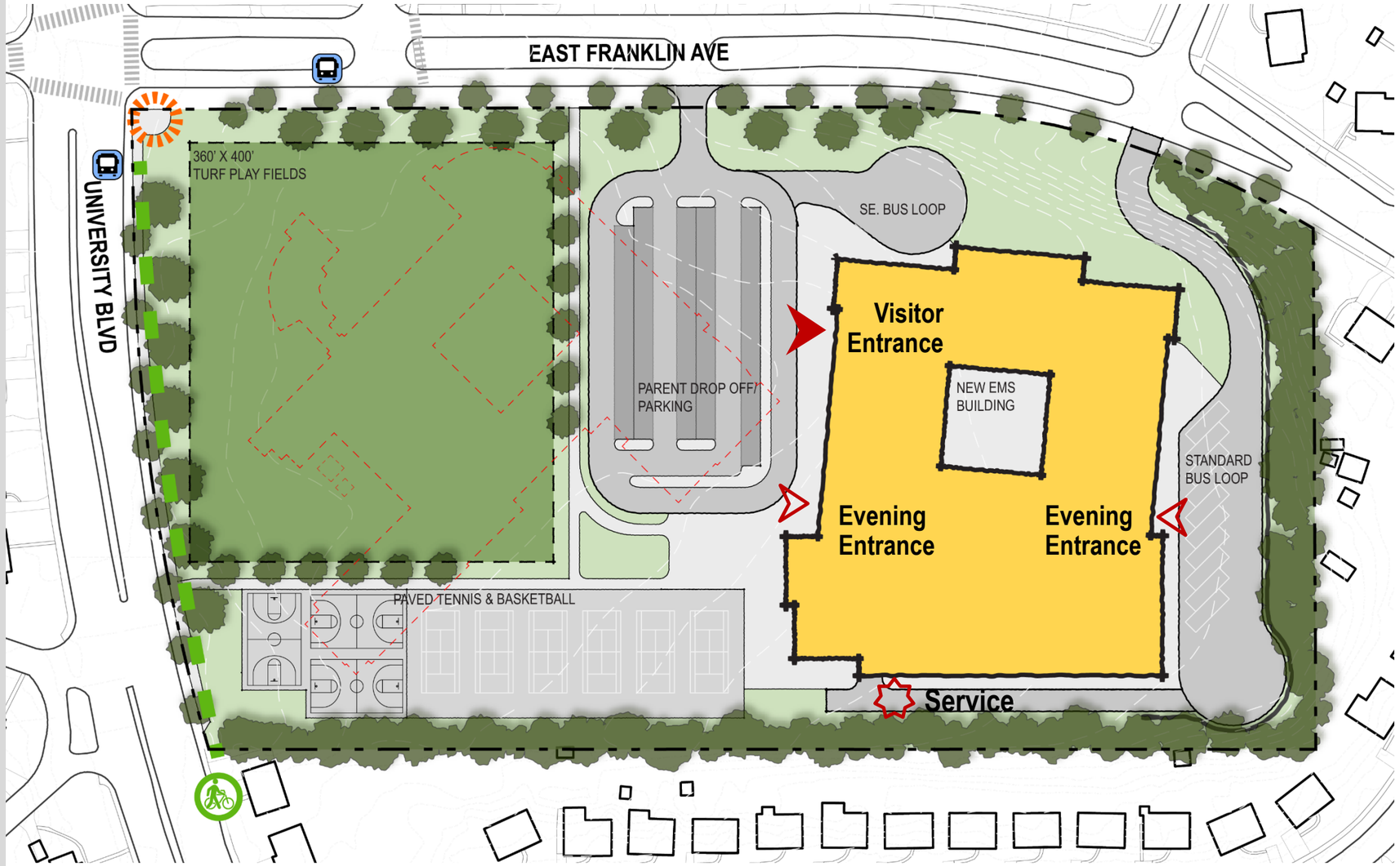
SITE PLAN

Community Meeting 2 - E Franklin Ave Bus Loop

- **Entrances**
  - Walkers & car riders on West
  - Bus riders on East
- **Bus Loop**
  - Access off E. Franklin Ave
  - Between school and hill
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - Accessed off main parking lot
  - North of building
- **Playfields**
  - Around main parking lot
- **Playcourts**
  - Directly adjacent to building



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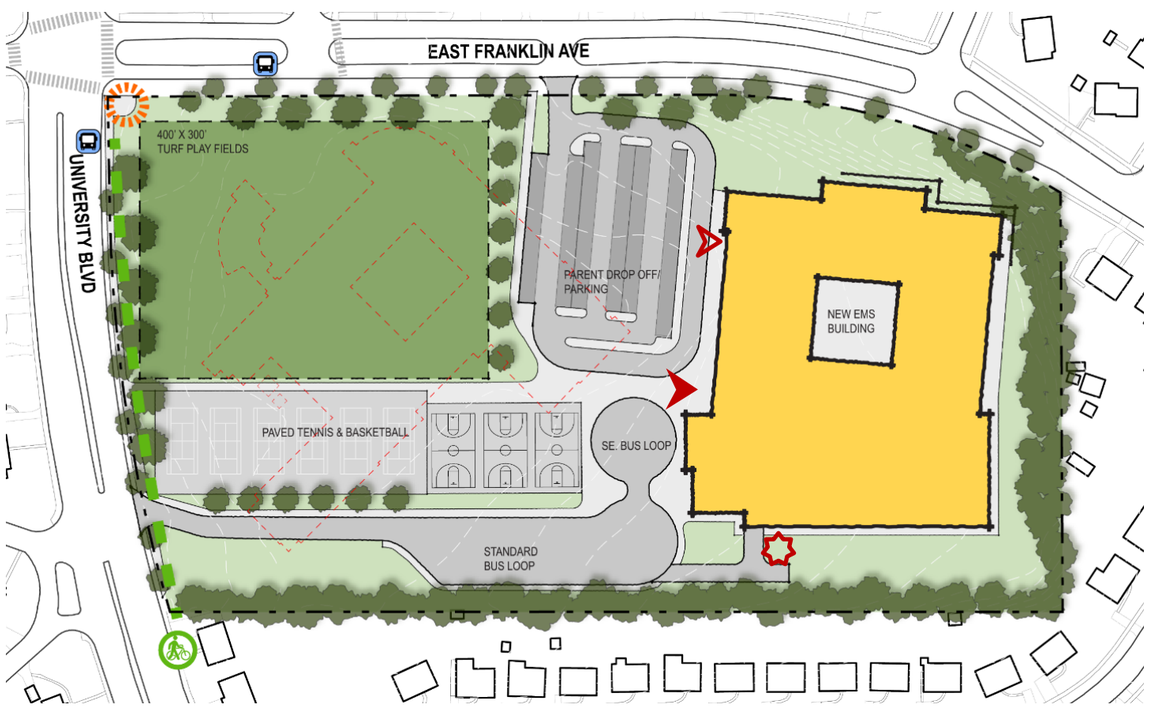
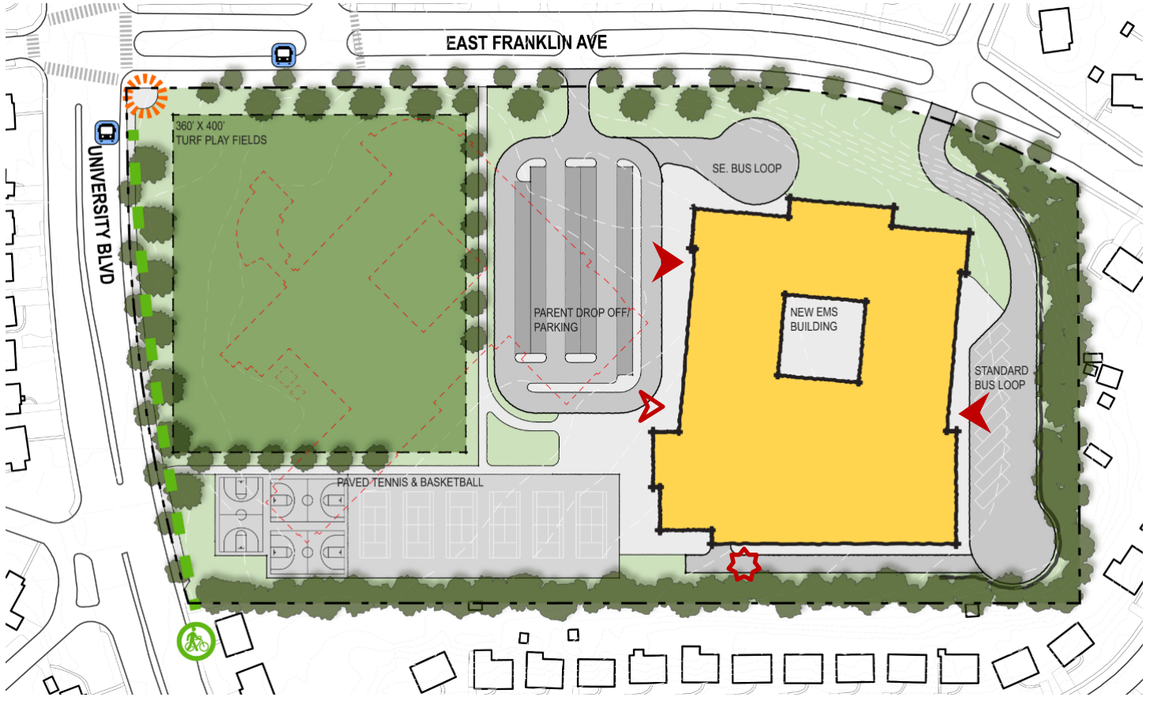
SITE PLAN

Meeting 2 Comparison



Approach A

- **Entrances**
  - Walkers, bus riders & car riders on West
- **Bus Loop**
  - Access off University Boulevard
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - Accessed off bus loop
  - South of building
- **Playfields**
  - Narrow access path from building
- **Playcourts**
  - Across main parking lot and bus loop



Approach E

- **Entrances**
  - Walkers & car riders on West
  - Bus riders on East
- **Bus Loop**
  - Access off E. Franklin Ave, between school and hill
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - Accessed off main parking lot
  - North of building
- **Playfields**
  - Wide access path from building
- **Playcourts**
  - Directly adjacent to building

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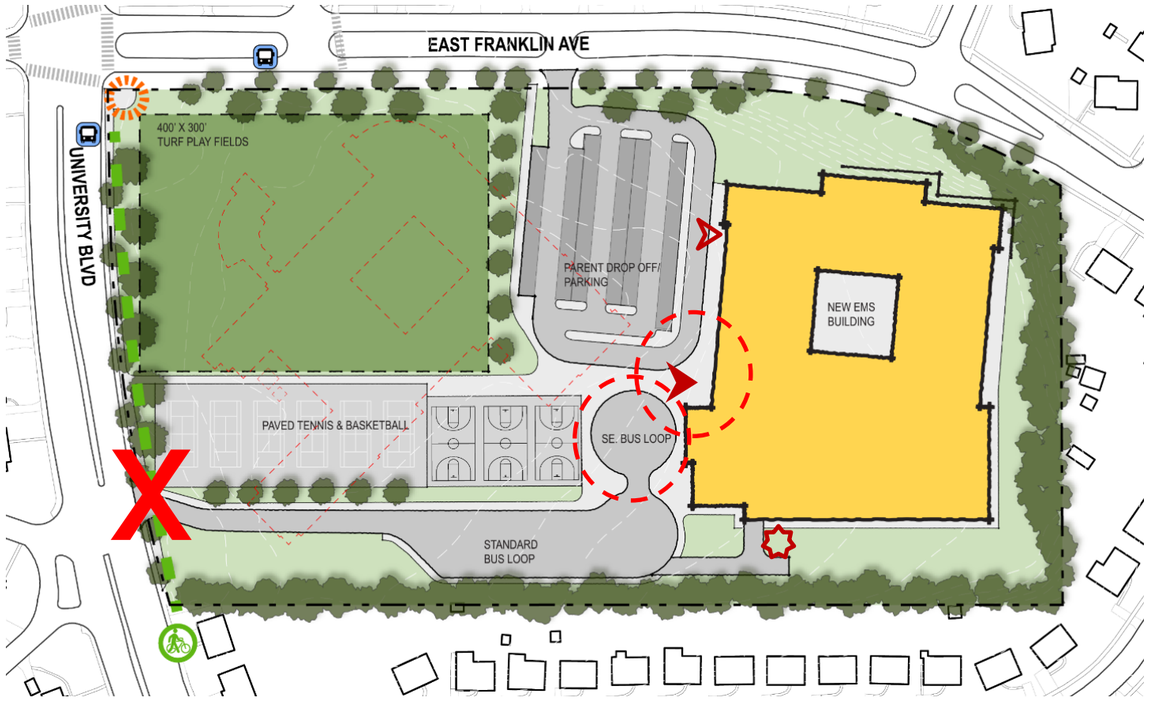
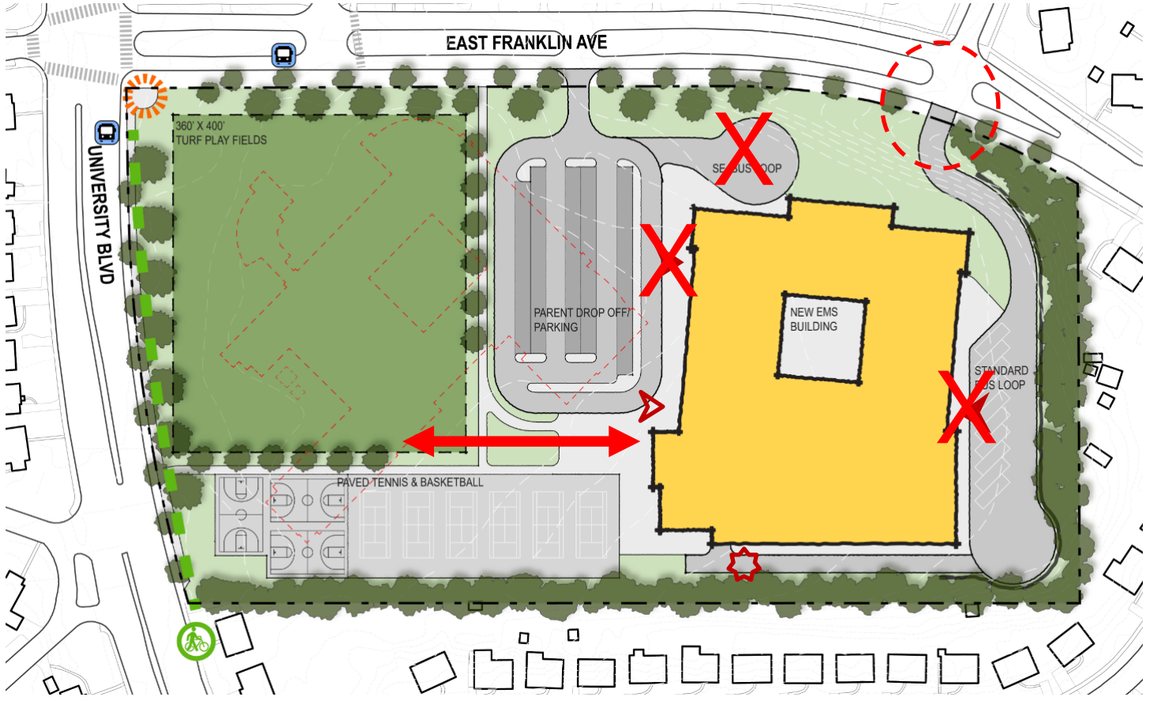
SITE PLAN

Meeting 2 Comparison



Approach A

- **Entrances**
  - Walkers, bus riders & car riders on West
- **Bus Loop**
  - ~~Access off University Boulevard~~
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - Accessed off bus loop
  - South of building
- **Playfields**
  - ~~Narrow access path from building~~
- **Playcourts**
  - Across main parking lot and bus loop



Approach E

- **Entrances**
  - ~~Walkers & car riders on West~~
  - ~~Bus riders on East~~
- **Bus Loop**
  - Access off E. Franklin Ave, between school and hill
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - ~~Accessed off main parking lot~~
  - ~~North of building~~
- **Playfields**
  - Wide access path from building
- **Playcourts**
  - Directly adjacent to building

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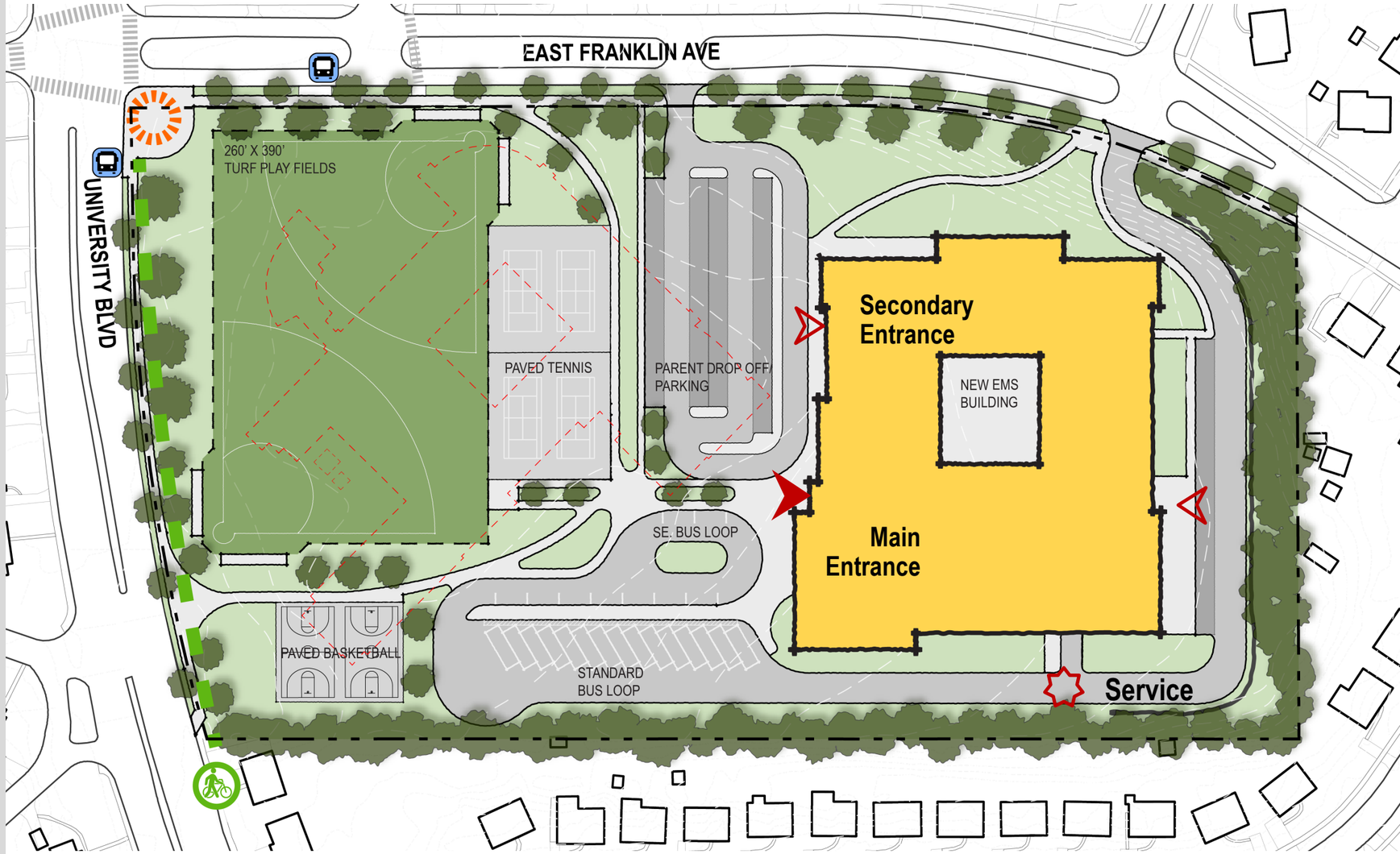
SITE PLAN

Hybridized Site Plan

- **Entrances**
  - Walkers, bus riders & car riders on West
  - One central entrance for entire community
- **Bus Loop**
  - Access off E Franklin Ave
- **Special Ed Loop**
  - Equitable access
  - Drop off students on same curb as primary bus loop
- **Playfields**
  - On central entry plaza
  - On axis with bldg. main entrance
- **Playcourts**
  - 4 Tennis & 2 Basketball match current qty
- **Parking Lot**
  - Staff parking separated from parent drop off loop



BUILDING PLAN

Educational Specification

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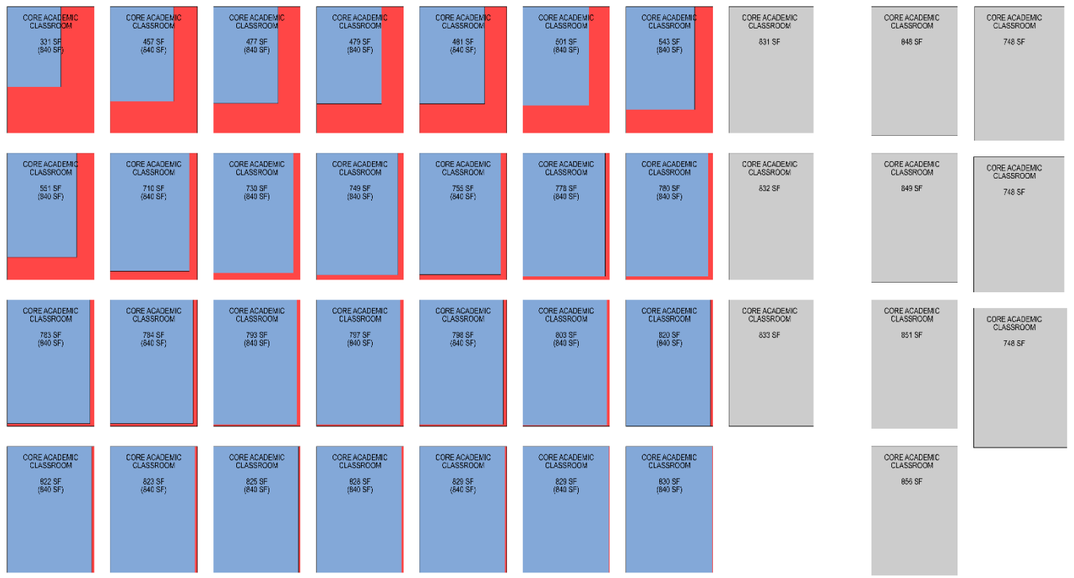
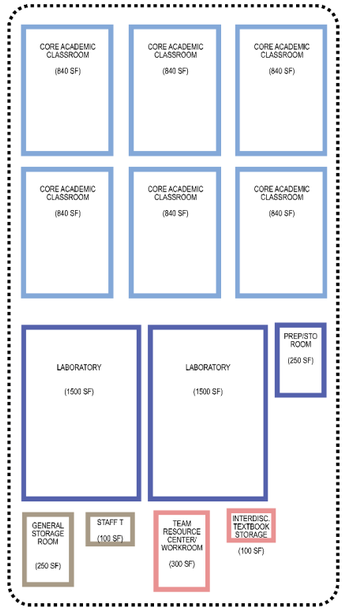
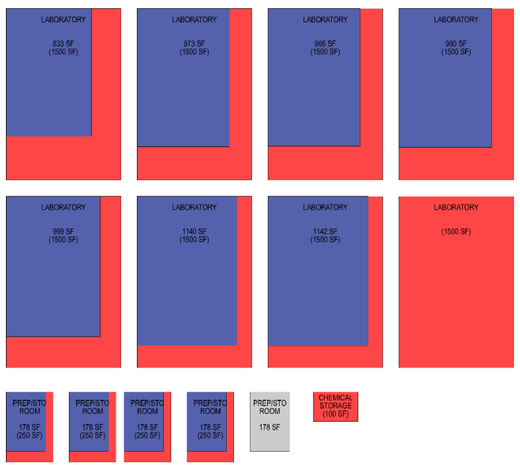
GENERAL CLASSROOMS Total SF 23,520; Existing SF 28,830 (120.9%)



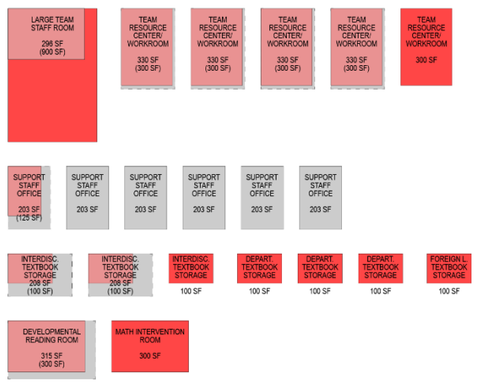
MASTER PLAN ADDITION Total SF 8,990



SCIENCE Total SF 13,100; Existing SF 7,925 (60.5%)



OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT AREAS Total SF 3,825; Existing SF 3,565 (93.2%)



GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE

Existing:	152,030
Ed Spec:	+/-166,000
Masterplan:	+/- 13,420

COLOR LEGEND:

- SF DEFICIENCY
- SF OVERAGE

- ADMIN/STAFF SUPPORT
- CORE INSTRUCTION
- SPECIAL EDUCATION
- SPECIALTY INSTRUCTION
- MUSIC/ARTS
- LINKAGES TO LEARNING
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- FOOD SERVICES/CAFE
- MEDIA CENTER
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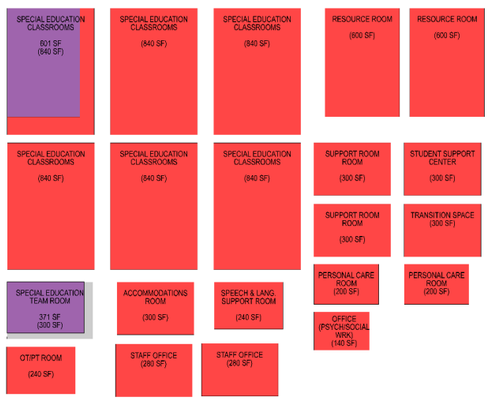
- CIRCULATION
- VERTICAL CIRCULATION

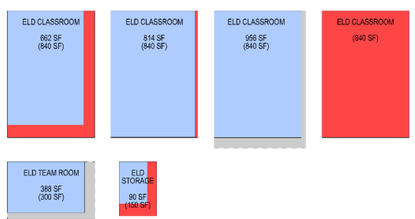
BUILDING PLAN

Educational Specification

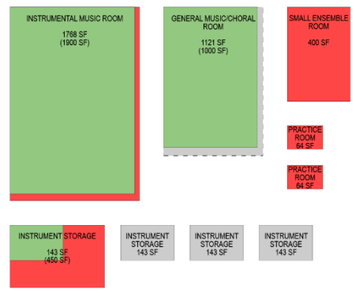
SPECIAL EDUCATION
Total SF 4,200; Existing SF 972 **(11%)**



ELD CLASSROOMS
Total SF 3,810; Existing SF 2,908 **(76.4%)**



MUSIC SUITE
Total SF 3,878; Existing SF 3,460 **(89.2%)**



VISUAL ARTS SUITE
Total SF 3,020; Existing SF 1,616 **(53.5%)**



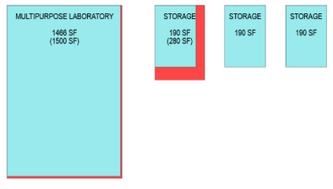
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Total SF 260; Existing SF 74 **(28.3%)**



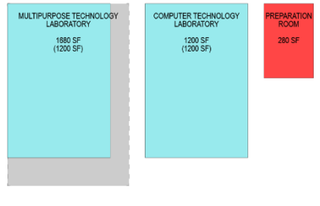
STAFF
Total SF 700; Existing SF 1,079 **(154%)**



MULTIPURPOSE LABORATORY
Total SF 1,780; Existing SF 2,036 **(114.4%)**



MULTIPURPOSE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
Total SF 2,680; Existing SF 2,880 **(107.5%)**



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BUILDING PLAN

Educational Specification

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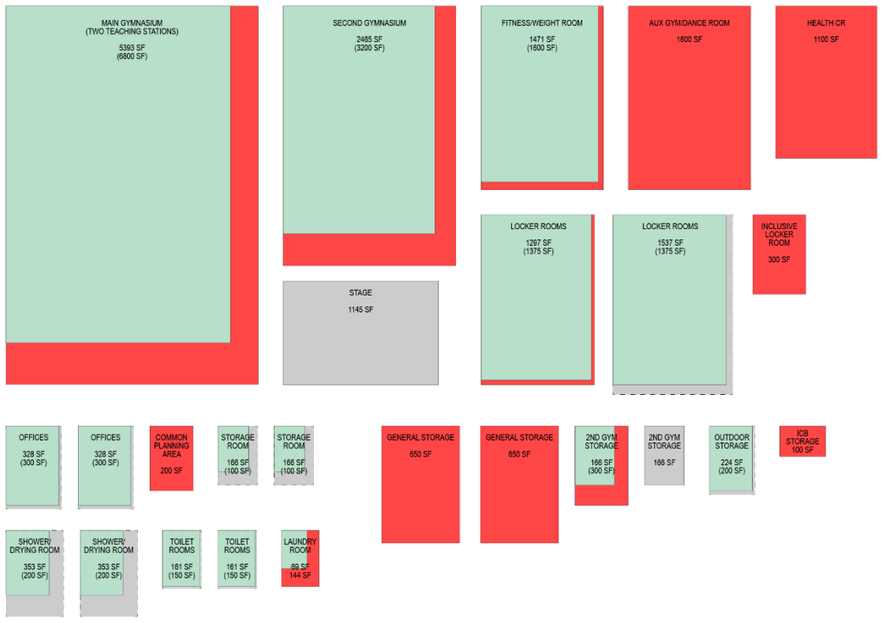
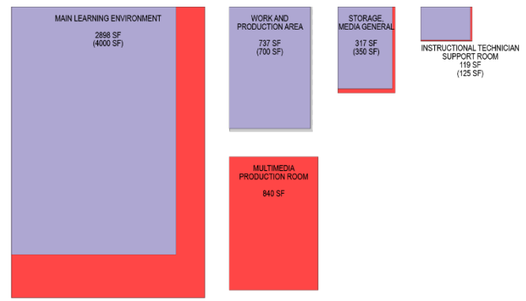
PHYSICAL EDUCATION Total SF 21,100; Existing SF 14,805 (70.2%)



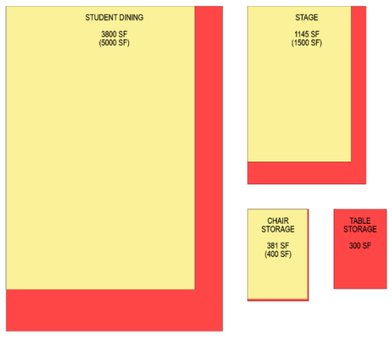
KITCHEN AREA Total SF 3,043; Existing SF 3,646 (119.8%)



LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER Total SF 6,015; Existing SF 4,071 (67.7%)



STUDENT DINING Total SF 7,200; Existing SF 6,472 (89.9%)



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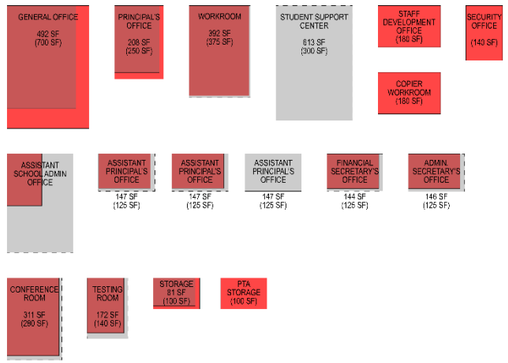
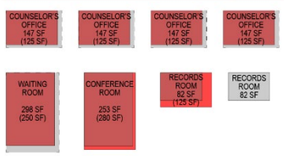
BUILDING PLAN

Educational Specification

ADMINISTRATION SUITE
Total SF 3,070; Existing SF 3,453 **(112.2%)**



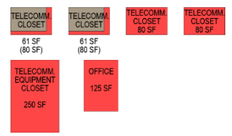
GUIDANCE SUITE
Total SF 1,155; Existing SF 1,302 **(112.7%)**



HEALTH SUITE
Total SF 765; Existing SF 719 **(94%)**



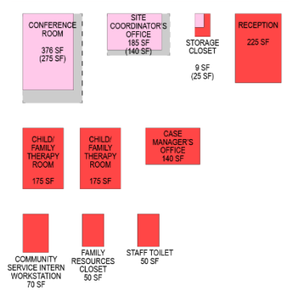
COMPUTER SUPPORT
Total SF 695; Existing SF 121 **(17.4%)**



BUILDING SUPPORT FACILITIES
Total SF 2,025; Existing SF 2,535 **(125.2%)**



LINKAGES TO LEARNING
Total SF 1,325; Existing SF 570 **(43%)**



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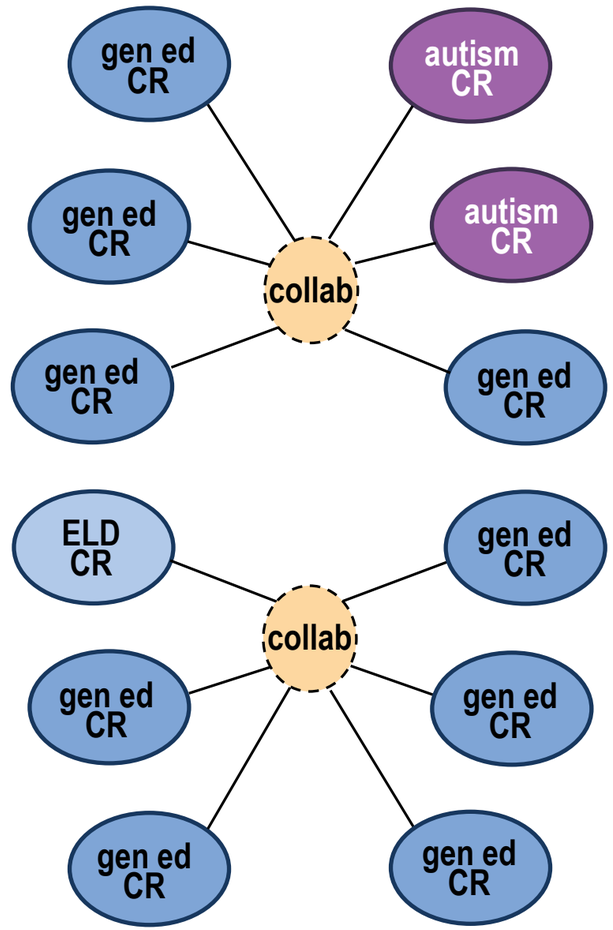
BUILDING PLAN

Super Teams - Core Instruction Spaces

- General Ed Classrooms
- English Language Development (ELD) Classrooms
- Autism Classrooms
  - Inclusionary opportunities
- Collaboration
  - Open areas for extended learning
  - Directly accessible by surrounding classrooms
  - Supervised



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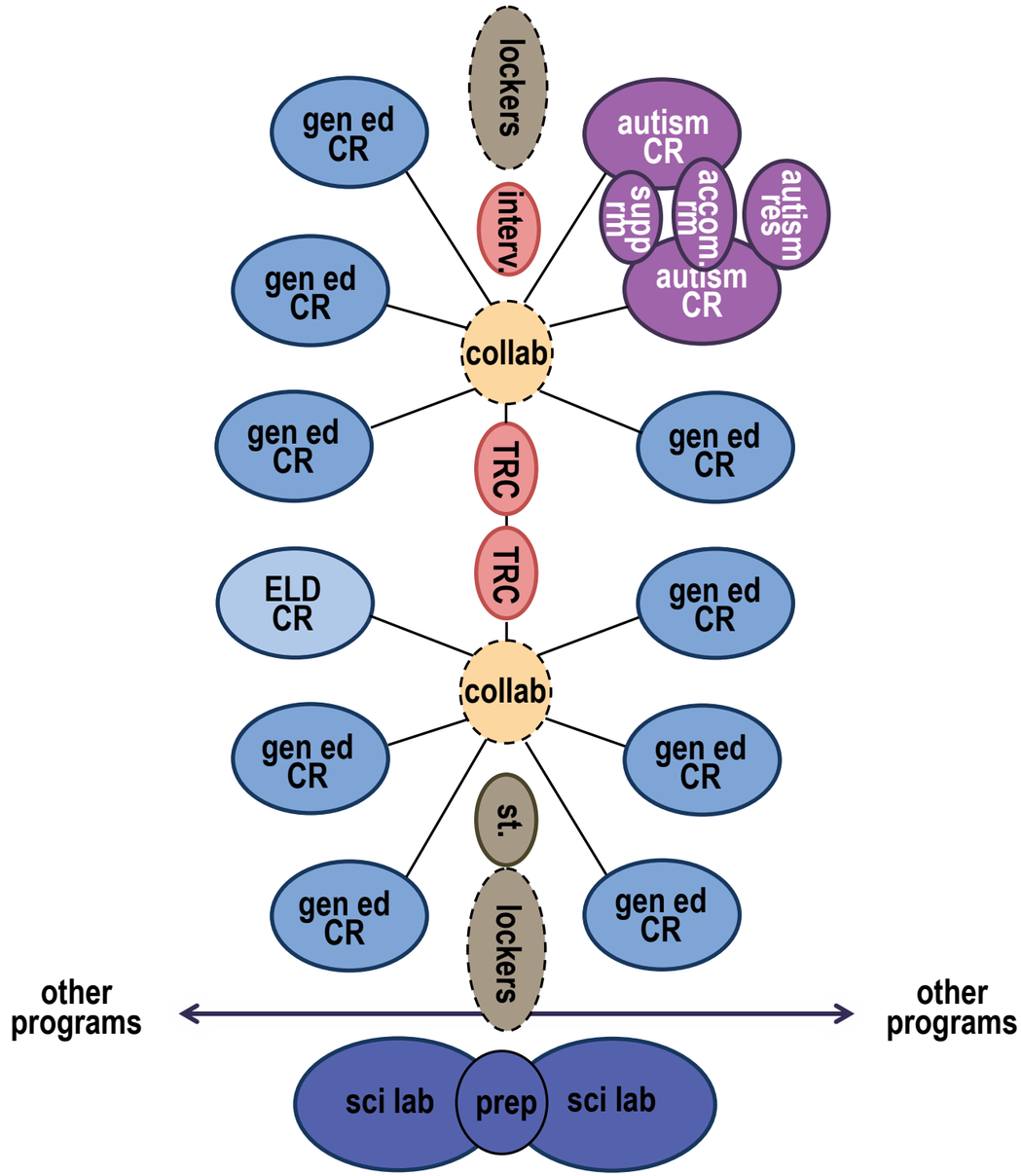
BUILDING PLAN

Super Teams - Support Spaces

- Teacher Workrooms
  - Central to classrooms
  - Supervision of open collaboration
- Small Group / Resource Rooms
  - Proximity for pull-out instruction
- Science Lab
  - Proximity to team
  - Accessible by all
- Learning Community
  - Minimize pass through travel
- Storage Rooms
- Locker Banks
  - At entrance/exit to superteam



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BUILDING PLAN

Visioning Poll Question # 1

What are your main priorities for a reimagined Eastern Middle School?



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BUILDING PLAN

Visioning Poll Question # 2

What attributes of the Eastern Middle School Community should guide the design?



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BUILDING PLAN

Visioning Poll Question # 3

What are your site priorities for the future Eastern Middle School?



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BUILDING PLAN

Meeting 2 Floor Plan Summary

KEY SIMILARITIES

GENERAL
- New high efficiency HVAC system
- New instructional technology
- High performance building envelope
- 3 stories
- Meets educational specifications

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
- Diversity of learning environments
- Flexible spaces for differentiated learning
- Daylighting and views

MASTER PLAN ADDITION
- Shell space for potential expansion
- Enlarged core spaces to accommodate potential expansion

SITE
- Courtyard for outdoor learning
- Separated Bus and Parent loop
- Dedicated Special Ed bus loop

KEY DIFFERENCES

LOCATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE
- Entry closer to E. Franklin Ave, separated from evening entrance
- Centrally located, combined with evening entrance, further from E. Franklin Ave.

SUPER TEAM ARRANGEMENT
- H – Shape
- Line
- Wings

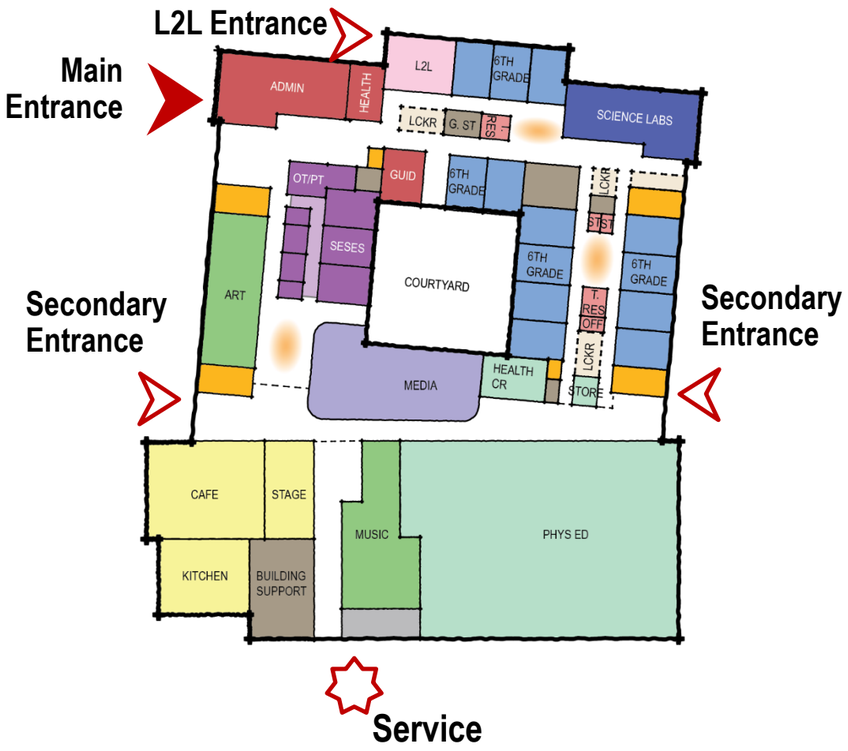
PUBLIC WING ARRANGEMENT
- Café located near main entry, looking out to community
- Gym located near main entry and closer to fields

MEDIA CENTER LOCATION
- Located centrally within the building
- Located on the ground floor
- Located on the upper floor
- Located facing out to the community

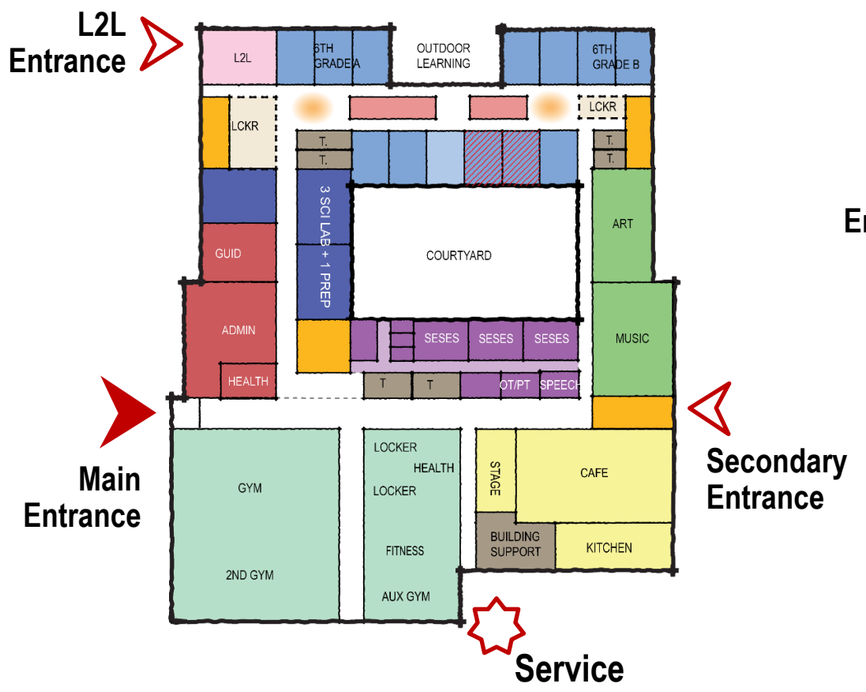
SMOLEN • EMR • ILKOVITCH ARCHITECTS

BUILDING PLAN

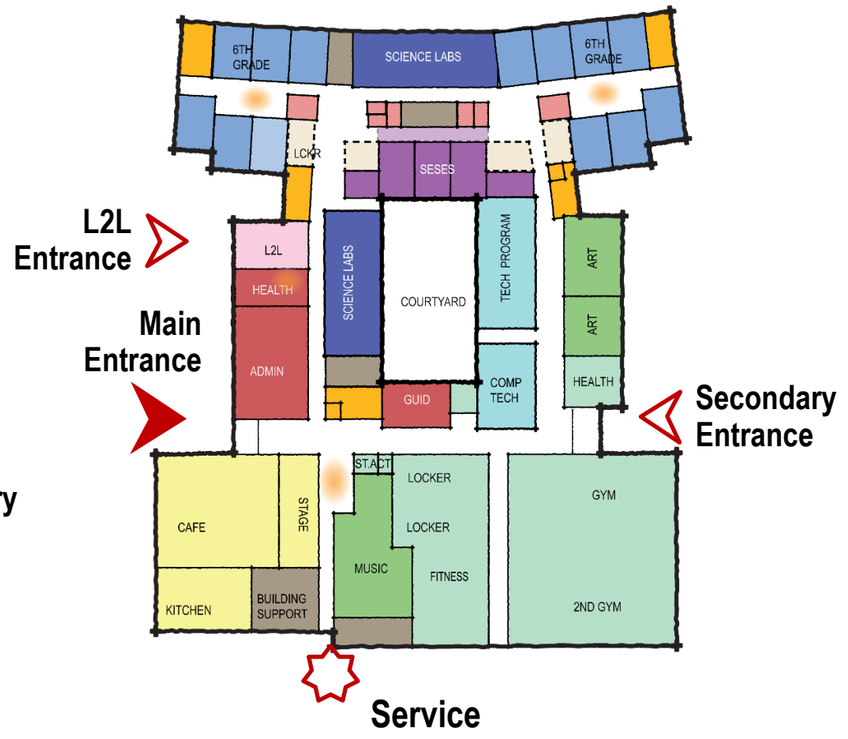
Meeting 2 Floor Plan Summary



H - Shape



Line Shape



Wing Shape

BUILDING PLAN

Meeting 2 Poll Results

Poll	Topic	Voters	Result	Votes	
1	Bus entry preference	9	E. Franklin Avenue	7	78%
2	Priority ranking of the four items listed below	8	Public Wing Arrangement	See next slide	
3	Super Team classroom arrangement	10	Wings	5	50%
4	Public Wing arrangement	10	Option B: Gym near main entry and closer to play fields	6	60%
5	Visitor entrance location	10	Option A: Closer to E. Franklin Street, separated from evening entrance	6	60%
6	Media Center location	11	Option B: Upper floor by classrooms	8	73%

BUILDING PLAN

Priority Ranking

Item	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Ranked #4		Vote Total	Average rank
Super Team Arrangement (3rd)	3	0	2	3		8	2.63
Public Wing Arrangement (1st)	**1**	**5**	**1**	**1**		**8**	**2.25**
Visitor Entrance Location (4th)	1	2	1	4		8	3.00
Media Center Location (2nd)	2	1	4	1		8	2.50

BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 3 Story Concept

KEY FEATURE

LOCATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE

- Centrally located, combined with evening entrance, further from E. Franklin St.

SUPER TEAM ARRANGEMENT

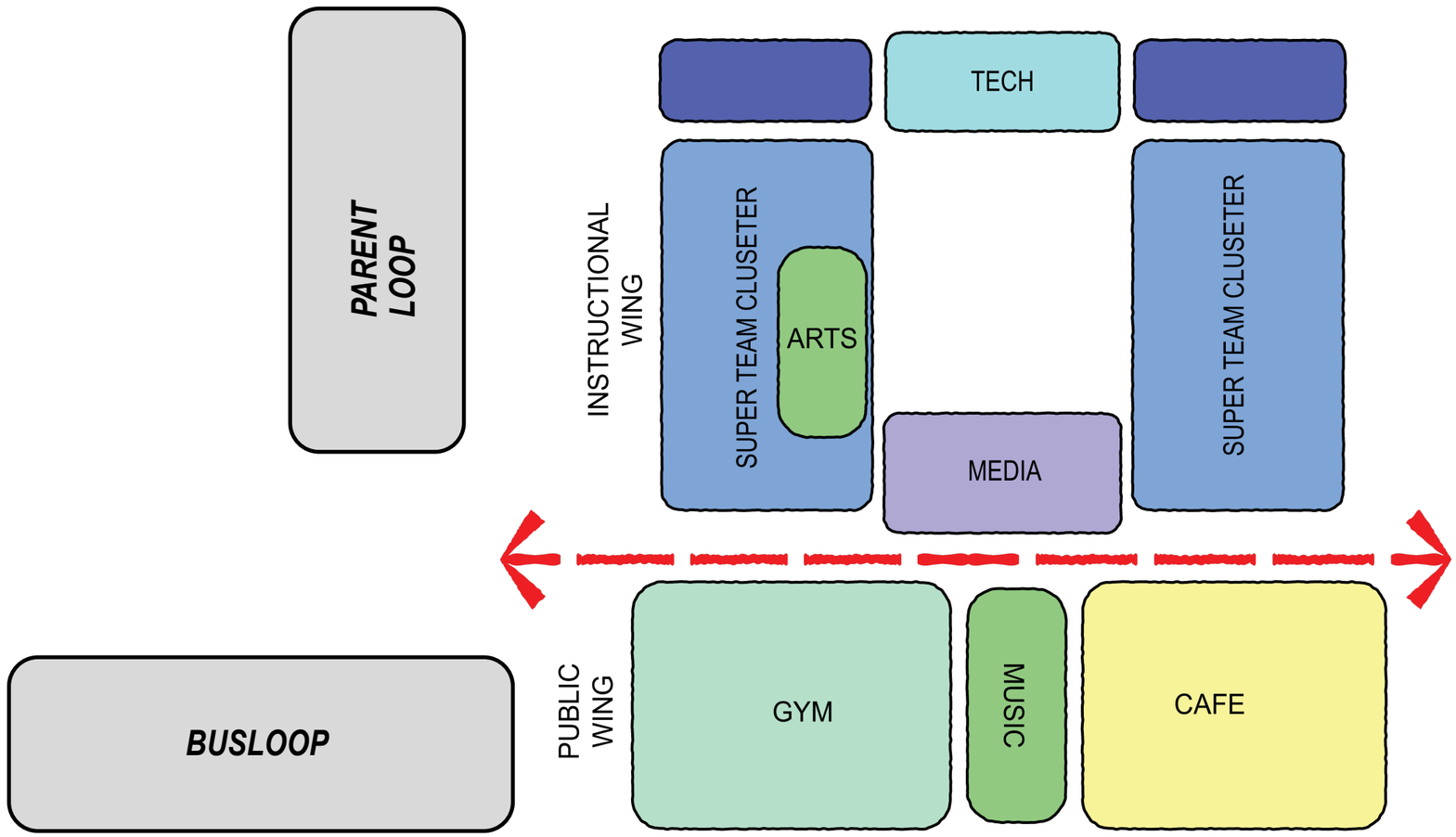
- H – Shape

PUBLIC WING ARRANGEMENT

- Gym located near main entry and closer to fields

MEDIA CENTER LOCATION

- Located centrally within the building
- Located on the upper floor



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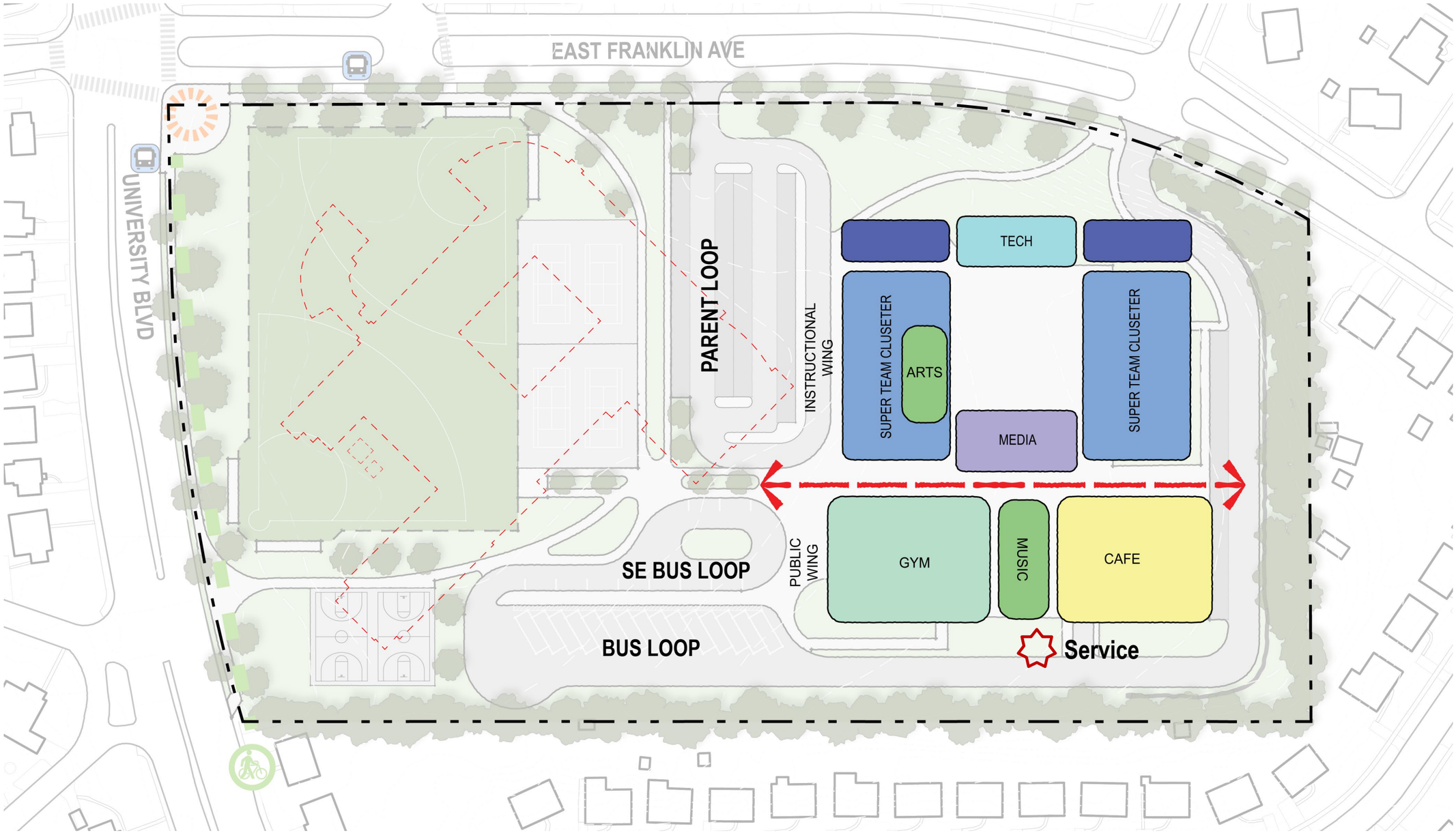
BUILDING PLAN

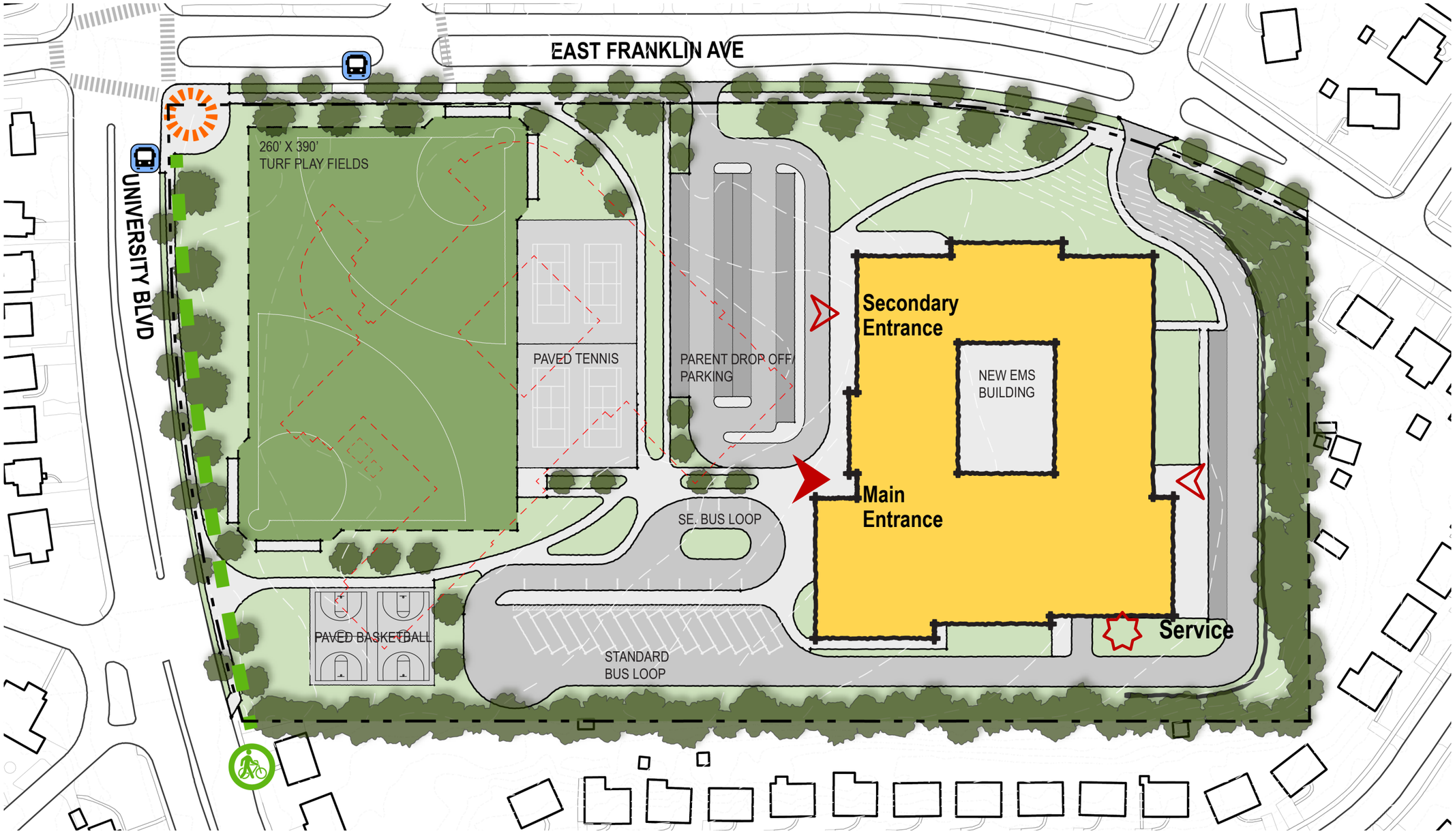
Proposed 3 Story Concept Site Plan



SMOLEN • EMR • ILKOVITCH ARCHITECTS

BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 3 Story Site Plan



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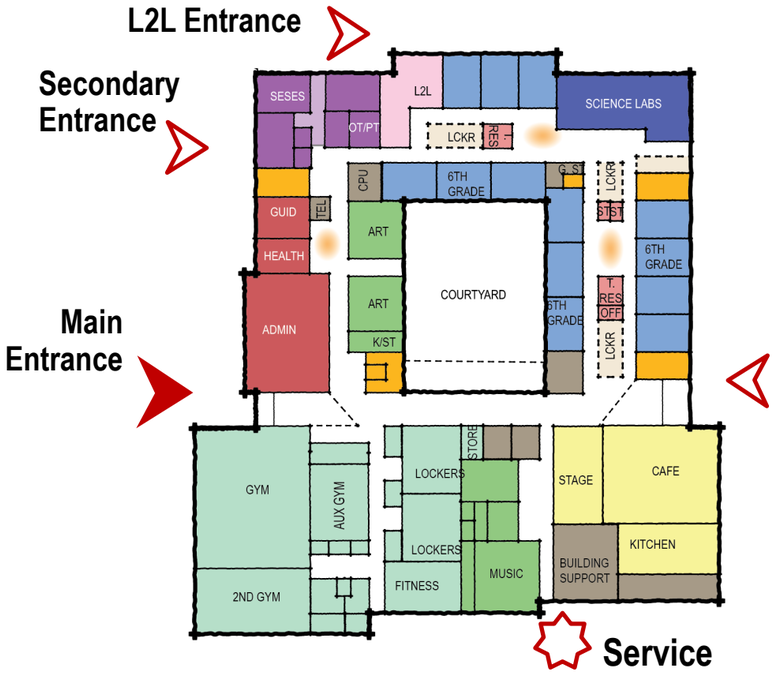
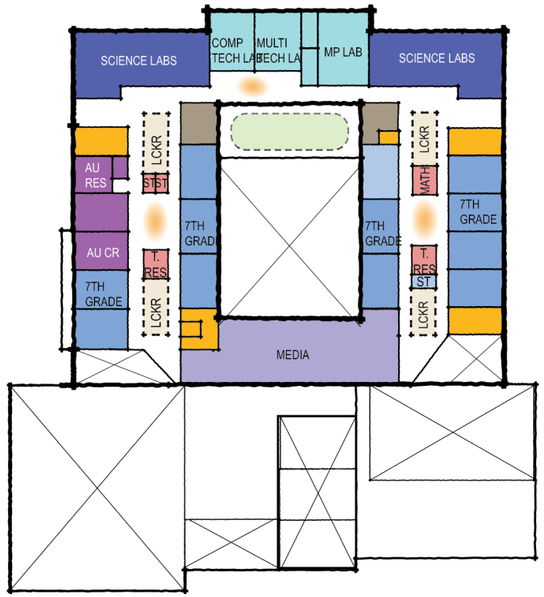
BUILDING PLAN

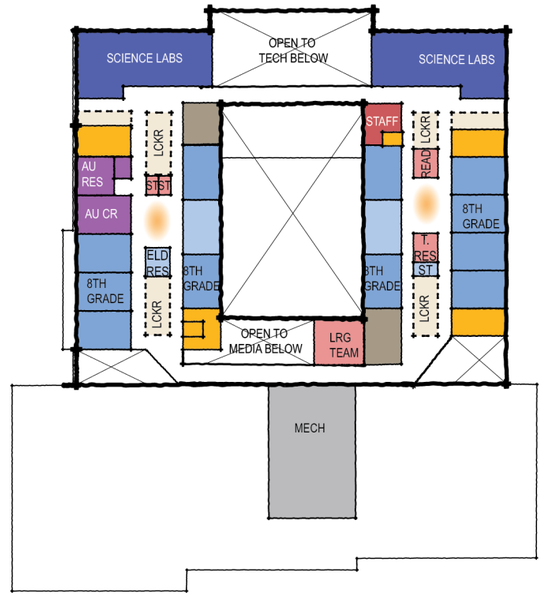
Proposed 3 Story Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



Third Floor Plan

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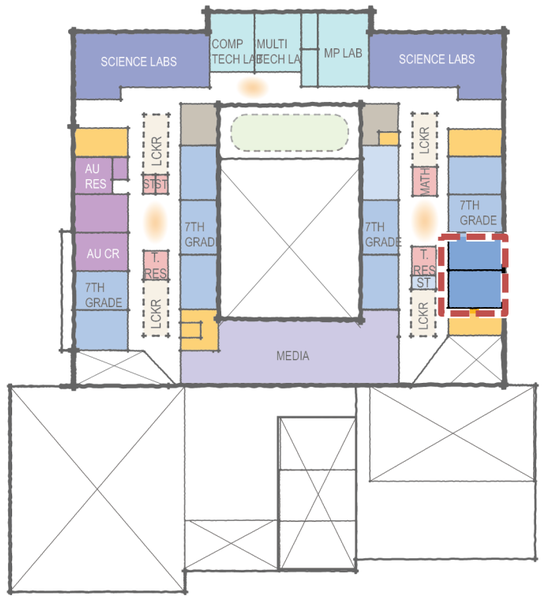
BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 3 Story Floor Plan – Shell Spaces



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan



Third Floor Plan

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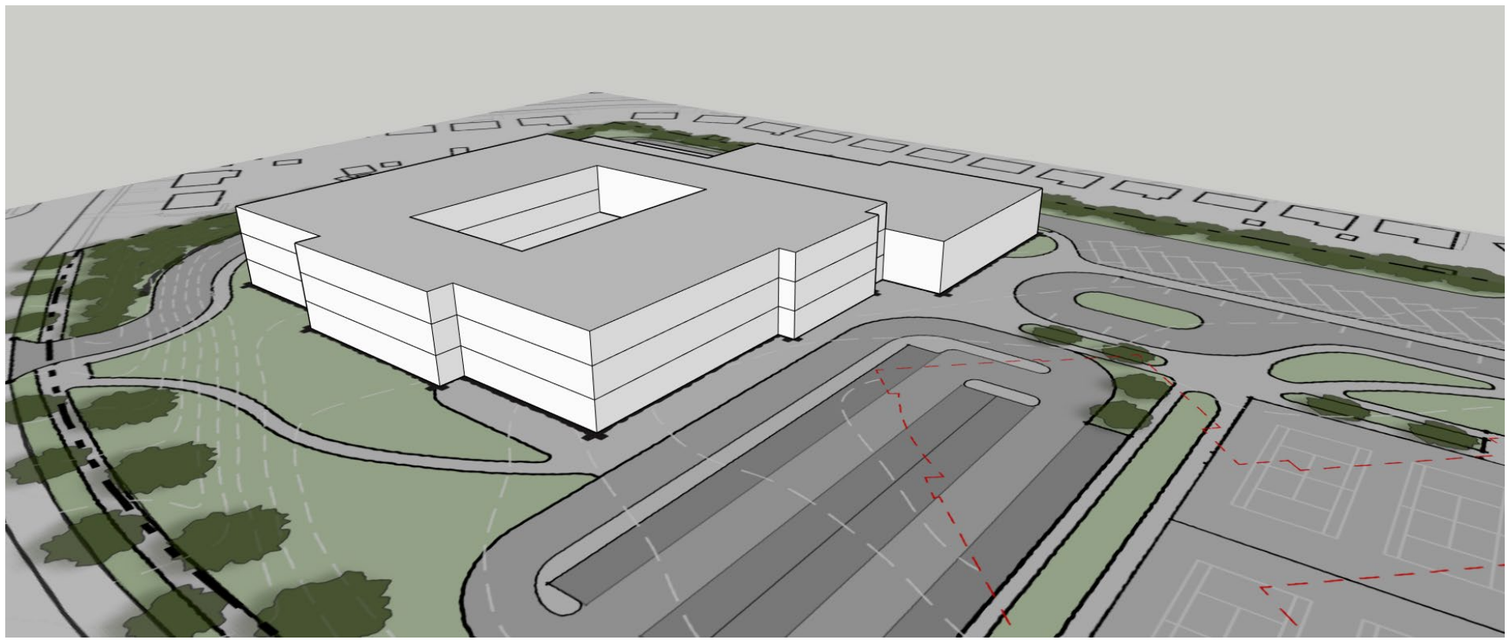
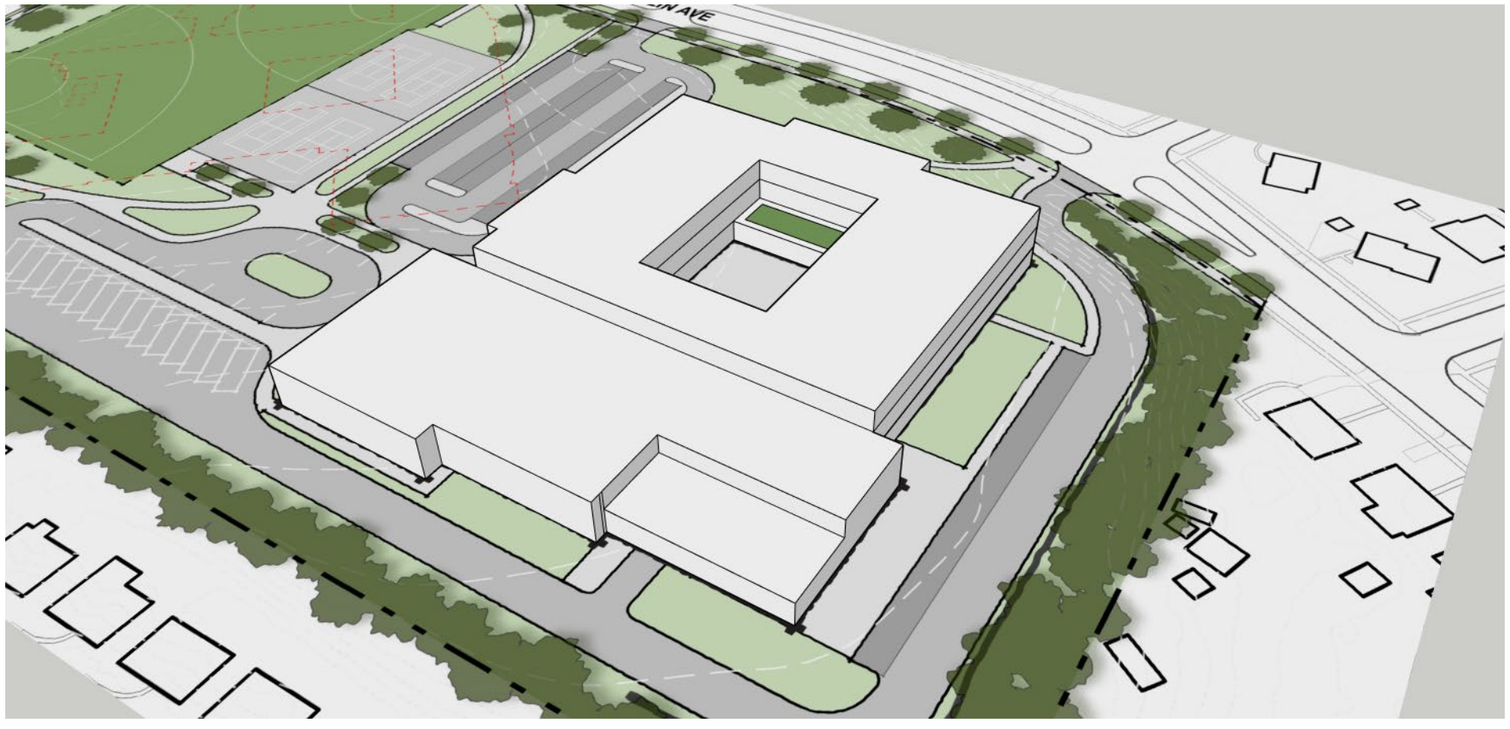
BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 3 Story Massing





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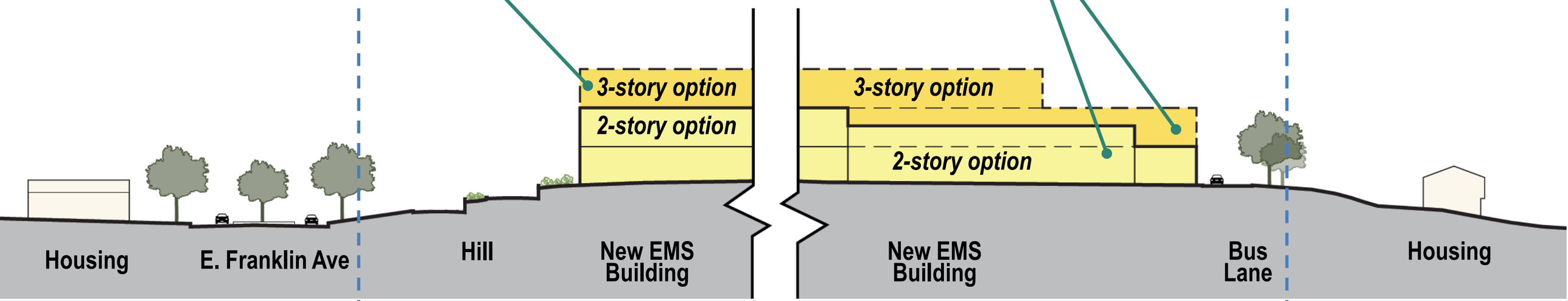
BUILDING PLAN

3-Story vs. 2-Story

Three-story height potential concerns of neighboring residents

Gymnasiums on both options are located adjacent downhill housing to reduce impact

Two-story height significantly reduces visual impact



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BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 2 Story Concept

KEY FEATURE

LOCATION OF MAIN ENTRANCE

- Centrally located, combined with evening entrance, further from E. Franklin St.

SUPER TEAM ARRANGEMENT

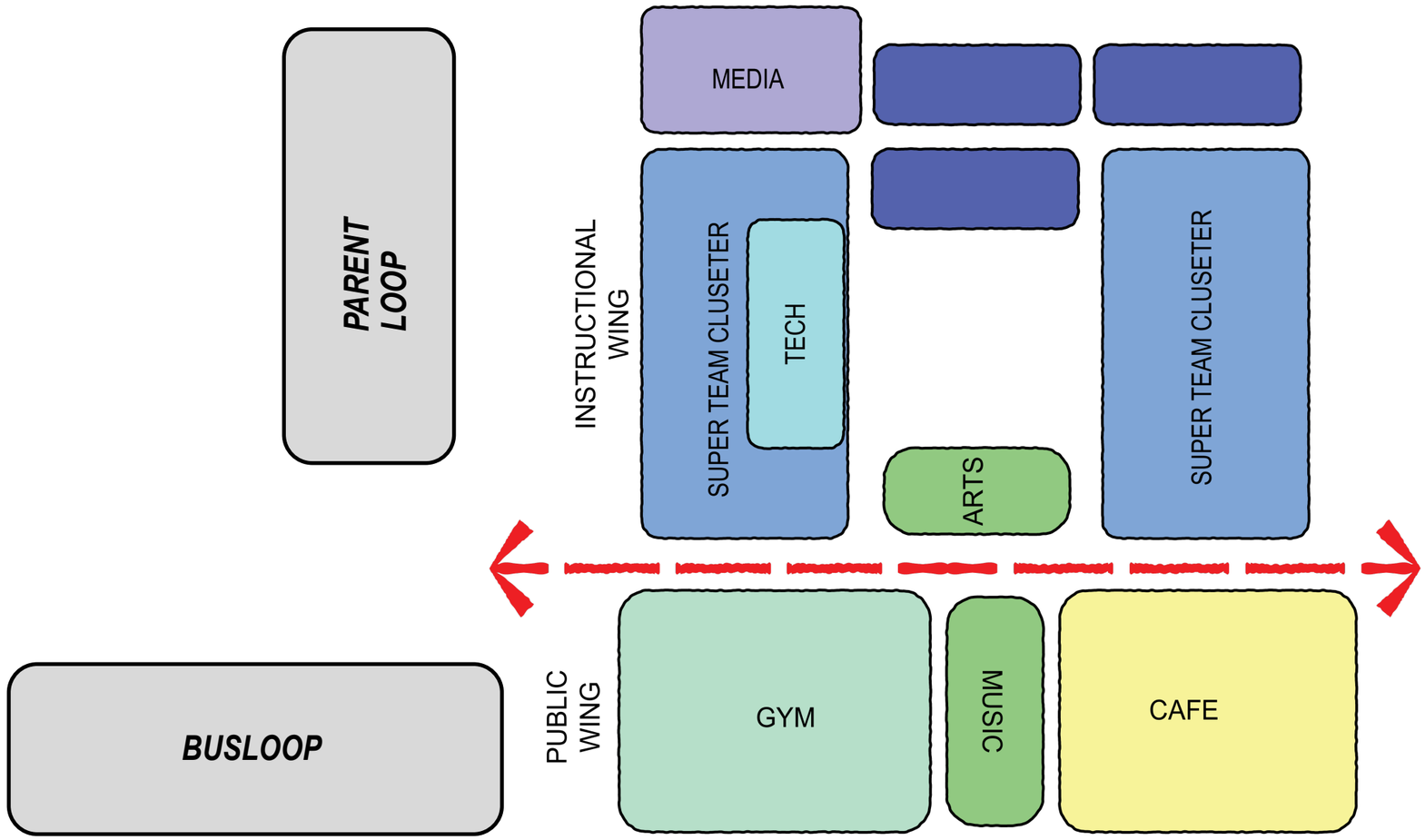
- H – Shape

PUBLIC WING ARRANGEMENT

- Gym located near main entry and closer to fields

MEDIA CENTER LOCATION

- Located facing out to the community
- Located on the upper floor



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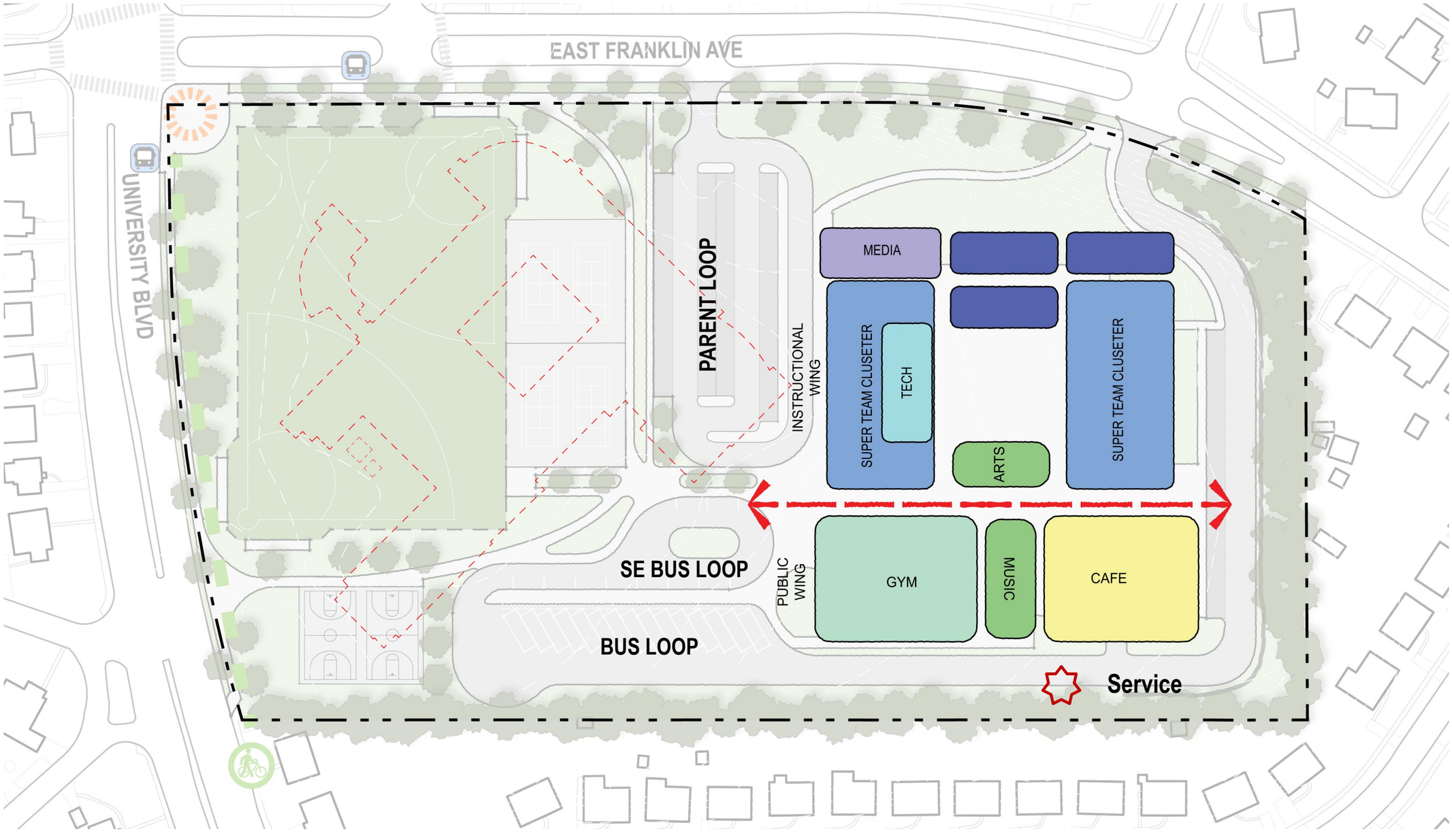
BUILDING PLAN

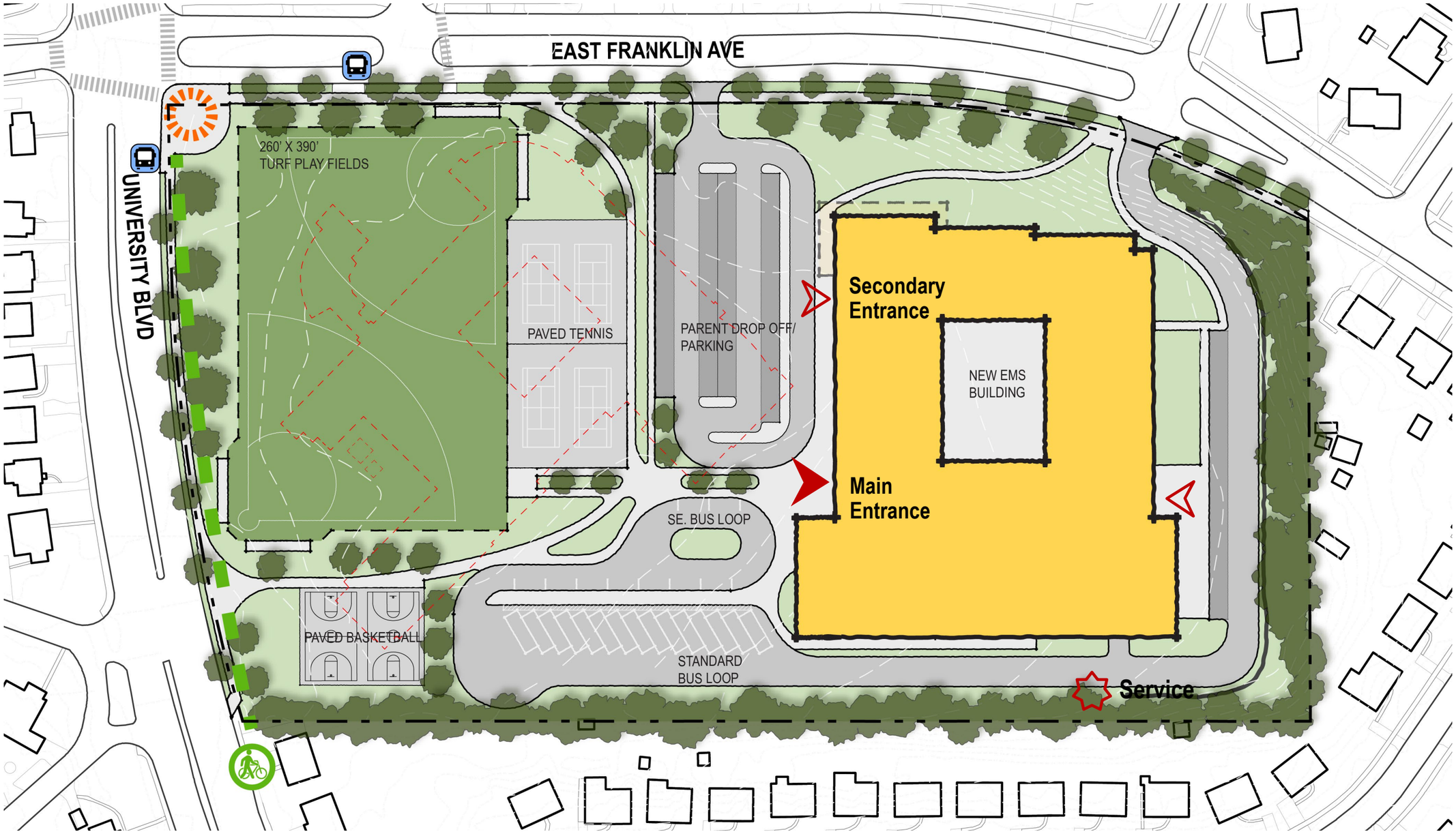
Proposed 2 Story Concept Site Plan



SMOLEN • EMR • ILKOVITCH ARCHITECTS

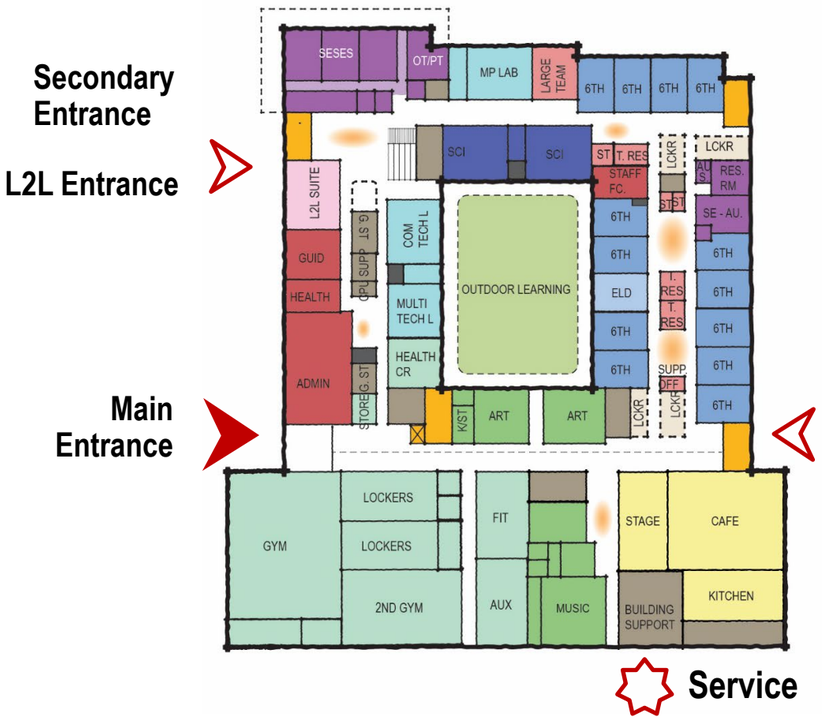
BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 2 Story Site Plan

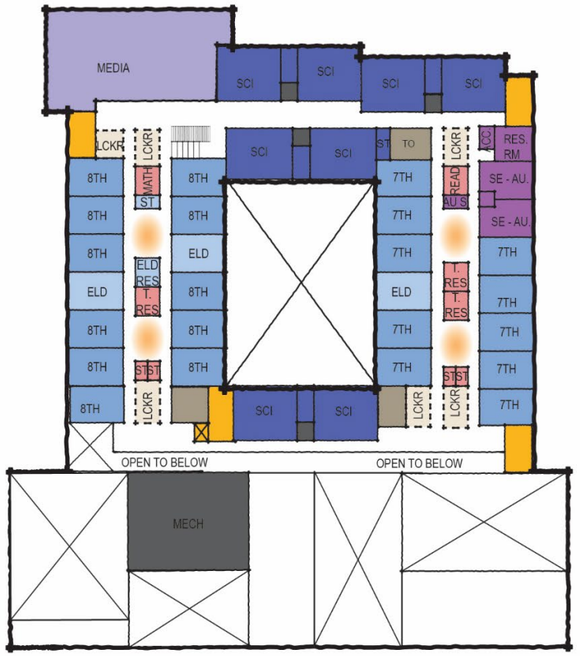


BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 2 Story Floor Plan



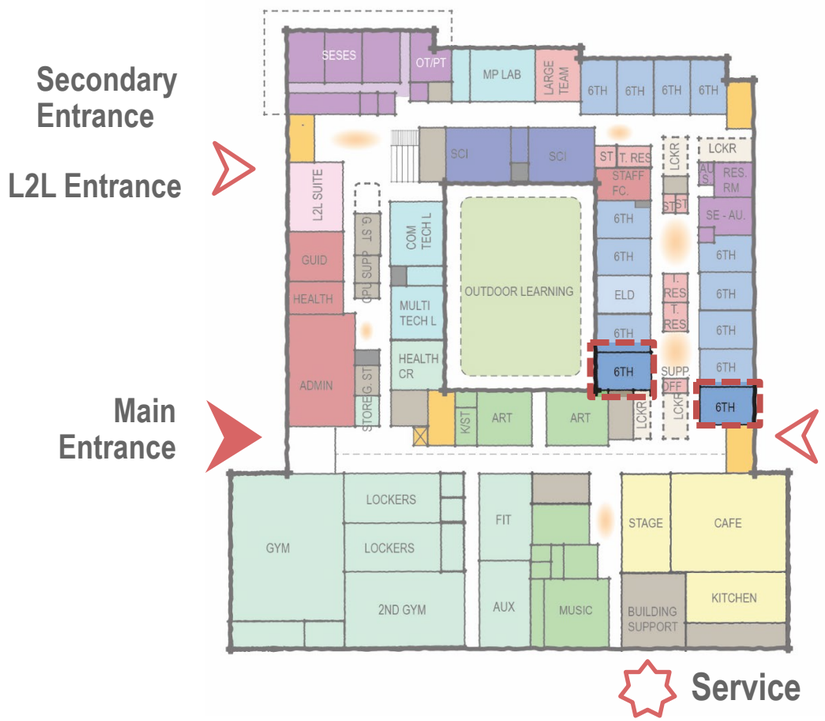
First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 2 Story Floor Plan - Shell Spaces



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

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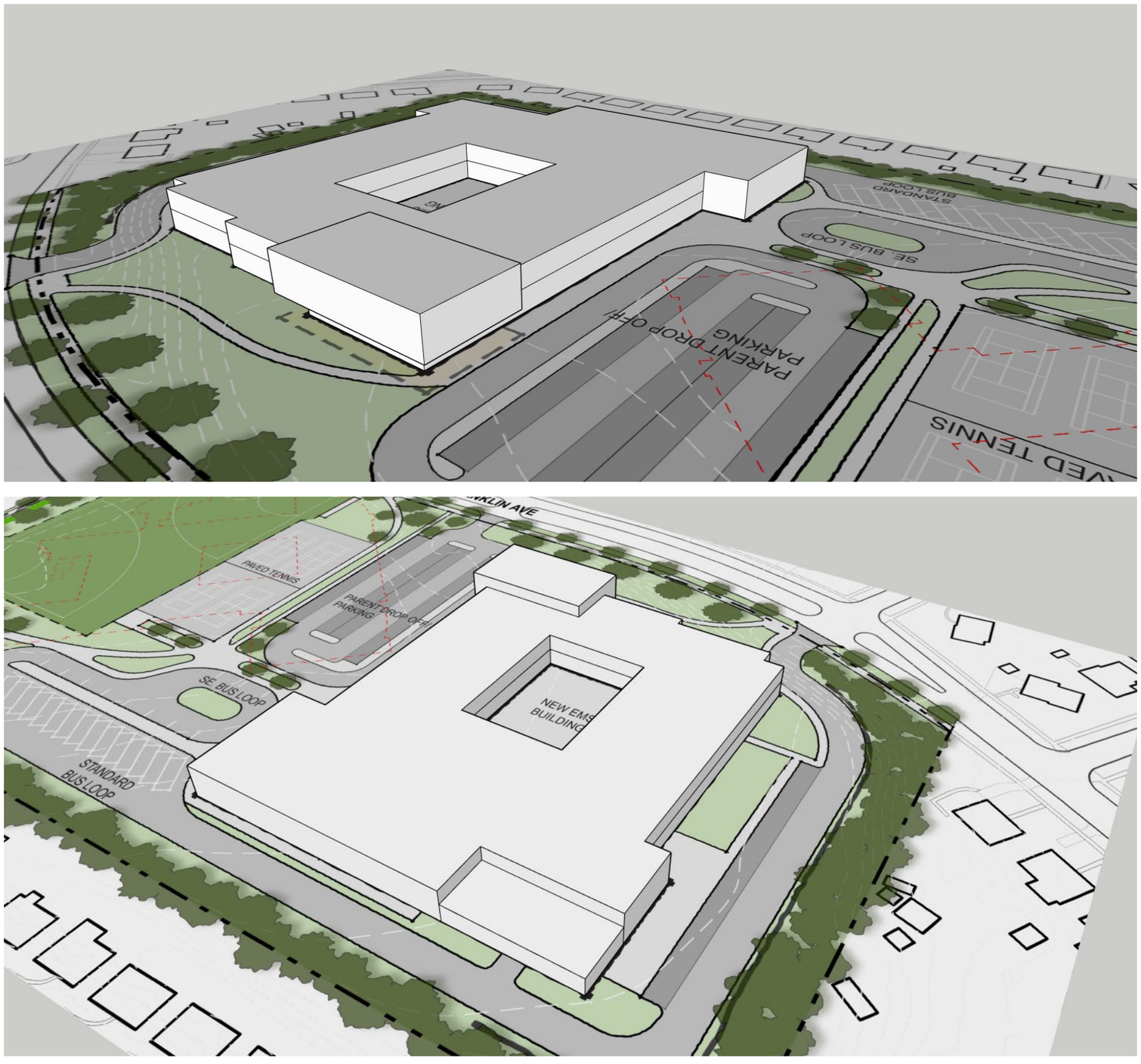
BUILDING PLAN

Proposed 2 Story Massing



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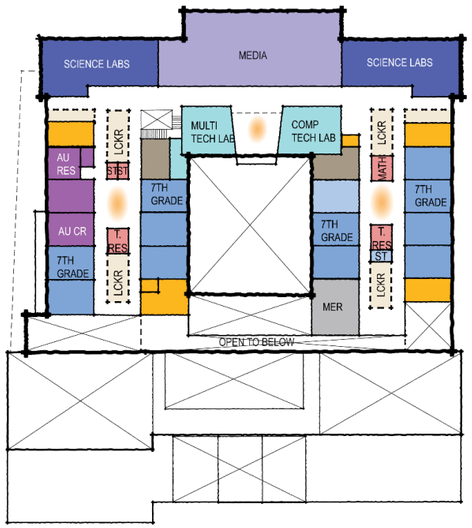
BUILDING PLAN

3-Story vs. 2-Story Floor Plans

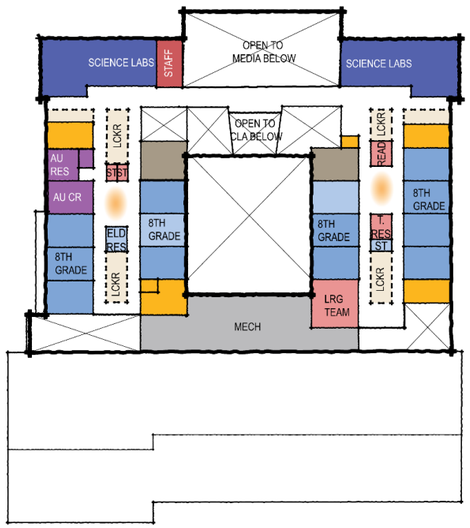
3 Story Plan



First Floor Plan

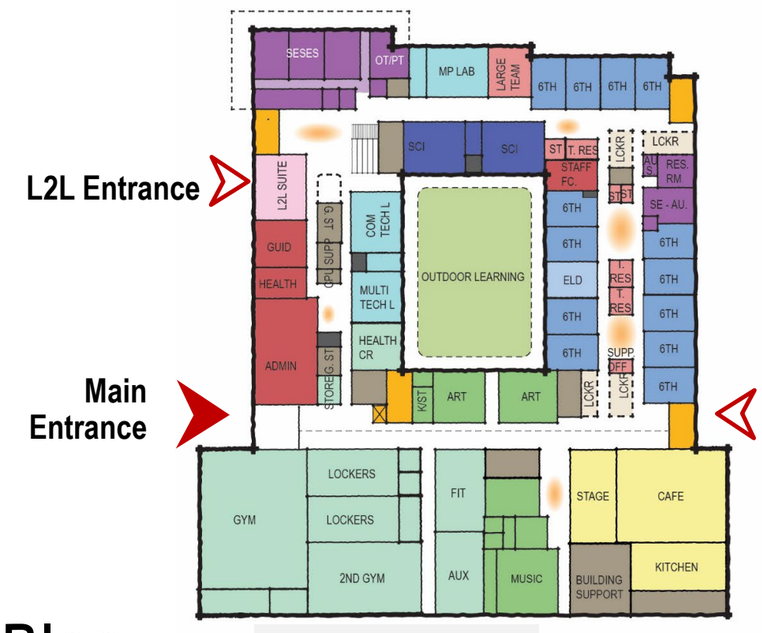


Second Floor Plan

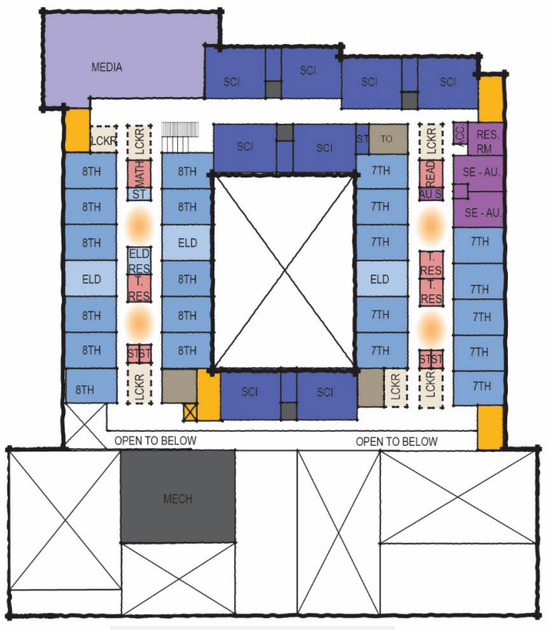


Third Floor Plan

2 Story Plan



First Floor Plan



Second Floor Plan

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THANK YOU

Questions?

For more information on Community Meeting Schedules, scan the QR code below

https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/easternms/