



School Capacities Fall 2014

Key Findings

1. Capacity calculations presented in this report are based on available seats for students. Accordingly, they may provide an incomplete picture of the number of students a school can reasonably support and should be used in concert with qualitative data to address space capacity concerns.
2. Most MMSD schools are not over capacity. Eight of the 32 elementary schools and one of the 12 middle schools had third Friday enrollment numbers above their calculated capacity.
3. Nineteen of the 32 elementary schools and two of the twelve middle schools had third Friday enrollment numbers above the ideal 90% of capacity.

Capacity Methodology

Research indicates that the ideal operating capacity for schools is 90% to allow for flexibility during the school year. Capacity calculations in MMSD vary by level. At the elementary school level, capacity calculations are based on the number of available classrooms and the number of students that can sit in a classroom. The number of available classrooms is calculated by first counting the number of rooms in each building that could become a classroom (well-ventilated rooms that are 500 square feet or larger). Then, rooms that are used for certain other activities (art, music, Reach, strings, alternative programs, 4K, etc.) are subtracted from this count. These room counts were collected based on floor plans labeled by each principal in fall 2014 and revised using self-reporting by principals. Finally, one more room is subtracted from the total so that extra space will be built in to the calculation unless we hear otherwise from a school. The resulting number indicates a conservative count of how many rooms could be used as homerooms in each building. This number is then multiplied by the number of students who can sit in a classroom to calculate a capacity. Because room use can change significantly from year to year, school capacities are not static and can also vary over time. At the middle school level, because homerooms are less static and because students move more frequently from room to room, school capacities are based on the number of instructional spaces and gyms without any adjustments based on room usage.

According to a review conducted by Hanover Research, MMSD's capacity calculations are aligned with practices in other similarly sized school districts. These capacity calculations do not address issues of inadequate facilities, scheduling, or space use. Instead, they provide context around the number of students each building could support based only on available seats. As such, they may be an incomplete picture of capacity and should be used in concert with qualitative data to assess capacity concerns.

Schools Over 100% of Capacity

For the 2014-15 school year, eight elementary schools were above 100% capacity as of the third Friday in September. Several other schools are close to 100% of capacity. Based on five-year enrollment projections we expect eleven schools to be above 100% capacity by 2019-20, although these projections are highly variable and subject to significant change. At middle school level one school was above 100% of capacity and no high schools were above 90% of capacity. Based in five-year enrollment projections we expect two middle schools and no high school to be above 100% of capacity by 2019-20. Traditionally the school capacity formula is designed to be conservative in order to flag schools early, so schools listed as slightly over capacity likely still have seats available for additional students.

Data Note and Facilities Plan

Capacity calculations are part of a larger effort to build a long-term facilities plan for MMSD. We will revisit the tradition of allowing one overflow room for each school in capacity calculations to assess whether this practice is appropriate and whether it enhances or diminishes the utility of the capacity calculation. The capacity review process must include on-site auditing of room use conducted by Building Services and/or a consultant. As a part of MMSD's short term facilities plan several MMSD elementary schools have been identified as needing immediate capacity additions due to crowding of students: Sandburg, Hawthorne, Kennedy, Van Hise/Hamilton, and Midvale. All of these schools are currently above 98% of their capacity and Van Hise, Midvale, and Sandburg are above 100% of their capacity. For more information see the addendum on page 4.



Elementary School Capacities

	2014-15 Student Capacity	2014-15 Third Friday Enrollment	2014-15 Remaining Spaces	2014-15 Percent of Capacity	2019-20 Projected Enrollment	2019-20 Projected Percent of Capacity
<i>Elementary overall</i>	13642	12459	1183	91%	12714	93%
Randall	345	389	-44	113%	324	94%
Nuestro Mundo	295	312	-17	106%	310	105%
Thoreau	413	430	-17	104%	478	116%
Midvale	425	441	-16	104%	458	108%
Van Hise	402	413	-11	103%	400	99%
Sandburg	393	404	-11	103%	433	110%
Franklin	351	358	-7	102%	357	102%
Elvehjem	447	448	-1	100%	428	96%
Hawthorne	354	352	2	99%	360	102%
Marquette	222	218	4	98%	179	81%
Kennedy	558	545	13	98%	433	78%
Schenk	433	422	11	98%	400	92%
Chavez	670	642	28	96%	619	92%
Emerson	413	390	23	94%	478	116%
Shorewood	469	432	37	92%	467	100%
Lowell	354	326	28	92%	343	97%
Stephens	558	513	45	92%	574	103%
Huegel	492	449	43	91%	495	101%
Crestwood	413	375	38	91%	332	80%
Leopold	767	676	91	88%	720	94%
Lake View	315	277	38	88%	242	77%
Mendota	334	292	42	87%	366	109%
Lapham	248	216	32	87%	198	80%
Gompers	295	255	40	86%	203	69%
Falk	315	269	46	85%	310	98%
Lindbergh	256	218	38	85%	191	75%
Orchard Ridge	374	318	56	85%	326	87%
Glendale	511	434	77	85%	506	99%
Allis	590	452	138	77%	523	89%
Muir	514	391	123	76%	394	77%
Lincoln	513	370	143	72%	434	85%
Olson	603	432	171	72%	433	72%

** Yellow text indicates the percent of capacity is between 90% and 100%

Red text indicates the percent of capacity is 100% or more

Table is organized from high to low on 2014-15 percent of capacity



Middle and High School Capacities

	2014-15 Student Capacity	2014-15 3rd Friday Enrollment	2014-15 Number of Seats Remaining	2014-15 Percent of Capacity	Projected 2019- 20 Enrollment	Projected 2019- 20 Percent of Capacity
<i>Total District Middle</i>	6822	5355	1467	78%	5798	85%
<i>Total District High</i>	9958	7144	2814	72%	7891	79%
<i>East High Attendance Area</i>						
Black Hawk Mid	576	380	196	66%	433	75%
O'Keeffe Mid	774	466	308	60%	426	55%
Sherman Mid	684	421	263	62%	560	82%
<i>East Total Middle</i>	2034	1267	767	62%	1419	70%
East High	2737	1598	1139	58%	1839	67%
<i>La Follette High Attendance Area</i>						
Badger Rock Mid	126	84	42	67%	119	95%
Sennett Mid	918	622	296	68%	662	72%
Whitehorse Mid	522	463	59	89%	451	86%
<i>La Follette Total Middle</i>	1566	1169	397	75%	1233	79%
La Follette High	2346	1449	897	62%	1704	73%
<i>Memorial High Attendance Area</i>						
Jefferson Mid	540	539	1	100%	565	105%
Spring Harbor Mid	306	260	46	85%	287	94%
Toki Mid	774	547	227	71%	703	91%
<i>Memorial Total Middle</i>	1620	1346	274	83%	1554	96%
Memorial High	2323	1924	399	83%	2051	88%
<i>West High Attendance Area</i>						
Cherokee Mid	630	467	163	74%	456	72%
Hamilton Mid	774	851	-77	110%	819	106%
Wright Mid	324	255	69	79%	317	98%
<i>West Total Middle</i>	1728	1573	155	91%	1591	92%
West High	2300	2064	236	90%	2200	96%
<i>Alternative school</i>						
Shabazz	252	109	143	43%	97	38%

** Yellow text indicates the percent of capacity is between 90% and 100%

Red text indicates the percent of capacity is over 100%

Table is organized alphabetically, for each type and area