

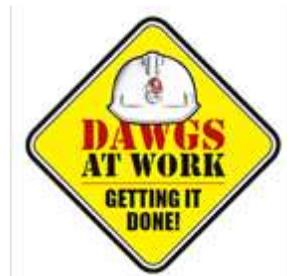
Hello Families,

I am excited to be able to provide a construction update as we head into the 18-19 school year. Our contractors and the district have worked together to push for our September opening. We are appreciative of their expertise and efforts.

First and foremost, we will begin the year with air conditioning school-wide! This means that our students and teachers can learn and teach in a comfortable environment regardless of the heat and humidity that mother nature often brings in September. As we saw in May and June, the building is comfortable, but it is still warm at recess and dismissal so make sure to dress your child in layers or send them with an extra sweatshirt to leave at school or in their locker (labeled with name and grade so we can return if misplaced).

We have experienced many upgrades to the building facade, some more visible than others. You will notice the beautiful new columns that have been repaired and painted on the Central side. In addition, new handrails were installed at all of the main student entrances. The steps that were replaced last year are now complete and have been painted as well. The sidewalks have been replaced/repainted and the brick drop off zones have been repaired and replaced as needed. We are ready for the students to arrive and can't wait to welcome them back!

Maybe less noticeable, but just as important are the gutter repairs, roof replacement, window repairs, and masonry work that has taken place over the last year and this summer. In addition, the trees have been trimmed, the grounds will be cleaned up in time for school, and new seed or sod will be placed out front to create a warm and welcoming entrance to school.



Some of the most exciting news for our students is the announcement that the staging area is currently being disassembled and removed. This means that by the end of September, the entire back area should be available for recess. While a small portion of the field will be closed for seeding (defined with fencing or caution tape to help the grass growing process), we will have the entire blacktop and much of the field back for use during our first recess on September 11th. The staging area used by the contractors will be cleaned to ensure safety for our students. After the contractors have cleaned the area, our grounds crew will use a magnet machine to gather any of the few remaining nails or items that may have been left ensuring a safe place for our students to play.

While the contractors will no longer have a staging area and most equipment will be removed from MS/CS, they do have a short list of items to complete in the first few weeks of school.

Most recently, MS/CS has a significant security upgrade. The locks were replaced on all internal doors and outside entrance doors. This means that only master key holders can access the school from the outside. All others can access the school through the use of new ID badges that are also used to gain access through our fob system. The internal locks were replaced with classroom function security locks. The outside lever is locked and unlocked by a key from either the inside or outside of the classroom allowing the teachers to lock the classroom from the inside in an emergency situation. The inside lever is always unlocked to allow for immediate egress. The classroom doors are all operated by the same key so that any teacher can lock any door from the inside or outside. This is crucial for our teachers who travel between buildings or travel to different classrooms to teach. Student and staff safety is a priority and the upgraded locks ensure that we are providing a safe place to come each day.

All in all, a job well done by all of those involved in this large scale construction project. We thank you and your family for your patience and positivity as we worked to complete the job efficiently and safely both during school and during the summer months. The hard work and flexibility of the contractors, facilities team, BOE, and the school staff is admirable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out; an additional eblast relative to school opening and our first week of school.

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