

Week of November 20 – 24, 2017 Newspaper Article

## Tri-City United Building Strong Futures

On behalf of our entire Tri-City United Staff and School Board, we wish all of our residents a Happy Thanksgiving. We hope this is a time for family, gratitude, and togetherness. We are thankful to serve our students, families, and communities in educating our children – our future.

This week's article begins a series of information focused on Tri-City United's bond referendum scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018. A thoughtful process has taken place over the past years to study our facilities, gain input from stakeholders, and collectively determine solutions.

Driving needs identified by the TCU Community Task Force on Facilities and evident in our facilities study are:

- 1) School Facility space to meet the growing student enrollment;
- 2) Structural Maintenance needs;
- 3) Safety/Security issues.

Part 1 of this series focuses on our growing enrollment. Growing enrollment is a good thing for a school district. It is a measure of a stable school district with an ability to have solid operational finances and focus on continuously improving educational programming. More students also means needing more classrooms in order to keep class sizes at a level where students' needs are being met and teachers are able to connect with each student and partner with each family.

Tri-City United has a stable student enrollment throughout our entire district and our highest levels of growth are happening at the secondary level. TCU High School has a building capacity to serve **490 students**, which would provide reasonable class sizes, space for

uninterrupted study, conducive areas for teachers to prepare their lessons, and opportunities to expand course options for students. Our current enrollment is **567 students** and enrollment is projected to grow to **670 students** in as close as 5 years.

Being over capacity has resulted in increases in class sizes, teachers preparing for classes out in hallway alcoves, study halls in the large commons area that has many distractions, and we are at the point of having only 11 more student lockers available for storing students' supplies and belongings.

Tri-City Montgomery is beyond its capacity and multiple steps taken place to try to create more classrooms. Computer labs have been converted to classrooms, small group instruction has moved to hallways, and unrenovated basement areas are being used for teaching students.

Tri-City United Le Center and Tri-City United Lonsdale enrollments have remained steady with classrooms filled with regular education and specialized services to meet unique needs of students.

Early childhood and Pre-School are important investments for children's learning success. Tri-City United offers Early Childhood Family Education and Pre-School in each of our communities, which is a tremendous positive. Families want Pre-School options for their children, especially ones that include 4 day opportunities. Due to lack of space, we are not able to offer the same level of program in each of our communities.

Tri-City United Le Center Primary offers:     2 sections of 4-day Pre K

2 sections of 3-day Pre K

Tri-City United Lonsdale offers:             3 sections of 2 day Pre K

2 sections of 3 day Pre K

Tri-City United Montgomery offers:         1 section of 3 day Pre K

3 sections of 2 day Pre K

Building Strong Futures for our students, families, and communities will mean keeping our

children in our district, meeting families' needs in educational options for their children, and addressing the structural needs of our buildings to keep them safe, healthy, and solid for the long term.

Where can you find more information? Several resources are available to inform our public about the February 13, 2018 bond referendum:

- Our website has up-to-date information: [www.tcu2905.us](http://www.tcu2905.us). Look for the Referendum button at the top of the main page.
- Most recently mailed Tri-City United Titan Times newsletter.
- Public Information Meetings
  - **Tuesday, January 2**  
TCU Lonsdale Gym  
7:00 p.m.
  - **Thursday, January 4**  
TCU Montgomery Auditorium  
7:00 p.m.
  - **Tuesday, January 9**  
TCU Le Center Commons  
7:00 p.m.  
*\*Tours available after each session and upon request*
- We want to meet with you. Let us know if you would like us to talk with your group or organization. Please contact Brenda Rosier to schedule a presentation date and time: [brosier@tcu2905.us](mailto:brosier@tcu2905.us) or (507) 364-8100

Stay tuned for Part 2 in this series of articles.

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