



St. Croix Preparatory Academy
Board Meeting Agenda
February 2, 2021

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda
 - A. Learning Model Transition Plan
3. Adjourn Meeting

2



Covid Response Team & Board School Opening Committee Meeting Dates: January 13, January 20

Attendees: Joann Karetov, Amy Kleinboehl, Andrew Sachariason, Wanda Renner, Candace Westlund, Hannah Sislo, Kelly Gutierrez, Susan Peterson, Drew Melendres, Kristen Denzer, Nicole Donnay, Jake Gottschalk, Jon Gutierrez

Learning Model Definitions:

- Distance Learning: Students receive instruction remotely all day, every day.
- Hybrid: Students receive at least the equivalent of one instructional day in distance learning during the week.
- In-Person: Students receive instruction in the school building all day, every day.
- Note: Students/families always have the option of choosing distance learning.

Important Safe Learning Plan Guidelines (updated on December 21, 2020 – and relevant pages included in board packet)

- Elementary Schools may open an in-person or hybrid learning model, as long as additional mitigation strategies are implemented. Note: On January 7, the Board unanimously approved the in-person learning model for K-4, with entry dates of January 25 and February 8. Transition days approved were January 20, 21, and 22.
- Implement a rolling start – no more than three additional grade bands can be introduced into the building in a two week period.
- Middle school and high schools will follow the same protocol and parameters listed in steps one through five of the Safe Learning Plan to determine their learning models. Middle and high schools must either follow the plans they have shared with families about their learning model, or they can choose a more restrictive model. (See separate document).

Important Information Communicated in our Regional Support Team (RST) call on January 6. In our RST call on January 6, H. Hirsch stated that we would have additional flexibility in bringing additional grades back, if we treated each division as if it were in its own building. Brief comments are:

- School districts with multiple buildings can easily bringing back additional grades along with their elementary schools since they occupy separate buildings.
- We are in one physical building and treating each division as a separate building requires detailed analysis/segmenting of all of our common spaces (e.g. atrium, cafeteria, gym, Aux gym, PAC, etc.). There are many scheduling conflicts that are currently being resolved. Note: In some cases, students will have to walk outside to transition between classes due to our inability to share spaces.
- The following proposed option treats divisions as separate buildings.

Learning Model Transition Timeframes (Proposed)

	January 25	February 8	February 22	March 8	March 22	April 5	April 19
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Proposed Option	Grades K-2 In-Person (+220 daily) (+1 division)	Grades 3-4 In-Person (+140 daily) (+1 division)	Grades 5-6 Grades 9-10 Hybrid (+140 daily) (+2 division)	Grades 7-8 Grades 11-12 Hybrid (+140 daily) (+2 division)	Grades 5-8 In-person or Hybrid (4 days/wk)	Grades 9-12 In-person or Hybrid (4 days/wk)	
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Covid Response Team & Board Committee Recommendation:

- Strong majority (all but one or two members) favor the entire rollout,
- One or two members desire additional grade rollout on February 8
- One member wants the February 22 and March 8 rollout to be In-person or Hybrid (4 days per week) vs. Blue/Gold schedule.
- The rollout is subject to case rate data not spiking, the ability to staff based on quarantine/isolation requirements, approval of revised Learning Model Transition Plan by the Board, and approval of Regional Support Team (RST) on February 10.

Comments January 25 and February 8 Rollout

- Unanimous board approval on January 7
- Adheres to Governor’s emphasis on getting our Lower School into the classroom with the most assurance of success (staggered rollout with two week interval).
- Although not recommended, due to staffing, additional grade rollout on February 8 would have to be US grades; MS needs to wait until February 22

Comments on February 22 ff. Rollout

- Treats MS/US as separate buildings; four grades/two week interval
- The most significant operational risk still relates to the quarantine/isolation rules (albeit potentially shorter).
- Challenges. The schedule/space conflicts of lunch, recess, gym, specialists, are not easy to resolve, especially as our guidance has been to maintain a strong sense of “isolation” during the two week implementation of new student groups into the building.

Recommended Next Steps:

- Approve Proposed Transition Timeframes as a framework.
- Board approve a new Learning Model Transition Plan; new concepts are being introduced at the January 26 board meeting.
- Evaluate rollout of K-2 on January 25
- Evaluate rollout of 3-4 on February 8
- Monitor Positive School Covid-19 cases, quarantine/isolation impact on operations, county case rate data, etc.
- Regional Support Team (RST) on February 10. In this meeting, we will



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- Review the above items
- Ask for consultation on what approach we may proceed with on February 22
- Board meeting on February 11 to authorize next transition for February 22.
- Board meeting on February 11 will also approve transition planning days for MS and US (potential days are February 17, 18, 19).

DRAFT



Return-to-School – January 2021 Work Summary

- Timeline
 - Late Nov-Mid Dec: Focus on returning K-4 back
 - Included: converting large spaces to classrooms (gym/pac/aux gym) & renting additional space (SOV)
 - Dec 16: Gov Walz issues EO which prioritizes bring Elem back in person\
 - Prior to holiday break- focus was on:
 - Interpreting the EO and MDE's updated Safe Learning Plan,
 - Defining the logistics of bringing K-4 back in person,
 - Establishing on-site testing,
 - Communication to all stakeholders
 - Identifying and submitting questions to RST for Jan 4 call
 - Jan 4: RST Call
 - Learned of a change in emphasis in Learning Model selection criteria: Mitigation strategies and In-school Covid rates more emphasized
 - Until this point- only direction we had, per EO was 5-12 must continue to adhere to the Safe Learning Plan or Plan that has been approved by board and communicated to families. In addition
 - SCPA staff and board spent the fall creating the current LMTP
 - Vaccine distribution was on the horizon
 - SCPA asked RST if they would support a more aggressive plan to get 5-12 back in-person or hybrid
 - Learned that RST would not necessarily object to SCPA returning MS and US grades to *Hybrid* in parallel to return of grades 3&4 - *However:*
 - Divisions must be able to function as separate buildings.
 - RST noted that they don't know our building and/or operations- so we would have to identify if this is possible
 - Priority is to get K-4 in the building safely.
 - Must consider how bringing more grades back will affect ability to staff LS absences- because LS is the priority.
 - The entire state is about to open up (bars/restaurants, youth sports, gyms, elementary schools in-person) and case rates don't reflect holiday travel/gatherings.
 - Encouraged us to develop a plan and bring back to RST
 - Timeline to meet again with RST was discussed and was determined that Feb 10 was strategic.
 - Will give school 2 weeks in-person
 - State case rates will reflect the effect of state's re-opening and the holiday activity.
 - RST offered to assist with questions as they arose- and to meet earlier if needed.
 - Emails were exchanged and the Covid Coordinators (Jon/Candace did not support an earlier meeting)

- **Return-to-School – January 2021 Work- Cont'd**

- Jan 7: School Board meeting
 - Recap of RST Call
 - Board charged Re-opening School committee to bring a proposed updated LMTP and 5-12 return to school timeline to Board on Jan 26

Return-to-School – January 2020 Work- Cont'd

- Jan 13: Re-opening committee and Covid Response Team met together to work on plan and timeline.
 - Learning Model Transition Plan (LMTP) amendment
 - Plan Options discussed and sample of presented:
 - Qualitative approach:
 - Consider all factors: County case rates, in-school covid cases, mitigations strategies, ability to staff, status of vaccine distribution, status of testing processes.
 - Develop LM timeline from discussion, weighing factors and collaboratively deciding on best path forward
 - Bring plan to RST for feedback & guidance.
 - Bring proposal to School Board for approval
 - Quantitative approach:
 - Create matrix- objective and measurable
 - Bring plan to RST for feedback & guidance.
 - Bring proposal to School Board for approval
 - Discussed if team recommends a more qualitative or more quantitative- most preferred the quantitative plan
 - Provides objective parameters for decision making- which makes the decision more defensible to varied stakeholders
 - Captures the three main factors emphasized by RST (Mitigation , In-house case-rate and county case rate)
 - Is in-line with the current LMTP.

- Jan 13-20:
 - Compiled/Summarized Wash Co and Metro Charter school current learning model data
 - Covid Response team developed quantitative LMTP including.
 - Applying historical data to matrix and comparing w/ current LMTP
 - Consulted w/ Facility Safety consultant re: developing tool to measure safety program
 - Covid Response Team defined what it would take to execute on the requirement that we operate as '3 separate buildings' to accelerate students return to school timeline
 - Identified what can be done to function as 3 separate spaces
 - Building spaces defined – see map
 - Identified factors that prohibit the facility to function as 3 separate buildings:
 - LS/US classrooms share HVAC units-
 - Mitigated by Ionization Units and MER-13 air filters on each unit
 - Shared operational programming (incl. staff, facilities, and/or equipment):
 - Shared facilities/Equip
 - Health room
 - Foodservice kitchen
 - US/MS music rooms (band, orch, choir)
 - Special Services facilities (EL & Dev PE)
 - School Buses
 - B4/After School Care w/ US (cafeteria)
 - Gym- LS & US athletics
 - Shared staff:
 - Instructional
 - US/MS Music (orch choir)
 - Special Services (EL, Speech, Dev PE)
 - Non-Instructional
 - Custodial
 - Exec Dir
 - Sped Director
 - Facilities Director
 - Main Office Staff
 - Bus Drivers
 - B4 /After school care

- **Return-to-School – January 2021 Work- Cont'd**

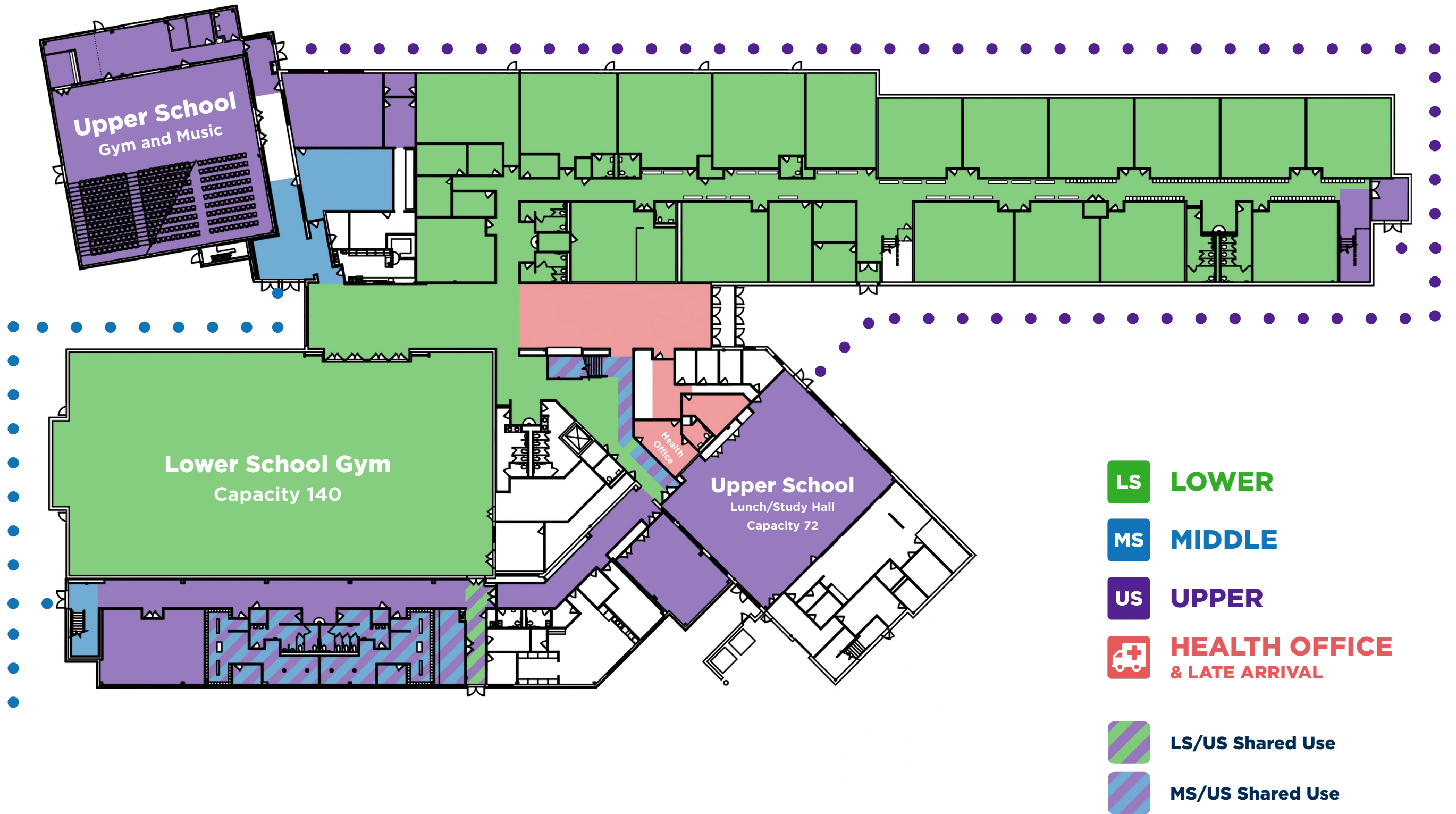
- Programming issue identified:
 - Music classes
 - US will not have in-person music for 4 weeks
 - Impacts approx. 4 classes per cohort
 - Phy Ed
 - MS will not have access to locker rooms for 4 weeks
 - Impacts approx. 2 classes per cohort
 - Transitioning between periods require students to walk outside:
 - MS:
 - Lunch, PE, Art
 - US:
 - Lunch, Study Hall, Gym, Art and PE
- Jan 20: Re-opening committee and Covid Response Team met
 - Committee member change: Kristen Denzer replaced Shane Mueller on Committee
 - Timeline options discussed –
 - Majority approved MS/US return to Hybrid beginning Feb 22
 - Kristen proposed in-person option.
 - Amended LMTP presented w/ historical data applied.
 - Comments collected and incorporated to extent possible.
- Jan 21-22: Covid Coordinators (Jon & Candace) and Kelly further discussed how to roll out the Team's work to the board
 - Issues were:
 - LMTP was incomplete – safety protocol assessment tool incomplete.
 - This has been further affirmed based on feedback/comments received from SCPA Staff after distribution of the board packet.
 - Board cannot approve a transition timeline w/o approving a LMTP.
 - All LMTP which are LESS restrictive must be approved by RST (per Safe Learning Plan); therefore, any plan that would be approved would be contingent on RST approval (call not scheduled until Feb 10)
 - Though a meeting prior to Feb 10 could be possible, Jon & Candace strongly oppose finalizing a LM plan prior to Feb 10 for reasons listed in Jan 4 notes (above)
 - It was concluded that what should be presented to the board is a work-in-progress and will be finalized for submission to RST on Feb 10 and submitted to board for approval as soon after that date as possible.

- **Return-to-School – January 2021 Work- Cont'd**

- - Jan 25: Vaccine availability- 60 doses allocated to SCPA via the Governor's Pilot Vaccination program
 - After this allocation 55% of SCPA staff who work in the building on a regular basis (excludes subs and non-teaching coaches) will have received the 1st vaccine by the 1st week in Feb or have declined the vaccine. This leaves 83 staff that have not yet received a vaccine allocation.
 - If SCPA receives this same allocation in the next two weeks, SCPA staff who work in the building on a regular basis will all have received a vaccine allocation.
 - Status of this allocation is unknown currently.
 - It appears. likely that 100% of SCPA staff will be fully vaccinated by April 1.
 - Hopefully this will come into focus in the next two weeks.
 - If this is Likely to occur- How does this change our trajectory
 - It is becoming clear that the LMTP is controversial and will likely result in the type of community divide that occurred last fall.
 - Should the 'qualitative' approach be revisited
 - Jan 26: Path Forward:
 - I've received direct communication by 6 of 28 non-sped upper school staff- all concerned about abandoning the current plan and bringing people back b4 vaccine
 - Do we continue to pursue quantitative vs. qualitative LMTP
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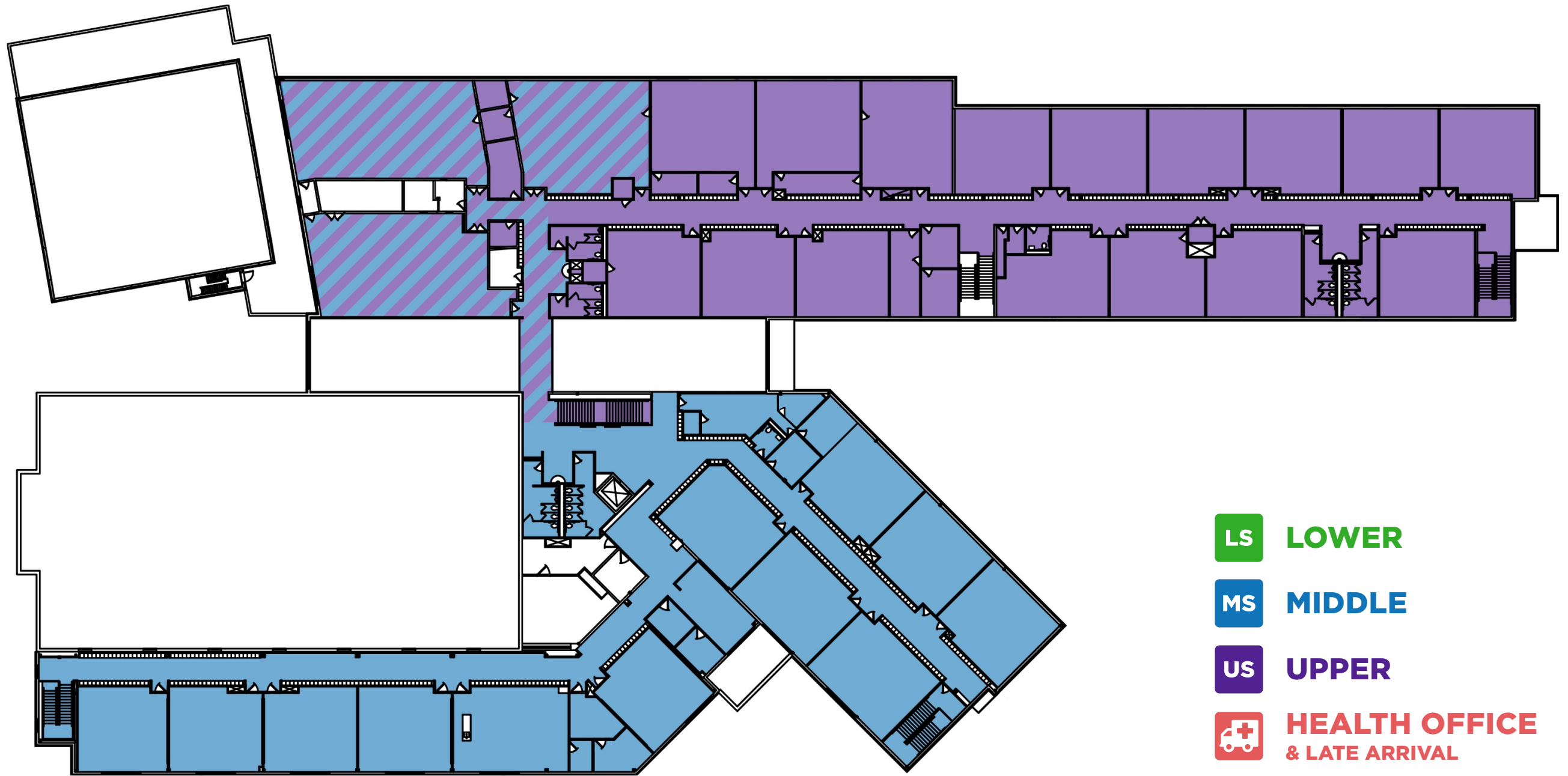
St. Croix Preparatory Academy

Separated Divisions - First Floor



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Separated Divisions - Second Floor



- LS LOWER**
- MS MIDDLE**
- US UPPER**
- HEALTH OFFICE & LATE ARRIVAL**
- LS/US Shared Use**
- MS/US Shared Use**

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Separated Divisions - Aux Gym

MS MIDDLE



