Q. Where is Jackman Field?
A. Jackman Field is on Lab’s Historic Campus located between Dorchester Avenue and the Sunny and Kovler Gymnasiums, bound on the north by Lab’s tennis courts and on the south by 59th Street. Jackman Field as we know it today came about when the school added Kovler Gymnasium in 2000.

Q: How is Jackman Field used?
A: On any given school day, Jackman Field may be used by more than 1,000 unique players, students, coaches, and instructors. The field is used by all the Physical Education classes from Grades 3 through 12. All Lab soccer teams practice and play matches on the field, and Summer Lab uses the field for sports camps. Middle and High School sports teams also use the high jump pad, long jump pit, and batting cage on the south end of the field. As Lab’s enrollment expands, the current field will not be able to safely sustain the increasing volume of traffic.

Q: Why is Jackman Field being improved?
A: Jackman Field is currently composed of a natural grass turf playing field, a track and field practice area, and a batting cage. The field has poor drainage, resulting in inconsistent field conditions, such as uneven surfaces and bare spots. The field is used very heavily from early March through late October, and the grass turf simply does not have enough time to recover from heavy, constant use. Sometimes, the field is in such poor condition that programming and activities are moved off Jackman Field to less suitable facilities, or cancelled outright.

Q: Will Lab be able to host track events with the new track?
A: The running track will be configured for practice, not competition. Multiple lanes will surround the soccer field (with tight corners) and feature the same resilient running surface found at competition venues like Stagg Field. Lab will continue to host indoor track meets at the Henry Crown Fieldhouse.

Q: Will the field be smaller with the addition of the running track?
A: The field will remain within IHSA regulations for soccer games and continue to provide space for the rich Physical Education curriculum that Lab offers to students in Grades 3 through 12.

Q: Why is a synthetic turf being used?
A: There are only two or three weeks during growing season when Jackman is not in use for Lab programs. So, despite regularly scheduled maintenance (i.e., aeration, watering, etc.) the condition of the field is unsatisfactory and can be dangerous—students have been injured as a result of uneven surfaces and inconsistent field conditions. The synthetic surface will withstand heavy use and Chicago's harsh climate, require minimal and less expensive maintenance, and provide use and safety benefits to all users.

Q: Are there health and safety risks with the use of synthetic turf?
A: At all times, student and athlete safety remains the school’s top priority. A synthetic turf field offers many benefits to users including added safety from injury due to uneven and inconsistent surfaces. There is some controversy in the media regarding health risks with SBR crumb rubber in-fill turf. The
steering committee with Board support recently selected a non-SBR synthetic turf product made primarily from pre-consumer shoe rubber as the best choice for our school community.

Q: **What will be the impact of these improvements to the neighboring community?**
A: Lab and the University will be in dialogue with our neighbors to address community concerns as we have with previous projects. We expect to send community updates and host town halls, as necessary.

Q: **What will the new field cost to build and maintain?**
A: The total estimated cost is approximately $2.5 million. Annual maintenance for the new field is estimated to cost $15,000.

Q: **How will the field improvements be funded?**
A: Primarily, the field will be funded with proceeds from Connections 2018. We will also fund the project from our capital reserves to ensure the project is completed on time.

Q: **What is the complete scope of the project?**
A: The project will serve to excavate the existing field and install a synthetic turf field playing surface and a three-lane running track. The batting cage and track and field practice area will remain and, if funding is available, the project may include these additional new features: high-visibility, low-cost LED lighting to extend the useful hours of the field; upgrades to bleacher seating to make the fan experience more comfortable and enjoyable; installation of a high-visibility, high-resolution digital scoreboard; and increased accessibility via low-grade ramps and sidewalks.

Q: **Has a design firm been selected?**
A: Eriksson Engineering has been contracted for design services. This firm will develop a fully-coordinated set of drawings and specifications, which will be used to bid and construct the proposed project.

Q: **What is the construction schedule and what impacts are expected regarding parking, noise, and construction traffic?**
A: Mobilization and construction starts on Monday, June 11, and will continue through August. There will be construction vehicles entering the site, most likely at the corner of 59th and Dorchester. All work will occur within the construction fence, and some noise will occur during normal working hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Q: **Will the entrances to the field be locked and secured when the field is not in use?**
A: Ways to safely secure the field and track while also providing community access are under consideration.

Q: **Will street parking continue to be “free parking,” and when events take place on the field where will attendees park?**
A: Yes, though at times, there may be parking restrictions. Attendees are encouraged to use bus and train transportation, and street parking will be available.

Q: **Will UChicago athletic and intramural programs be allowed to use the field?**
A: Yes, use of the field by UC Athletics and intramural programs will be coordinated through the Lab Schools Athletic Department.
Q. Will the renovated field be open to the public?
A. Lab values its place in the surrounding community, making its tennis courts open and accessible throughout the year. Lab aims to provide similar community access to its field and track.

Q. If a neighbor has a concern about the use of the field who can be contacted?
A. Joe Wachowski, Director of Operations–Lab Schools, iwachowski@ucls.uchicago.edu or 773.702.9450