

Arlington Schools Overcrowding

Arlington Public Schools' projects new school buildings and/or additions are now needed to handle increased enrollment throughout the school system. Some schools, including Oakridge, are currently over their capacity numbers, and many more schools are expected to be at or above capacity in the next several years. The APS staff has asked PTAs, to help set priorities by asking their opinion on additions or other ways to increase capacity in preparation for the 2012 Capital Improvement Plan.

After a series of meetings in May and June and with additional responses to the APS questionnaire gathered online, the Oakridge PTA responded that we would not support the idea of a permanent addition of 8-10 classrooms at our school.

The community strongly believes it is not in the best interest of students, teachers, immediate neighbors and the community at large to become a "mega school" in Arlington County. Oakridge has a capacity between 550 and 581, just below the county's preferred school size of 600 and currently has 630 students; permanent additions that result in an even larger student population will strain our current infrastructure and have detrimental, long-term effects on our neighborhood community.

The community also overwhelmingly rejected the idea of increasing class sizes by 1-2 students again, because this type of increase puts a disproportionate burden on our already large and overcrowded schools while some schools are still well below capacity.

The complete response to the APS questionnaire can be read at www.arcaonline.com

If you would like more information on Oakridge, and our community's response to school crowding please contact Molly Watson mollyswatson@gmail.com