

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2023

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Project Vote Information:

Tuesday, January 10th, 2023

8AM-8PM at Cato-Meridian Elementary

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TOTAL COST: **\$33,100,000**

\$26.78 million

ANTICIPATED
STATE AID

\$1.32 million

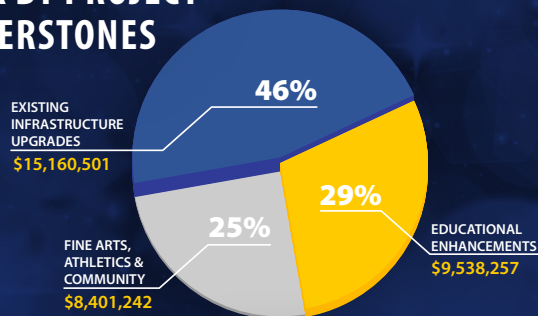
RETIRING DEBT

\$5.00 million

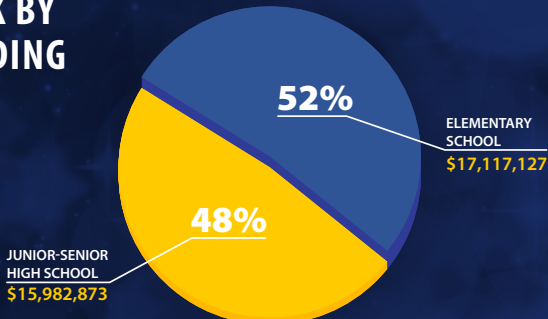
RESERVE FUNDS

NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT

WORK BY PROJECT CORNERSTONES



WORK BY BUILDING



TAX-NEUTRAL RENOVATION PROJECT PROPOSED FOR CATO-MERIDIAN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

On Tuesday, January 10, 2023, the Cato-Meridian Central School District is asking its residents to consider approving a 33.1 million dollar improvement project referendum to make capital improvements and educational enhancements to both of our schools. The District will utilize state building aid, future retirement of debt, and funds in reserve to ensure no additional taxpayer cost from this project.

This proposed project is equally balanced between our Elementary and Junior-Senior High School.

Highlights among the proposed items are:

Existing Infrastructure Upgrades (\$15.1 Million):

- Replace entire septic system to address DEC violations
- Recoat Existing Roof Systems to extend warranties
- Kitchen and Serving Lines Reconstruction
- Portico Columns Reconstruction
- Reconstruction to Walkways, Curbing, Stairs, etc.

Educational Enhancements (\$9.5 Million):

- Reconstruction of the Library/Media Center at Elementary School
- Update existing Tech, STEM, and Agriculture spaces at Junior-Senior High School
- Science and Family and Consumer Science Classroom Reconstruction

Fine Arts, Athletics and Community (\$8.4 Million):

- Elementary (Old MS Gym) Gym Reconstruction
- Elementary School Auditorium Upgrades
- Upgrades to Stadium Lights

The 2023 Improvement Project will have no additional tax impact!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



Elementary School Kitchen

Septic System Replacement: Replace existing septic system in its entirety.

(Includes portion serving Bus Garage.)

Recoat Existing Roof System: Recoating of existing EPDM roofing system and flashings.

(Note that existing thermal values, drainage patterns, and roof edge metal remain as-is.)

Kitchen and Serving Lines Reconstruction: Heavy renovation of existing kitchen and serving line spaces; Includes allowance of \$250,000 for kitchen and serving line equipment replacement. Reconfigure kitchen and serving lines to function better, including reconfigure doors into corridors; add ext. freezer; upgrade finishes to floors, walls, and ceilings; and upgrades to HVAC and emergency lights.



Portico Columns

Portico Columns Replacement: Reconstruct four columns of c. 1940's portico. Further exploration required to remove some of the ornamental wood at the base to understand how it is currently supported. It's anticipated the long-term repair would be to remove all rounded ornamental wood, remove corrosion from steel concealed therein, add steel if it is severely corroded, replace ornamental wood with a composite or non-wood material, and finish paint.

Reconstruction to Misc. Ext. Walkways and Stairs: Lump sum allowance to address various deteriorated exterior surfaces, including sidewalks, curbing, stairs, guardrails, handrails, etc. Includes replacement of of sidewalks along south and eastern sides of building leading to playground (50/50 concrete/asphalt).

FINE ARTS, ATHLETICS & COMMUNITY

ES Auditorium: Heavy renovation of existing auditorium and stage; Includes lighting enhancements; select abatement; demolition and reconstruction of stage apron / front; replacement of seats, flooring, aisle lighting, wall & ceiling repainting; replacement of resilient wood stage floor; replace dimming rack and stage electrics; replace manual stage rigging line sets; replace sound system; and upgrades to HVAC and emergency lights. Reconfigure adjacent band room for use as stage storage.

ES Gymnasium Improvements: Heavy renovation of existing gym and locker room spaces. Potentially enlarge the existing gym space. Reconstruct locker rooms in their entirety; replace existing resilient wood gymnasium flooring, telescoping bleacher systems, and ceiling to potentially expose existing structure - repaint and tidy up; repaint all walls; and upgrades to sound system, HVAC and emergency lights.



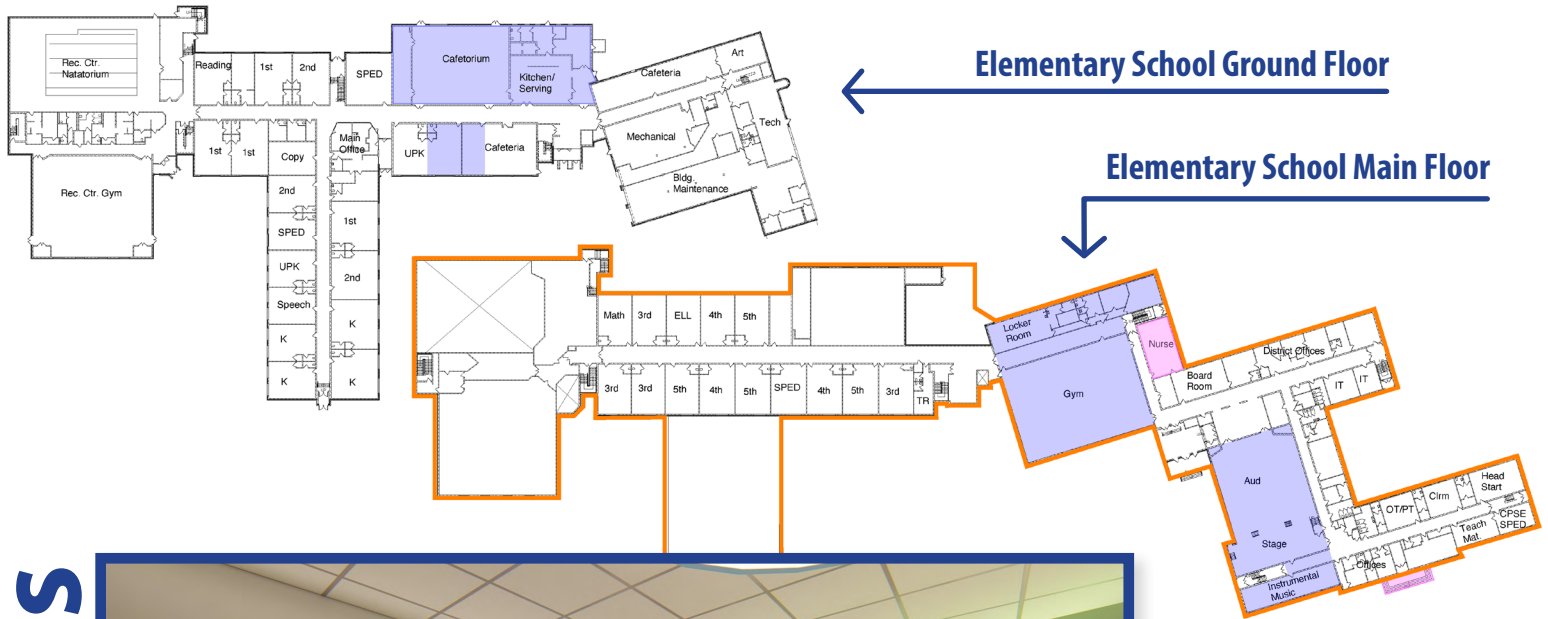
Elementary School Auditorium



Elementary School Gymnasium

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

Create New Library/Media Center: Heavy renovation to convert existing Cafetorium into new library/media center and flexible maker space. Reconfigure two existing UPK classrooms for cafeteria expansion to offset that used by the cafetorium and creating new multifixture restrooms to serve area of the building lacking nearby facilities.



CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS



**Elementary
Library
Media Center**



**Elementary
Gymnasium**

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



Junior-Senior High School Roof



Junior-Senior High School Sidewalk

Septic System Replacement: Replace existing septic system in its entirety.

Recoat Existing Roof System: Recoating of existing EPDM roofing system and flashings. (Note that existing thermal values, drainage patterns, and roof edge metal remain as-is.)

Secure Main Entrance & Main Office: Reconfiguration of existing first floor main office & guidance suite and adjacent lobby to create secure main entrance to building. Includes modest extension of space below roof overhang and exterior canopy with signage (lump sum allowance \$75,000) and patching of exterior soffit below roof overhang.

Main Stair Improvements: Light renovations of existing main stair to address health & safety. Includes replacement all stair flooring finishes, handrails, guardrails, and ceilings; and repaint walls. Recommend in conjunction with item 3 "Secure Main Entrance & Main Office" above.

Reconstruction to Misc. Ext. Walkways and Stairs: Lump sum allowance to address various deteriorated exterior surfaces, including sidewalks, curbing, stairs, guardrails, handrails, etc.

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

Reconstruction to CTE (Ag., Tech, Wood & Metal Shops): Heavy renovations to existing woodshop, metal shop, Ag. and tech. spaces, including associated spaces, on ground floor to meet current curriculum needs.

Science & Family and Consumer Science (FACS) Reconstruction: Heavy renovations to existing FACS, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Science spaces on first floor to reflect current curriculum needs.



Junior-Senior High School Technology Room

FINE ARTS, ATHLETICS & COMMUNITY



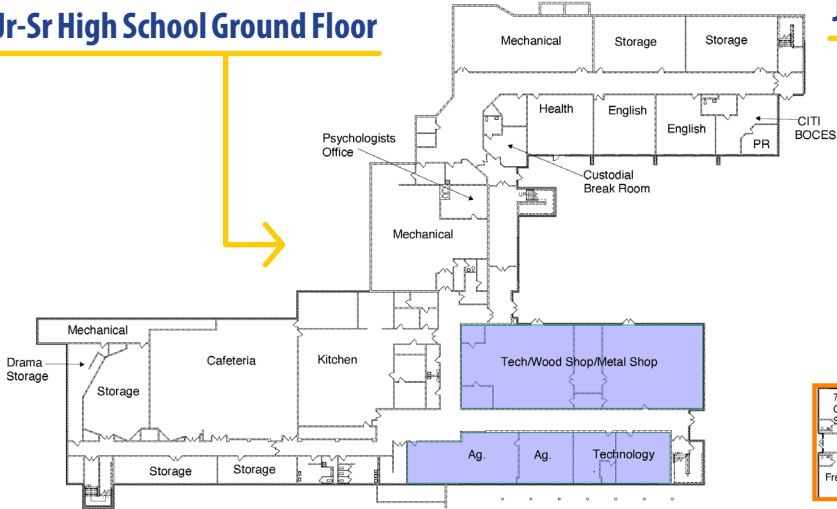
Stadium Lights

Stadium Lights—Heads Only:

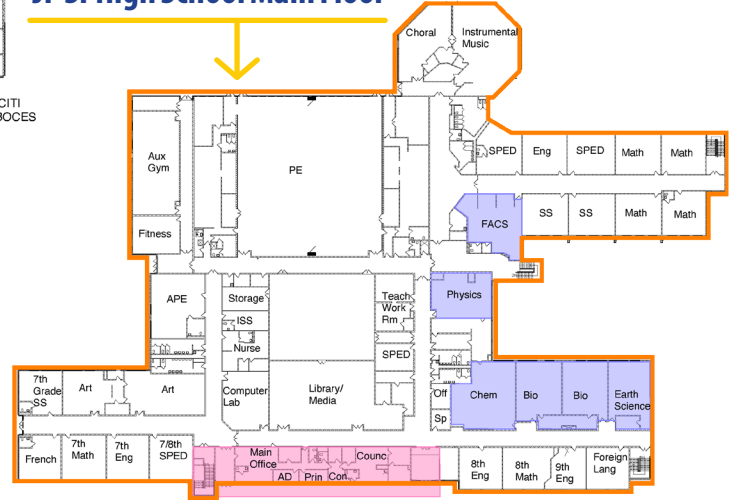
Replacement of four existing light heads with LEDs, and associated components, in their entirety.



Jr-Sr High School Ground Floor



Jr-Sr High School Main Floor



CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS



Jr-Sr HS Technology Room



Jr-Sr HS Science Classroom



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY TAXES?

This project will result in **no additional taxes**. The total cost of the project is \$33.1 million. Most of the project will be paid through building aid reimbursement from New York State. In the Cato-Meridian Central School District, our aid ratio is 89.4%, which means the district will receive \$0.89 in reimbursement for every dollar we spend on the project. This project will be funded through state building aid, retiring debt and other reserve funds. There is no additional local share.

WHY IS THIS CAPITAL PROJECT SO LARGE?

Cato-Meridian Central School District has not made a significant investment in its facilities since 2002 (Junior-Senior High School addition). As a result, our facilities are in need of improvements to increase safety, expand educational opportunities for students, and upgrade several often used community spaces. This project will greatly increase the amount and quality of instructional spaces available for students to participate in hands-on, collaborative, innovative and engaging learning opportunities.

WHY NOW?

Cato-Meridian Central School District will be paying off debt from prior capital projects in the year 2024-2025. This allows the District to take on new payments with **no additional increase in the tax levy** from this portion of the budget. Payments would be predictable and the District will be able to continue to maintain and upgrade our school buildings.

DO WE REALLY NEED THIS CAPITAL PROJECT?

Yes, this project addresses many areas that are in need of improvement for the safe and healthy operations of our schools. The District is required to conduct a Building Condition Survey every five years by the New York State Education Department. Capital improvement projects are a way for school districts to complete more substantial facilities work including upgrades, renovations and replacements as compared to regular maintenance.



Elementary School Auditorium



Elementary School Girls Locker Room

HOW WERE THE PROJECT PRIORITIES SELECTED?

The Facilities Committee utilized the Building Condition Survey as well as work identified but not included in previous projects. For example, the septic system is currently in violation of the Department of Environmental Conservation standards and must be replaced. In addition, the Facilities Committee focused on safety and educational spaces that would benefit all students as well as the community.



Sidewalk

WHO DOES THIS CAPITAL PROJECT BENEFIT?

This Capital Project will impact every student in our school district. Every Elementary student will utilize the proposed Library Media Center and the renovated Elementary Gymnasium. All Junior-Senior High School students will benefit from modern Science and Technology classrooms. In addition, the project will improve spaces the community utilizes regularly such as the Auditorium, the Stadium, and Walkways throughout our Campus.



Elementary School Gymnasium

WHAT IF THE REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS?

Renovations identified in the Building Condition Survey and other items selected by the Facilities Committee are upgrades that need to be completed soon, if not immediately. If the referendum does not pass, those renovations would need to be done without the benefit of NYS building aid and would have to be funded within the annual school budget, with local taxpayers bearing the full cost. For example, our septic system must be replaced as it is in violation of DEC regulations.

ISN'T STATE BUILDING AID TAX DOLLARS?

Yes, it is. The New York State Legislature gives all districts throughout the state the opportunity to use tax dollars set aside for building aid to enhance their communities through school improvements and renovations. This upcoming capital project is an opportunity to keep those tax dollars in Cato-Meridian and utilize them to improve our facilities and ensure our students have the best educational opportunities in the area!

Fall Fun In Our Schools

BLUE DEVIL PRIDE



OPEN HOUSES



PETE THE CAT



BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC



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www.catomeridian.org

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QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS

1. A citizen of the United States
2. At least 18 years of age
3. A resident of the district at least 30 days prior to the date of the vote

VOTING INFORMATION

A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Cato-Meridian Central School District shall be held in the Cato-Meridian Elementary Round Table Cafeteria, 2851 Route 370, Cato, New York in said District, on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the notice of special meeting hereinafter set forth.

PROPOSITION FOR CAPITAL PROJECT (LEGAL NOTICE)

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Cato-Meridian Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake certain capital improvements consisting of construction and reconstruction of existing school buildings and facilities, site improvements and the acquisition of certain original furnishings, equipment, and apparatus and other incidental improvements required in connection therewith for such construction and school use, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$33,100,000; and to appropriate and expend from the existing capital reserve fund \$3,855,000 and \$1,145,000 from current available funds for such costs, and that the balance of such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$28,100,000 shall be issued.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified school district voters may vote on the 2023 Capital Improvement Project by absentee ballot if they are unable to vote in person on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Individuals who may use an absentee ballot include those who are temporary or permanently ill (temporarily illness includes being unable to appear due to risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19), hospitalized, physically disabled, away on business, on vacation or who are detained in jail awaiting action by grand jury, awaiting trial or confined for an offense other than a felony.

Applications for an absentee ballot are available in the district office and may be filed up to one day prior to the date of the vote. Absentee ballot applications may be requested from Gwendolyn Marriam, District Clerk, by email at gmarriam@catomeridian.org, by telephone at 315-626-3439, extension 5001, or by mail at Cato-Meridian Central School District, 2851 State Route 370, Cato, NY 13033.

When will your absentee ballot be sent to you? If you request on your application that your absentee ballot be mailed to you, the district clerk will mail your ballot by regular mail no later than 6 days prior to the vote. Otherwise, the district clerk will deliver your ballot to you or your agent, as designated on your application, when you or your agent appears in the district clerk's office. For your ballot to be canvassed, it must be received by the school district clerk by 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.