

# PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

### District Preparing to Begin Construction of New High School STEAM Building and New Alan Harvey Theater

January 24, 2019



The Piedmont Unified School District plans to close Alan Harvey Theater (located at 800 Magnolia Avenue) on March 12 in anticipation of building a new high school STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) building on the site. The District will remove theatrical lights and other fixtures for reuse, and then demolish the theater starting April 13, during the schools' Spring break.

Construction of the STEAM building will begin this summer and the new building is expected to open in the 2020-21 school year. The new building will feature new engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, and computer science labs, as well as math classrooms and studios for 2D and 3D art.

After the STEAM building is completed, the District will demolish Piedmont High School's "10s" building and build a new theater on that site. The new theater is expected to open in the Fall of 2021.

The STEAM and theater projects are part of the \$66 million school facilities bond program, approved by the Piedmont voters in 2016 by 74%.

While the theater is closed from March 2019 through the Fall of 2021, the District will relocate drama classes to Havens' Ellen Driscoll Theater, Piedmont Middle School's Multi-Purpose Room, and the City's Veterans Hall. The District has reserved performance venues in Oakland for other events, including concerts, musicals, and dance shows, and is continuing to look for additional venues. Anyone with suggestions may contact [ppalmer@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:ppalmer@piedmont.k12.ca.us) or [tculbert@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:tculbert@piedmont.k12.ca.us).

In anticipation of closing the theater, the Piedmont Adult School's administrative office (formerly located in the basement of Alan Harvey Theater) has moved to Piedmont High School's "20s" building, which is next to Piedmont Park.

Throughout demolition and construction, the building site will be screened off from the rest of the high school campus. Some parking spaces on Magnolia Avenue will be temporarily replaced with safety barriers. The District and City of Piedmont are working together on parking, traffic, and pedestrian safety plans for the construction area, and more information about the plans will be available in early March.

"We're excited to start construction of these new facilities," said Superintendent Randall Booker. "We need these modern labs and classrooms to support curriculum and expand learning opportunities for our students. We're grateful for the Piedmont community's commitment to public education," he said.

Questions or comments? Please contact Superintendent Booker at [rbooker@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:rbooker@piedmont.k12.ca.us) or Director of Facilities Pete Palmer at [ppalmer@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:ppalmer@piedmont.k12.ca.us)