



Plans for Westhill High School. Photo from The Stamford Advocate

What Changes Are Being Made to Westhill?

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Editor

This year, big changes are on the horizon for the Westhill building. Starting this spring, with major projects beginning after graduation, the city will begin construction on a new campus for the Vikings. The new building is part of a plan to modernize the current, 57 year old campus and enhance the day-to-day experience at school for students and staff for years to come. According to the planning documents found on the Stamford Public Schools construction website, the project will include several new features. The new Westhill will have more than 100 modern classrooms to support further learning and collaboration, and updated facilities throughout the building, such as the cafeteria, media center, and auditorium. There will also be redesigned areas like the gym and swimming pool to continue to support Westhill athletics, and several new parking spots available for students and faculty. The construction will also include environmentally friendly design elements to increase energy efficiency through the whole process. Although construction hasn't started yet, Westhill students and staff around the school are anticipating the new changes being brought to the building. Students in particular are looking forward to how these changes will affect day to day life at school.

While the improvements of the build-

ing provide eagerness, the construction will change students' routine in a different way. Starting this April, all student parking will close until the new building is completed in 2029. This causes a massive disruption for many students who drive themselves to school. "After the parking space will be taken away from students, people who drive will have rough times that might pose possible problems with getting to class on time," said Kateryna Tymchyshyn ('27). "Hopefully teachers will be aware that it is not the students' fault that they are late, or the school should cooperate with St. Leo's church or other places to provide parking. If the school is going through change, then students need to be treated fairly and given equal treatment to fulfill any inconveniences."

Along with parking changes, several athletic teams at Westhill will be impacted as well. For the 2026-2027 school year, the football, soccer, and lacrosse fields, track, baseball and softball fields, and tennis courts will be closed. This major change is in the works of being resolved by the district by arranging alternative sites for practices and games. "I think the change in practice location will negatively impact our teams," said Paola Hidalgo ('27). "But I hope that the school will figure something out that will benefit us." Even though this

is a complicated effect of the construction, the new Westhill is planned to have improved athletic facilities to benefit the sports teams even more.

Even with all the changes being brought to Westhill, administrators and district officials have said that the construction plan is made to keep the school functioning as normally as possible until the new building is ready. The current building is going to remain open during the 3 year long process. This allows for students' education to go on uninterrupted throughout the transition from one building to the next.

As Westhill enters this period of change, student and staff voices are crucial to understand the excitement and obstacles the construction will bring. With an updated and modernized school building approaching, the next couple of years will be a transformational time period for the Westhill and Stamford communities.