



Dear MVCS Community,

There have been a lot of misconceptions and concerns floating around regarding the new Mountain Valley Community School facility. Below is information regarding the bathrooms and gym facilities. Many of you attended an open house on November 15th, however we could not access all of the school as certain areas, like the gymnasium, were still in the process of completion. We can't wait to share the entire school. In the meantime we hope this information will be helpful.

Factual information regarding the new Mountain Valley Community School:

- PreK - 3rd grade classrooms all have one separate bathroom in each classroom.
- Every other bathroom in the school is a separate private space that can be locked from inside, however they can also be unlocked from the outside, by designated staff.
- Off the full size gymnasium is an Athletic Prep Area. It is NOT a co-ed locker room as has been mentioned. In this area there are two offices for Phys. Ed Teachers or coaches to use and 22 doors floor to ceiling that any person can go in for privacy - all can be used for changing rooms, some have toilets and two have showers, all for single use. This is not, when we were teens, what we experienced as a locker room with gang showers and changing at bench areas.
- This is a PreK-8th grade school, NOT designed as a high school. Since that is the case, there are some things, like space size allowances, that are not part of the design. The space allowed in the gymnasium area is not as much as for a high school.
- PreK-5th grade will have gym classes in the gymnasium and most of these students only change into sneakers. If the teacher determines the athletic prep area is off limits they may lock the two doors and students can change sneakers on the bleachers. If a student needs to use the bathroom there is one across the hall from the gymnasium.
- 6th-8th graders will have gym classes in the auxiliary gym, which is not near the athletic prep area. Again most of these students will change into sneakers in the gym area.
- After school practices and games. We expect that our adults (teachers and coaches) will supervise our middle schoolers' use of this area. The entire area can be locked off.

Offices are located within the area. If a student needs to change they would have a private place to do it. I have been told over and over that most of our middle school students do not take showers in our schools after games and practices. However, if they do they would have a totally private area to take a shower.

- Finally, as always, it is very important for our staff, under the direction of our school administrators, to develop a plan for supervision and direction of our students in all areas of our new school.

Some have asked what the timeline around our process was:

- 11/10/2022 Lisa (Harriman) had a conversation with Scott Brown at the DOE and we were asked to look into the concept of gender neutral facilities.
- 1/6/2022 Harriman was laying out the toilets and debating the use of traditional walls or full height toilet partitions
- 12/8/2022 gender neutral gang toilet plans were distributed for review.
- 1/16/2023 DD set was issued with gender neutral gang toilets but the locker rooms had not yet been changed.
- 3/14/2023 Melissa (Harriman) was researching this concept and distributed white papers on examples from other schools.
- 3/23/2023 There was a DOE meeting at which time this concept and plans were presented and discussed.
- 6/5/2023 50% set was issued with both the gang toilets and locker rooms changed.