



Mergers



**Merge Waverly and Louisa May Alcott with
Gallagher**

Recommendation: Merge Waverly and Alcott with Gallagher

Overview of School Action



Merging Waverly and Alcott with Gallagher will benefit all three schools through a higher-quality student experience, including additional courses beyond art, music, and PE – along with expanded sports

Waverly

- Waverly's enrollment is unsustainably low, limiting the school's ability to offer a robust student experience
- There are available seats in the region that are in good condition buildings and will allow for a higher-quality student experience
- Specifically, students will have a reserved seat at Gallagher, a school with a higher star rating (3.5 stars compared to Waverly's 2.5 stars) housed in a large, brand-new building

Louisa May Alcott (Alcott)

- Alcott's enrollment is unsustainably low and declining in a small building, limiting the school's ability to offer a robust student experience
- There are available seats in the region that are in good condition buildings and will allow for a higher-quality student experience
- Specifically, students will have a reserved seat at Gallagher, a school with a comparable star rating (both 3.5 stars) housed in a large, brand-new building

Joseph M. Gallagher (Gallagher)

- Gallagher has strong academic outcomes for students (3.5 stars) and is in a brand new, large building that can sustainably offer more opportunities for additional students
- Gallagher will continue to serve students in its new location, welcoming students from Alcott and Waverly

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Transitioning School Data: Waverly



Transitioning School Data: Waverly		How the data informed the recommendation
K-8 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 238	- Enrollment is very low compared to the 450-student target for K-8s 450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● 2%	- Enrollment has grown, outpacing the district median (-12%) - While the enrollment trend is positive, it is not on pace with what would be expected for a school in a recently built building
Building Condition Score	● 89	- The building is in good condition and is an ideal candidate for reuse as a CMSD specialty school, given its location - This building will become Waverly Montessori, serving as the new location for the school currently at Tremont Montessori, which is a district-wide specialty school
Building Planning Capacity	500	- The building is large enough to hold 2 classes per grade - While the building is large enough to hold 2 classes per grade, enrollment is below the building's planning capacity, requiring resources that could otherwise be used for students and staff

K-8 Enrollment

- Strong (>450)
- Low (360-450)
- Very low (<360)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity

- Below 450

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Transitioning School Data: Alcott



Transitioning School Data: Alcott		How the data informed the recommendation
K-5 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 167	- Enrollment is very low compared to the 450-student target for K-8s (and even for the comparable target of 300 students when adjusting for the K-5 grade configuration of this school) 450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● -28%	Enrollment has fallen at a more significant rate than the district median (-12%)
Building Condition Score	● 83	- The building is in good condition and is an ideal candidate for reuse - We are committed to working with the city and community partners to ensure this building benefits the community for many years to come
Building Planning Capacity	● 245	- The building is too small to hold 2 classes per grade - Even in this smaller building, enrollment is below the building's planning capacity, requiring resources to maintain space that could otherwise be used for students and staff

K-5 Enrollment

- Strong (>300)
- Low (240-300)
- Very low (<240)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity

- Below 450

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Welcoming School Data: Gallagher



Welcoming School Data: Gallagher		How the data informed the recommendation
K-8 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 576	- Enrollment is above the 450-student target for K-8s 450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● -15%	- Enrollment has fallen at a more significant rate than the district median (-12%) - Continued enrollment decline threatens the ability to provide a robust student experience in the future
Building Condition Score	● New	The building is brand new and will serve the community as a K-8 school
Building Planning Capacity	1,115	The building is large enough to hold over 4 classes per grade - Achieving strong enrollment will ensure this space is used most effectively for students

K-8 Enrollment

- Strong (>450)
- Low (360-450)
- Very low (<360)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity

- Below 450

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Student Experience



Merging Waverly and Alcott with Gallagher will **allow all students access to additional courses beyond art, music, and PE – along with expanded sports**

	Waverly <i>SY 2025-26</i>	Alcott <i>SY 2025-26</i>	Gallagher <i>SY 2025-26</i>	Gallagher (merged) <i>SY 2026-27</i>	
 Course options	3	3	3	4 or more	} <i>Students will have more academic and extracurricular opportunities available to them</i>
 Sport options	4	N/A	7	7 or more	

Additionally, in school year 2026-27, Gallagher will offer:



More options and better participation in **clubs and extracurricular activities**



Continued student supports to meet academic, physical and mental health, and language needs



Space and support for students served in **self-contained special education and PreK classrooms**

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Map View



Students at **Waverly** and **Alcott** have
a **reserved seat at Gallagher**

Star rating ★★½

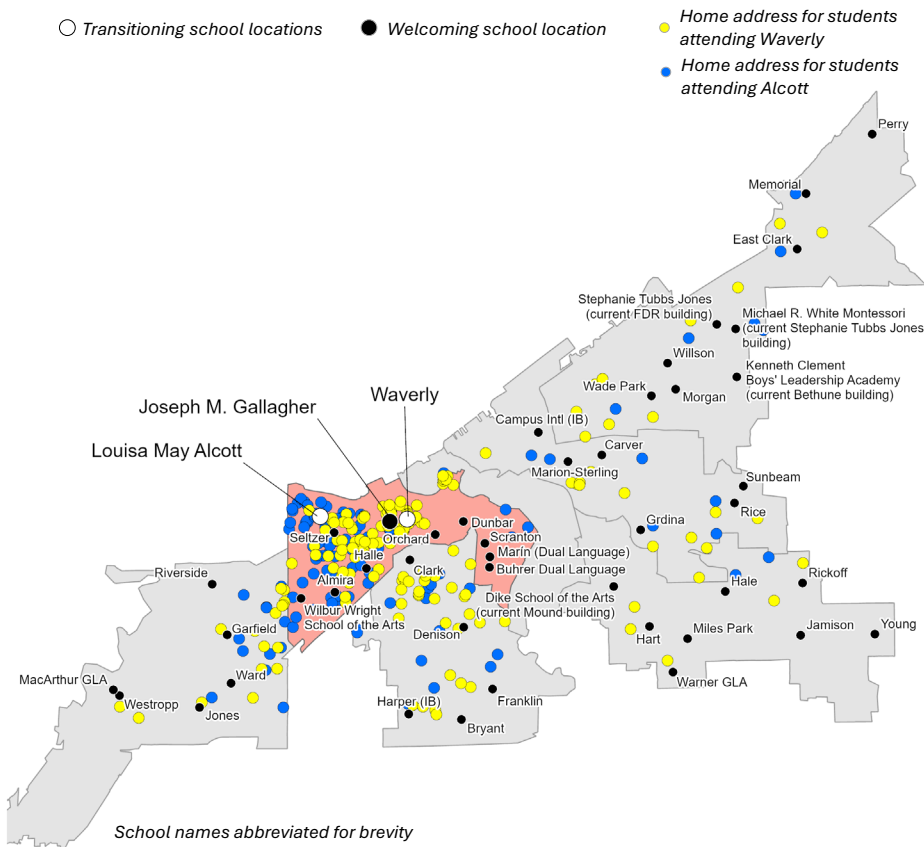
**Building
condition score** New

Address 6601 Franklin Blvd

**Distance
between
schools**
0.7 miles (Waverly)
2.6 miles (Alcott)

Transportation* Current Waverly and Alcott students who accept this reserved seat and reside within 3 miles of their current school and more than a mile from Gallagher are eligible for transportation to Gallagher for SY 26-27 and SY 27-28.

*All students with transportation-related accommodations on their IEP will continue to receive transportation, regardless of where they live.



If you would like to explore other options, students currently at Alcott and Waverly will also receive first priority for *available seats at all schools they are eligible to attend*, (including the Montessori school that is relocating to the current Waverly building) during the School Choice application process, which launches in January.

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Looking Ahead



Transitioning schools

Waverly and Alcott students in grades K-7 have a reserved seat at Gallagher and first priority for *available seats* at all other schools during the School Choice Process (including the Montessori school that is relocating to the current Waverly building).

Welcoming school

Gallagher students in grades K-7 do not need to participate in School Choice to remain at their current school.



School choice

Families can use the CMSD School Finder and School Choice Book to better understand their options starting in December.

School Choice will launch in January and run through the end of February.



Leadership

Principals for the 2026-27 school year will be appointed in December.



Staff

Staff assignments will be confirmed in Spring 2026, following the School Choice process.

School staff teams will be merged in alignment with our contractual obligations, enrollment, and the needs of the merged student community.



School community

Students, families, and staff will have opportunities to connect and collaborate around the future of the unified school community over the course of the spring and summer before the start of the 2026-27 school year.

All current 8th graders across CMSD will continue to be supported in making a high school choice.

Special education single classrooms will still be offered at multiple schools in every region. Families whose children are in these specialized classrooms will get additional outreach and support to enroll.