

Charlton County School District releases updated information about construction projects

BMS Athletic Fields

This project includes fields for softball, baseball, and football on the Bethune Middle School campus, along with dressing rooms for those sports, batting cages, storage areas for equipment, a concession stand, and restrooms. Work is already underway on this project, and a tentative timeline for completion is Spring 2024. As we shared previously, Bethune Middle is the only middle school in the 9 county Okefenokee RESA region (Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, and Ware Counties) with no athletic fields on the middle school campus.

This project is being funded with remaining SPLOST funds from the 2017-2022 SLOST collection.

New CCHS

The architect firm of James Buckley and Associates is working on the design of a new Charlton County High School, and architects anticipate completing the design in the next 6 months. The new construction will be on the same site as the current high school, and will include construction of an auditorium for fine arts performances. The timeline for the project remains similar to our last update, with construction anticipated to begin sometime in the Fall of 2024 and completed in the Fall of 2026.

Construction of a new Charlton County High School will be funded with a combination of state and local funds. Our district is entitled to approximately \$10.7 million of state funds for construction of the school. The balance of the construction cost will be paid from SPLOST funds.

As a reminder, local property taxes help fund the regular operations of our district, but are not used to fund construction projects. The BMS Athletics project and the new Charlton County High School will be funded with a combination of state funding and SPLOST funds. None are funded by property tax dollars, nor do they have any impact on property taxes.

We want to again thank you for your support of the Charlton County School District when you voted to approve the 1% SPLOST sales tax. SPLOST has allowed the school district to complete dozens of other projects in the 25 years since the inception of SPLOST in 1998.