

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TURF PROJECT

Q: Which grade levels will benefit?

EVERY STUDENT at Mt. Bethel EVERY DAY!

Q: Why do we need a new turf field?

The current field has never been able to grow grass due to its constant use by our students. This means that on sunny days our students come back into school covered in dust and dirt and on rainy days the muddy field is unusable for PE or recess. In addition, we've had a few students fall and injure themselves due to the condition of the current field. At Mt. Bethel, we want to ensure that safe physical activity is an integral part of every school day.

Finally, our gym does not provide adequate space, so the PE teachers need to utilize outdoor spaces as well. While our teachers do a wonderful job of creatively using the outdoor space available, this new field will unlock a whole new world for our students!

Q: When will the field be ready for use by our students?

ASAP! Hopefully it will be ready for use in early March. We have planned a ribbon cutting and hope you join us on Friday, March 2nd! Please stay tuned for more details!

Q: What do our teachers have to say about this project?

"Research shows that students who participate in physical activity have improved attention, memory, and appropriate learning behaviors," said Sharon Kenney, MBES 4th grade teacher.

"The fresh air and freedom to run and play helps the students to be focused and ready to learn as soon as they come back in. Especially in the younger grades frequent movement and active breaks are shown to help students increase their focus, attention, ability to listen, and overall success in the classroom," said Heather Mullins, MBES 1st grade teacher.

Q: How will the turf impact PE?

We are so grateful and excited that Mt. Bethel will have a turf field for the entire school to be able to use! This project will immediately impact all students at Mt. Bethel both today, and for years to come. The turf field will provide both a safe and fun environment for the kids to use during recess and PE. There are many new units and games we will now be able to incorporate into our PE program due to the amount of space we will acquire. We believe that we have a special group of students at Mt. Bethel, and are excited to be able to give them the physical education they deserve and want! A big THANK YOU goes out to all the parents, teachers, administrators, and our Mt. Bethel community for making this happen for our kids. We look forward to continuing to provide a safe and fun environment in which our children can grow and flourish both on and off the field!

You PE Team,
Coach Jones, Coach Smith, and Coach Dietrich

Q: Besides the student benefits, how else can the turf field help our school?

In addition to all the student benefits, due to lack of practice space for local sports teams in East Cobb, the field can potentially be rented to local teams and create a new source of revenue for the Foundation. Money raised from renting the fields would be partially used to cover any future field maintenance costs.

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Q: Why can't we install natural grass?

The predominant reasons are cost and availability for use. See chart below for additional benefits of turf versus natural grass.

	FIFA Quality Turf	Natural Grass
Playing time	3,000 hours play per year, no rest required	680 – 816 hours per year, rest required between heavy play
Maintenance required	Clearing debris, brushing the surface, topping infill levels	Mowing, watering, fertilizing, pesticides, aeration
Revenue generation	Can be used 24/7/365 for sports, community events or other revenue generating activities	Less opportunities for events due to rest time needed between play time or inclement weather
Environment	Water savings, less pollution, no pesticides	Maintaining the natural environment, foliage and soil conditions
ROI	Payback is 3 to 4 years, 3x less expensive than natural grass over a 20 year period	Less upfront cost, slower ROI due to higher maintenance costs and fewer revenue generating events
Community use	Enhanced accessibility due to increased playtime and all weather surface	Use can be limited due to necessary rest time
Land utilization	Can achieve more use with same amount of space	Use can be limited due to necessary rest time
Sport performance	Same as natural grass	Better than low quality artificial turf
Safety	Same as natural grass	Better than low quality artificial turf

Q: What type of maintenance is required?

The field will need to be brushed every year. In addition, the turf will need to be replaced every 10-12 years depending on use. As mentioned, our goal is to rent the field to local sports teams and use those moneys to pay for any future field maintenance required.

Q: How will the field installation be funded & how did the Foundation acquire these additional dollars?

Unlike our yearly expenses (i.e. teacher salaries, STEM & Computer Lab expenses, etc.), the funding for the turf installation is a one-time capital expense which the Foundation was able to pull from accumulated reserves. These Foundation reserves have been saved via additional moneys from the increased success in the annual Patron Drive campaigns, FACT Club donations, Kindergarten and STEM camp revenue as well as corporate donations.

Q: Replacement of the Annex building was approved in SPLOST IV. What happens to the field when the Annex is replaced?

The turf field will not be impacted when the Annex is replaced. Currently, SPLOST funds are not coming in as anticipated, so our original Annex replacement date has been suspended until a later time. Administration has worked with District Personnel to ensure that the turf field will not be negatively impacted in the future when construction takes place. Funds for installing a turf field are not included in SPLOST V.

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Q: What kind of turf field will be installed?

Play58 is the brand of synthetic turf that will be installed by Nationwide Turf. Our new turf field will have 100% sand infill, which is natural, non-toxic and safe. The sand infill settles deep into the mesh of the turf and provides firm support making the turf feel more like natural grass and soil and keeps the turf cooler and cleaner than products using rubber pellets.

Teasley Elementary installed the same product through the same company in November and are incredibly happy with the enhancement it has made to their campus!

Q: Is this the only grant funded by the Foundation this year?

Thanks to your support, a wide range of grants that further our mission of ENRICH.EMPOWER.EXCEL. have been approved this school year. Your donations have provided over \$44,925.24 in grants that directly impact classroom instruction, STEM initiatives, and continued learning for teachers.

The following is a list of grants in addition to the turf field that we have provided thus far this academic year.

<u>Professional Training & Development:</u> School Counselor Conference Speech Teacher Conference Orton-Gillingham Training K - 5 O-G Morphology Training Target Kagan Structures Workshop Orton-Gillingham Math Training	<u>STEM Support:</u> STEM Lab Furniture STEM Technology, Tools and Games STEM Day funding	<u>Classroom Support:</u> Orton-Gillingham Binders Seesaw Online Student Portfolios Books for 3 rd Grade Unit of Study Target New Unit of Studies Accelerated Reader Program
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Please [click here](#) to visit our grants page for additional information on grants that the Foundation has supported.

Thank you for enriching the lives and education of all our children by supporting your Mt. Bethel Foundation! YOUR donations MAKE a DIFFERENCE!