

“No Tax Increase Bond Issue”

Over the past twenty years, Verdigris Schools has experienced significant growth in both population and needs. Our community has been very supportive with the passage of three large series bonds: \$7.5 million in 1997, \$6.3 million in 2006, and \$7.9 million in 2014. The 2014 bond issue passed with a 90% "YES" vote, which is amazing support and evidence of how special the Verdigris community is.

The support and passage of these bond issues have enabled us to provide our students with an exceptional education experience while enhancing our community. The passage of these bonds have resulted in the construction of all south campus facilities, athletic facilities, the Jim Anderson Early Childhood Development Center, high school science labs, and a junior high school addition that houses the library, computer lab, main office, and classrooms.

The most recent bonds resulted in three new storm shelters, a new fine arts facility, an indoor practice facility, turf on the football and baseball fields, and a school/community track. Additionally all of the bonds have afforded us updated vehicles for student transportation, as well as provided textbooks, enhanced technology, and increased security equipment for our district.

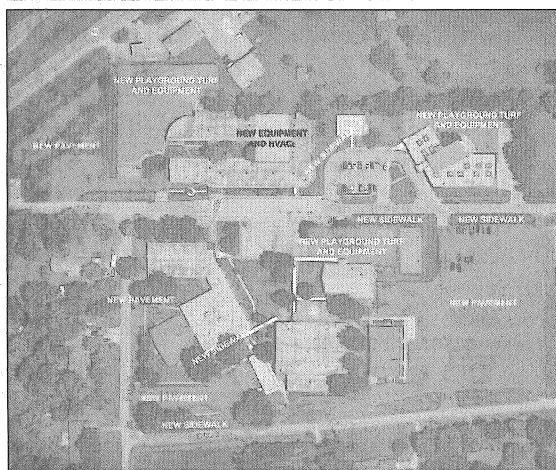
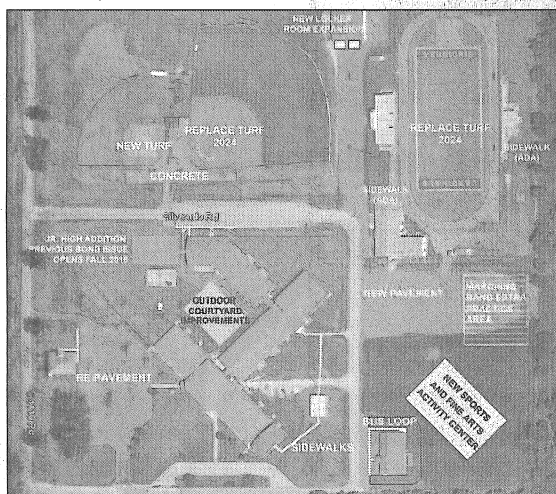
The remaining construction project from the 2014 Bond is projected to be completed prior to the 2018 school year and includes adding four (4) classrooms and a science lab to the Junior High School.

As these bonds expire and the district continues to grow, Verdigris Schools will be holding a “NO TAX INCREASE” school bond election on January 9, 2018. The proposed “NO TAX INCREASE” bond issue consists of Proposal # 1 – a five (5) series bond totaling \$20,550,000 (detailed below) and Proposal # 2 – a \$600,000 transportation bond that provides additional route and activity buses along with other student transportation vehicles.

Proposal # 1 includes a Multi-Purpose Activity Center at the secondary (south) campus. This facility will seat nearly 2,000 spectators and include a state of the art gym for competitive basketball and two (2) practice courts when the bleachers are retracted, a stage, a smaller practice gym, a hospitality/meeting room, a weight room, proportionate lobby/concession area, and ample restrooms. We believe this facility will benefit and enhance not only the school system, but our community. The stage will allow for onsite music performances, plays, school programs, and High School Graduation (currently held off campus).

The passage of bond issues over the last twenty years has met our needs for building classrooms and this bond issue will now allow us to update many areas in need of repair and upgrades. All currently graveled parking lots will be paved and the high school parking lot will be repaved. This issue also provides funding for construction of additional sidewalks, concreting walk ways, and paving numerous areas district-wide.

The issue will allow for all grass/wood chip playground areas on the elementary campuses to be replaced with artificial play-



GRAPHICS PROVIDED

ground turf. Additionally, a new HVAC unit and developmentally appropriate physical education equipment will be installed in the Lower Elementary gym. These enhancements will enable us to use these facilities year-round.

We will install and replace turf on outdoor athletic facilities – to include the softball infield in 2018, and baseball and football fields in 2024. Additionally, we will upgrade and equip our current weight rooms, and expand the locker rooms in the indoor practice facility.

The bond also gives our school the opportunity to enhance our student's educational opportunities and comply with more stringent academic standards by providing new textbooks and additional technology. If passed, this money would allow for the installation of new and updated smart boards, STEM equipment and more classrooms with one to one computer capability.

Additional bond issue items include storage lockers, instruments and uniforms for the band program; the repair and/or replacement of older HVAC units; and the update of older facilities.

This “NO TAX INCREASE” bond issue is very important for our students and community. If you have questions about any of the bond proposals, Mr. Payne would be glad to discuss them. He can be reached at 918-266-7227 or email at mpayne@vps.k12.ok.us. Additional information can be found online at www.vps.k12.ok.us.