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**Camden City School District Announces Swing Space Location for Eastside High**

Camden, NJ (April 23, 2024) – The Camden City School District is excited today to announce a significant milestone in the journey towards the new Eastside High School. After months of extensive planning and collaboration with key partners, the District finalized its location for the temporary relocation, or "swing space," during construction of the new estimated \$105 million "Investment in Equity" at Eastside High School.

Eastside High School is one of two public high schools run by the district. The building was opened in 1930 as a 29,300 square-foot school that serves students in grades 9 through 12.

"We are excited to announce the swing space so that we can begin constructing a brand-new Eastside High School, a symbol of our dedication to providing equitable opportunities for every student in our community," stated State District Superintendent Katrina T. McCombs. "We acknowledge there may be growing pains during this building phase, but our resilient and dedicated students and staff will help ease any disruption. We're not just building a school; we're building a stronger, more equitable future."

The selection of Cramer School (located at 2800 Mickle Street) comes after a thorough evaluation process, ensuring that the facility is fully equipped and ready to serve as a supportive and welcoming environment for staff and students. Efforts are underway to prepare the site to meet the specific needs of Camden's high school community during this transition period.

"This announcement of the swing space marks the beginning of a significant construction project for Eastside High School and signifies an investment in the East Camden community," said Camden Mayor Victor Carstarphen. "It reflects our commitment to the academic futures of our students, our pledge to support the needs of school staff, and our long-term promise to deliver a quality educational environment by the Camden City School District. Eastside High School has a rich history, but the current building, after 93 years and numerous upgrades and repairs, simply no longer meets our students' needs. This project will complete the replacement of secondary educational facilities in the city."

The construction is being supported by funding for the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) included in the 2023 Fiscal Year budget approved by Governor Murphy and the Legislature.

The reconstruction plan is expected to include:

- Automotive Lab
- Construction Trades Lab
- Medical Arts Lab
- Nursing Assistant Lab

- Plumbing Lab
- Welding Lab
- Cosmetology Lab
- HVAC Lab
- Media Center
- Video Production & Digital Media
- Computer/Technology Lab
- Performing Arts Lab
- Business Entrepreneurship
- Music Lab
- SIFE/Alternative Pathways Programs
- Special Education Life Skills Classrooms
- Auditorium
- Gymnasium
- Cafeteria/Kitchen

The district will commence the planning and development phase for the new Eastside High School once the architect is engaged by SDA. Community engagement initiatives and input sessions will be organized to ensure that the new school aligns with the needs and aspirations of the community.

“This is another key benchmark for our children to get one step closer to the education they deserve at Eastside High School and to continue the march towards equity in education in Camden City and throughout our legislative district,” Sen. Nilsa Cruz Perez said. “I look forward to the next steps of providing the youth a modern learning environment with all of the amenities that modern schools offer throughout the state of New Jersey to give our kids the ability to thrive.”

“As a proud alumni of Eastside High School I’m looking forward to this next big step by the district to not only start the visioning process, but also to refurbish one of its assets at Cramer School,” City Council president, Angel Fuentes said. “Bringing a new high school to East Camden will be a multi-year process and one the community richly deserves. This will be a campus that will be second to none in all the state and will be a place where our students will be able to reach for the stars and attain their dreams.”

**Timeline**

Starting in September 2024, Eastside High School staff and students will relocate to Cramer School, located at 2800 Mickle St, Camden, NJ 08105. This strategic decision has been made with the utmost care and in close collaboration with the Camden County Improvement Authority (CCIA) and the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA).

Initial Design Discussions	Spring/Summer 2024
District & Community Feedback on Design Concepts	Winter/Spring 2025
Final Construction Design Documents	Spring/Summer 2025
EHS at Cramer School Swing Space	Fall 2024 - Summer 2029
Demolition and Construction of Eastside High School	Spring 2025 - Summer 2029
New School Opens	Fall 2029

The Camden City School District looks forward to working collaboratively with the community and all stakeholders as it embarks on this exciting journey toward a brighter, more equitable future for its students.

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