

Welcome to the New Ballou Senior High School

DCPS Unveils Modern, World-Class Education Facility in Ward 8



Honoring its commitment to providing the students of DC Public Schools with world-class education facilities, DCPS unveiled a new Ballou Senior High School in early January 2015 that offers students in Ward 8 a modern, high-tech school building and learning atmosphere that rivals the best in the Washington, DC, area.

The stunning, 356,000-square-foot Ballou Senior High School campus is the newest to be modernized under the 2007 Master Facilities Plan, which provided \$3.2 billion over 15 years to construct high-quality educational facilities district-wide. Built in conjunction with the Deputy Mayor of Education and the Department of General Services, the new Ballou Senior High School was constructed adjacent to the former Ballou building so that teaching and learning could continue without interruption during the construction process.

With a collegiate atmosphere, the new Ballou features a large internal courtyard, community gardens, improved green spaces, and a central two-story cafeteria/commons area that can be made accessible during non-school hours to serve as a public gathering space. Other features include:

- 87 new classrooms;
- 13 science and bio-technology labs;
- Dedicated spaces for visual and performing arts;
- A greenhouse, a culinary arts kitchen, and an auto-mechanic training shop; and
- Specialized spaces to support diverse student programs, including television and music recording studios, barbershop and cosmetology spaces, plus a new swimming pool and two gymnasiums.

The new Ballou has the capacity to serve 1,400 daytime students and up to 900 part-time evening students. Academic grades and programs are organized into five distinct academies that each have classrooms with high-tech, multimedia data projectors, classroom sound enhancement systems, flexible multi-use rooms, a television studio, and computer and science labs.

The school is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible and at a minimum will achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Schools Gold rating (LEED is a “green” building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. To receive LEED certification, building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification). The new Ballou has several green design features, including bio-retention gardens, ultra-low-flowing water fixtures, and sustainable building materials, such as solar panels to generate electricity.

The former Ballou building will be demolished and used to house a new competitive athletic field, practice field, bleachers, and main and auxiliary parking areas.

The following images show the original Ballou High School building and the new Ballou in various stages of construction, as well as internal and external features of the completed school building.

Before:

Ballou aerial view January 2013



Courtyard

Ballou aerial view during construction



Left of front entrance

Ballou aerial view September 2014



After:

Front Entrance



Courtyard



Gymnasium



Cafeteria



Cosmetology class

