

### **A Brief History**

Westside Pre-Engineering Magnet High School began serving the students of Bibb County in the fall of 1997 to accommodate the increasing population in western Bibb County, drawing students primarily from the surrounding areas of the existing Central and Southwest zones. The student population continued to grow rapidly, exceeding 2,000 by the 2007-2008 school year. Multiple modular classrooms were added to accommodate the expanding student population.

In May of 2008, Westside became the focus of one of the largest undertakings of the Bibb County School District, as the “Mother’s Day Tornado” struck the Westside community. The tornado caused extensive damage to Westside, which was deemed uninhabitable for the rest of the school year. The faculty and staff of Westside and the recently opened Rutland School Campus quickly formulated a plan to finish out the remaining weeks of the school year with each high school alternating days of attendance. This unprecedented collaboration created a safe and friendly environment where students from both high schools successfully completed the school year and seniors finished critical tests necessary for graduation.

As population in the north and west areas of Bibb County continued to grow, the Howard School Campus was opened in the fall of 2008, drawing students primarily from the existing Westside zone and reducing the student population to around 1,200. During the summer of 2013, Westside was fully renovated with modernizations designed to reduce energy consumption, alleviate labor-intensive maintenance, increase security, improve comfort, and enhance educational technologies. The addition of a modern Fine Arts Auditorium in the fall of 2020, along with subsequent improvements in athletic facilities, have ensured that Westside has a comprehensive physical plant designed to meet the needs and interests of an increasingly diverse student population.