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**From:** Loudoun County Public Schools <BlackboardMN@LCPS.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 9, 2023 5:30 PM  
**To:** Loudoun County Public Schools Recipients  
**Subject:** Watson Mountain Middle School Opens Fall 2024 with a Non-Traditional School Plan for Current Independence High School/Brambleton Middle School Attendance Zone



## LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*"Empowering all students to make meaningful contributions to the world."*

Loudoun County Public Schools' (LCPS) next middle school has been named. On [February 28, 2023](#), the School Board unanimously endorsed the recommendation of their appointed committee to name the middle school previously referred to as MS-14 'Watson Mountain Middle School.' Watson Mountain Middle School will open in fall 2024, with the start of the 2024-2025 academic year.

Currently under construction, Watson Mountain Middle School is located at 41480 Steeplechase Loop Drive in Leesburg, southwest of the Evergreen Mills Road/Ryan Road/Red Hill Road intersection. A new Dulles North area high school (HS-14) is planned to open adjacent to the middle school in fall 2028 (2028-2029 academic year).

Previously, at their [February 14, 2023 School Board meeting](#), the Board voted to move forward with a temporary non-traditional school plan when Watson Mountain Middle School opens – rather than initiate a secondary school attendance zone change process for the [Dulles North](#) and [Dulles South](#) areas. Secondary school students residing in the current [Independence High School/Brambleton Middle School](#) attendance zone will, beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, be served by three schools prior to the opening of HS-14.

The following chart highlights the school of assignment, by grade level and school year, for middle and high school students residing in the current [Independence High School/Brambleton Middle School](#) attendance zone:

2022-2023 SY	2023-2024 SY	2024-2025 SY	2025-2026 SY	2026-2027 SY	2027-2028 SY	2028-2029 SY
<b>Grade 3</b> (CCE/ETE/LEG/MTE/SYC)	<b>Grade 4</b> (CCE/ETE/LEG/MTE/SYC)	<b>Grade 5</b> (CCE/ETE/LEG/MTE/SYC) Watson Mountain MS Opens	<b>Grade 6</b> (Watson Mountain MS)	<b>Grade 7</b> (Watson Mountain MS)	<b>Grade 8</b> (Brambleton MS)	HS-14 Opens with Dulles North & Dulles South Secondary School Attendance Zone Changes
<b>Grade 4</b> (CCE/ETE/LEG/MTE/SYC)	<b>Grade 5</b> (CCE/ETE/LEG/MTE/SYC)	<b>Grade 6</b> (Watson Mountain MS)	<b>Grade 7</b> (Watson Mountain MS)	<b>Grade 8</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 9</b> (Brambleton MS-9 <sup>th</sup> Annex)	
<b>Grade 5</b> (CCE/ETE/LEG/MTE/SYC)	<b>Grade 6</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 7</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 8</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 9</b> (Brambleton MS-9 <sup>th</sup> Annex)	<b>Grade 10</b> (Independence HS)	
<b>Grade 6</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 7</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 8</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 9</b> (Brambleton MS-9 <sup>th</sup> Annex)	<b>Grade 10</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 11</b> (Independence HS)	
<b>Grade 7</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 8</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 9</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 10</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 11</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 12</b> (Independence HS)	
<b>Grade 8</b> (Brambleton MS)	<b>Grade 9</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 10</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 11</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 12</b> (Independence HS)		
<b>Grade 9</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 10</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 11</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 12</b> (Independence HS)			
<b>Grade 10</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 11</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 12</b> (Independence HS)				
<b>Grade 11</b> (Independence HS)	<b>Grade 12</b> (Independence HS)					
<b>Grade 12</b> (Independence HS)						

**Note:**  
CCE (Creighton's Corner Elementary), ETE (Elaine E. Thompson Elementary), LEG (Legacy Elementary), MTE (Madison's Trust Elementary) and SYC (Sycolin Creek Elementary)

For the 2024-2025 academic year only, Independence High School will serve currently zoned students in grades nine through twelve, Brambleton Middle School will serve students in grades seven and eight; Watson Mountain Middle School will serve students in grade six only. For the remaining three school terms (2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years), Independence High School will serve students in grades nine through twelve, with a grade nine annex located at Brambleton Middle School. In addition to serving as the site for the grade nine annex, Brambleton Middle School will serve students in grade eight. Watson Mountain Middle School will serve students in grades six and seven.

With the opening of HS-14, in fall 2028, secondary school attendance zones will be modified for both [Dulles North](#) and [Dulles South](#) area middle and high schools. HS-14 will serve students in grades nine through twelve. (School Board policy provides that there will be no senior class/grade 12 at HS-14 for the school's inaugural year, for the 2028-2029 academic year only.) Watson Mountain Middle School will begin serving students in grades six through eight. In fall 2028, Independence High School will continue serving students in grades nine through twelve; Brambleton Middle School will again serve students in grades six through eight.

The School Board's discussion on the non-traditional school plan can be viewed on the LCPS website for both the [January 24, 2023](#) and [February 14, 2023](#) meetings.

As instructional planning continues for the non-traditional school decision, in advance of the 2024-2025 academic year, information will be shared by the Department of Instruction ([Instruction@lcps.org](mailto:Instruction@lcps.org)), Brambleton Middle School and Independence High School. General questions on the non-traditional school plan may be directed to the Division of Planning & GIS Services at [LCPSPlan@lcps.org](mailto:LCPSPlan@lcps.org) or 571-252-1050.

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