

## **Soldotna High School - Soldotna Prep Consolidation FAQs**

### **How large will my student's classes be?**

Class sizes will be determined by what the PTR is set at. If PTR were to remain at a ratio of 25:1 class sizes would see very little change. As PTR increases class sizes will grow accordingly.

### **Will there be more or less electives/distance classes?**

Consolidating the schools creates an economy of scale that will allow us to provide more offerings than if we are separated. Consolidation helps reduce the number of programs that may be eliminated and allows 9<sup>th</sup> graders a greater opportunity to have choice in their electives. If consolidation does not occur a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student's schedule will become very prescribed with very little choice in electives.

### **What happens to the staff?**

Tenured teachers will move over to SOHI and continue teaching at that site. At this point non-tenured teachers still do not have contracts. Until the budget concerns are resolved it is difficult to say which of the non-tenured teachers across the District will be retained. Classified staff will be reduced and placed in positions following the language of the negotiated agreement.

### **Will there be enough room?**

By moving 3 of the portables (currently at Prep location) and reallocating some spaces at SOHI there will be enough room for students and teachers. As a PTR of 30:1 is anticipated this will insure each teacher has a classroom.

### **Are the classrooms big enough?**

Physical size of classrooms is a concern if PTR is increased to more than 30:1

### **What happens to sports/student activities?**

Sports and activities are not affected by the consolidation in any way other than indoor sports will have to share less gym space or find other suitable spaces for practices. Some practice times will be later in the evening than currently.

### **How will gym time be allocated?**

Gym time will be reduced obviously by consolidation. To alleviate this the curtain that divides the gym needs to be repaired and maintenance is already looking into this. Practice times for some teams will be held later in the evening. The schedule is often set by coach availability, coach preference, or a rotation of times exists. Skyview may need to be access for a 2hr block in the evening during busy times.

### **Concern about safety of students, possibility of increased bullying.**

In larger schools student safety and harassment take more effort to monitor. Adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> principal to SOHI is recommended for at least one year to ensure that student safety is maintained and to allow time to develop a school culture where these events are minimized.

### **Concern of RCA being moved to Skyview.**

With the closure of the Soldotna Prep building, RCA would need to be moved to a new location, possibly Skyview Middle School. The details of that relocation are still being determined. RCA would remain a separate school, with separate staff, space, students and schedule, including lunch. Overlap between Skyview and RCA students would be minimal. As they have for nearly 10 years now, RCA will continue to have both middle and high school students together at their school. Like many other schools in the district who share space, the students understand the boundaries between the schools and respect them. RCA's high school students are accustomed to working with middle school students in activities, lunch, learning teams and some classes. Although it may be a new idea for some families, having 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the same building, bus or school is not uncommon.

**Is there enough locker space?**

Yes, there are physically enough lockers for all students to have a locker at the projected enrollment numbers.

**What happens to the building?**

The Borough owns the building and will make the final decision on what happens with it.

**How will consolidating the two schools optimize learning?**

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