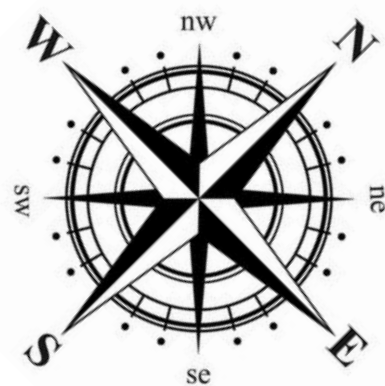


GHS RENOVATION PLANS



The Gainesville High School faces northeast.

Gainesville High School has begun a major renovation and construction project that will create a 7,792-square-foot addition on the front of the existing building. The plans shown here, prepared by Sapp Design Architects, provide a first look at the new space, highlighted in red. The space will serve as a FEMA tornado shelter that can withstand winds of 250 miles per hour, and it will be finished out for use in the various ways explained below. The project also includes renovating the current gym.

We've included the compass at left to help readers visualize the design plan directions in the article on pages 1 and 10.

Bathrooms

The northwest side of the commons area will house two additional full-sized bathrooms. The new bathrooms will be available during sports games and in other after-hours or extra-curricular situations.

New commons area will open into cafeteria

Those entering the school from the main entrance will first walk into the largest room within the new addition, a commons area. The commons will attach to the school's existing cafeteria. What is now the building's exterior wall will be removed, and extra support beams will be installed. Large, pull-down doors will be installed inside the ceiling between the two rooms, allowing staff to separate the spaces when needed or to secure the FEMA shelter during a tornado warning. But it is anticipated that during school hours, the doors will be up, allowing the two rooms to flow into one another, more than doubling the size of the existing cafeteria.

Front glass vestibule

The design features a plate-glass vestibule as the front entryway. It will be built with shatter-proof glass for the first 8 feet from the ground. The doors will be equipped with a locking mechanism that allows a receptionist to "buzz" in visitors.

Gym entrance

Because the gym is getting a renovation (see below), the current gym entryway will no longer be used. Instead, visitors will enter the gym through a door in the new addition's corridor.

Administrative offices

The receptionist and the junior high and high school principals' offices will move into the new addition. The receptionist's space will be in an office that connects to the glass vestibule, giving her a clear view to see visitors who may be asking to enter the building. The principals' offices will be accessed through the receptionist's office. The office area will also have a single bathroom, a storage closet and a conference room.

New locker rooms and players' gym entry

New, modern locker rooms will be built inside the new addition. The space will be outfitted with a boys locker room and a girls locker room each with a bathroom and a single shower each. Basketball players will leave the locker rooms to enter the gym through a door directly across the corridor.

Glass vestibule

A second plate-glass vestibule will connect the new addition to the existing junior high school building, allowing students to remain inside to travel between the two spaces.

Gym renovation and new bleachers

The current gym will undergo a major renovation that will remove the current, fixed bleachers and install new "push-back" bleachers that will feature five rows, approximately 200 seats, of stadium-style seats with full backs. Several more levels of regular bleachers will extend above the stadium seats. The new bleachers, which will be ADA-compliant and much more accessible than the current bleachers, can be retracted to the northwest gym wall. When fully pushed back, the new bleachers will only have a 36-inch-wide footprint, opening up 2,300 square feet of additional space that can be used by gym classes, athletes or school employees during various events. The current locker rooms, which were built underneath the fixed bleachers and extend vertically into the space under the seats, will be removed. The 54-inch space between the existing locker room floor and the current gym floor will be filled in, and a new gym floor will be extended over it.

New bus lane

Beginning sometime this school year, school buses will begin using a new bus lane (see photo, page 10), situated on the southeast side of the school, just outside the junior high wing. The lane runs from the high school to the elementary school parking lot. The buses will line up alongside the bus lane, load high school and junior high students. Then they will travel down to the elementary school to load students there.

