On March 10, voters will have a voice in an important matter that impacts all the children in the school district. The vote will determine whether Ashton Community Schools will be redistricted. By voting yes, you will impact elementary school children in a positive way.

In the past 20 years, our community has grown exponentially. As a direct result of that growth, our school system also has grown. Enrollment has increased at all four elementary schools, both middle schools, and the high school. This period of rapid growth and expansion has taxed our community’s resources dramatically. The following table and chart show the number of new homes built in the school district in the past four years, by quadrant (north, south, east, and west):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quadrant** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** |  | **Year 3** | **Year 4** | **Total** |
| **North** | **95** | **144** |  | **123** | **101** | **463** |
| **South** | **158** | **180** |  | **255** | **310** | **903** |
| **South** | **158** | **180** |  | **255** | **310** | **903** |
| **East** | **55** | **70** |  | **72** | **64** | **261** |
| **West** | **104** | **100** |  | **112** | **99** | **415** |

While all schools have seen an increase in enrollment, Crafton Elementary has seen the most dramatic increase. Because most vacant land is in the southern part of the school district, this is the area that has seen the largest number of new neighborhoods being built. As a result, Crafton – as the school that accommodates these students – has become overcrowded. The following table shows last year’s enrollment, this year’s enrollment, and next year’s projected enrollment for all four elementary schools:

By drawing new district boundaries now, before student population increases further, we will have distributed the students more equally among the schools. In addition to easing overcrowding at Crafton, the new boundaries will help in the areas of bus safety, teacher-student ratio, scheduling, and teacher burden:

* Fewer riders per bus will increase bus safety
* Teacher-Student ratio will decrease to 16:1
* Scheduling of special events/assemblies will be easier
* Grading and preparation time will be lessened

Governing leaders and teachers have risen to the challenge of providing a quality education to a rapidly expanding student body, while meeting new state and federal requirements. By voting to redistrict now, you can do your part in helping our children obtain their education in the best environment possible.