

# Bond referendum to address challenges facing KMS

submitted by  
**KMS Superintendent  
Martin Heidelberg**

As fall approaches, KMS Schools continue to communicate with local residents about their upcoming bond referendum, which district residents will consider on Tuesday, November 7. The district will announce three referendum informational meetings that will take place in Kerkhoven, Murdock, and Sunburg. For more information, please visit [OneKMS.org](http://OneKMS.org).

At its core, the One KMS plan addresses two primary challenges facing KMS Schools — additional and improved space to provide adequate learning environments for students and maximizing the district's limited sites to support athletics and activities. "The challenges facing our schools will continue to grow the longer we wait to address them. We're proud to offer an engaging educational curriculum and environments that support our growing activities, athletics, and extracurricular programs," said School Board Clerk Harmon Wilts. The specific challenges facing KMS

Elementary School and KMS Secondary School include:

- Specialist services in the elementary school are housed in the building's lower level and portable classrooms. In the secondary school, specialist services are housed in places like coaches' offices and the concessions storage room.

- The elementary school has no room for growth without adding pressure on classrooms, the Media Center, and music areas. Restrooms adjacent to the dining area need accessibility and age-appropriate improvements.

- The secondary school was built with two rooms dedicated for science, and enrollment requires three. An undersized general classroom is being used and isn't properly equipped. The biology classroom is also limited to a single sink. In addition, the agricultural classroom is undersized, the size of the district's metal shop limits student participation, and the layout of the media center is underutilized.

- The elementary football field doesn't have a running track or artificial turf. Its position hinders its usability, and parking is extremely limited.

The existing varsity and junior varsity softball fields lack a proper configuration. Parking is limited and there is no track around the grass football field. Fencing, dugouts, and playing surfaces require improvements.

- The theater area at the secondary school needs improvements, including seating, lighting, sound, lighting booth, storage, and more.

- As more students participate in band and choir, the district lacks space to support these programs.

These educational and facility challenges directly impact students, staff, and ultimately, community members in Kerkhoven, Murdock, and Sunburg. The One KMS two-question bond referendum proposes to address every challenge and best position

the district to support students both now and in the future.

If residents approve both questions, KMS Schools would be able to invest \$27.95 million. If both questions are approved, the estimated tax impact on a \$170,600 residential home in the district would be approximately \$25 per month starting in 2024. To find your estimated tax impact, visit [OneKMS.org/cost](http://OneKMS.org/cost). Residents will have the opportunity to vote early via mail-in ballot or in person on Election Day — Tuesday, November 7. Those with questions or suggestions should contact Superintendent Martin Heidelberg by email at [mheidelberg@kms.k12.mn.us](mailto:mheidelberg@kms.k12.mn.us) or by phone at 320-264-1411. Please visit [OneKMS.org](http://OneKMS.org) for more information.

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