

Thanks to you, we're building a better future for our children
COMMUNITY UPDATE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PAGE 1



WESTWOOD INTERMEDIATE

Above, left: During the week of June 12, the front entry and glass hallway began to come down. In its place (above, right), the footprint of the new media center begins to take shape. Right: The walls of the new media center rose in July. Four new classrooms will occupy the former media center.



Much has taken place this summer as the district is well into the initial phases of implementing its Long-Range Facilities Improvement Plan. This will help to catch you up on some of the progress.

Summer Progress

Westwood Intermediate School gets new media center, classrooms

Phase I construction projects at the grades 4-5 Westwood Intermediate School are well underway. Students, staff, and parents will notice some big changes that have taken place during the summer.

The school's now former main entrance/front hallway has been removed and in its place will be an impressive **new media center**.

The area of the old media center is being renovated into **four new classrooms**.

The new classrooms should be completed and ready to serve students on the first day of school, the new media center should be completed within a few weeks after the start of school.

The main entrance to the school will be located (temporarily) on the north side of the building. In future construction phases a new shared entrance to the elementary and middle school will be built in the area between the two schools.

Summer Progress

Community oversight of facilities projects

The school district is committed to complete all facilities projects on time and in a cost-effective manner.

A **Community Construction Oversight Group** has been meeting since the spring. This committee will continue to meet every 4-6 weeks. Community members review design and construction progress, hear from the architect and construction manager, and provide community feedback to the school district.

Any resident can still participate in this process. Call Kathy at 763-785-5513 if you are interested.

A **Community-Staff New Elementary School Design Team** has been meeting throughout the spring and summer to research programming and structural designs.

Architects are using feedback from this group in the design development phase for the new 750-student K-3 school to be built in Blaine.

The committee's work is also being utilized to ensure that there is equity quality in the improvement projects at the other three elementary schools, as well as developing and monitoring community standards for all schools and sites.

An example is the list of "Community/School Commitments to Facilities Improvement Projects at all Schools and Sites" on the next page.

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**NEW K-3 SCHOOL AND
 PARK TERRACE ELEMENTARY**

Clockwise from top, left: In July, the district secured the land for the new K-3 elementary school that will open in Blaine in 2008, and preliminary design plans will be ready before summer's end.

At Park Terrace Elementary, work speeds along on four new regular classrooms on the building's west end, and three new kindergarten classrooms on the east end.

Equity and quality

School/community commitments to facilities improvement projects at all schools and sites

- All projects will address a 20 percent enrollment growth by adding classrooms at all schools.
- All projects will include major renovation and new construction to address deferred maintenance needs on 35- to 50-year-old facilities.
- All projects will meet state and federal guidelines, address issues of safety and security.
- All projects will provide long-range educational solutions for this and future generations of students.
- Safety and security, for all of our schools, are top priorities. We will meet or exceed all state and federal guidelines.
- The designs will focus on student and adult learning to promote quality education.
- The atmosphere will be more friendly, welcoming, calm, warm, and bright. Natural light will be used as much as possible.
- The schools will maximize flexible and adaptable age-appropriate learning environments.
- The schools will meet the needs of our diverse community.
- The schools will support parent and volunteer involvement.
- The designs will promote ease of navigation throughout the schools and sites.
- The schools will be an even greater source of district and community pride.
- The schools will have even greater value as district and community resources.

Summer Progress

Park Terrace gets seven new classrooms

A flurry of activity over the summer will produce significant changes for Park Terrace Elementary.

On June 12, work began on adding **four new regular classrooms** to the school's west end and **three new kindergarten classrooms** on the east end.

All new classrooms are expected to be completed by the start of the 2006-07 school year.

Summer Progress

New K-3 elementary school

The district completed the purchase of property for the new K-3 elementary school that will eventually open its doors in the fall of 2008. The property is located just south of the intersection of Highway 242/Main St. and Cloud Drive in Blaine. The district's **Community-Staff New Elementary School Design Team** continues to advise the district, its architects, and engineers.



HIGH SCHOOL'S PANTHER STADIUM

Two views (above) of the new turf installed over the summer that will significantly increase the amount of use of the field for all students.

Below: A view of the stadium's former track which had become unsafe to use, and workers spent the early part of the summer correcting the stadium area's severe drainage problems.

Summer Progress

Panther Stadium drainage solved, unsafe track replaced, field use greatly increased

The long-awaited project was undertaken this summer at Spring Lake Park High School's Panther Stadium.

The renovation project corrected a severe drainage problem, replaced an unsafe track that was no longer useable for conference meets, and added a synthetic playing field that will benefit all students by providing 20 times the field's current usage.

Because of the condition—and the nature—of a natural-grass field, it was only used 136 hours per year and there was no room at the high school site for additional fields.

Now, the field will have up to 2,700 hours of potential use for athletic teams, physical education classes, and the community.

While not a part of the voter-approved bond referendum, this renovation project was identified as a need in 2004 and was part of the long-range facilities plan recommended to the School Board by a citizen-staff task force.

Funding was through a State Department-authorized levy.

Summer Progress

Additional space secured for construction phase staging area

In July, the district completed purchase of the former HealthPartners building located at 1415 81st Avenue NE in Spring Lake Park.

The building will solve a critical need for "staging area" space during the next 3-5 years as Early Childhood Programs, Community Services, Learning Alternatives, and the District Offices facilities are razed during several phases of the major redevelopment of the Spring Lake Park High School complex.

Early childhood programs and offices for many district-wide services will begin utilizing this facility within a year's time.

Due to continuing space limitations at school sites, the district and School Board have begun to consider permanently housing school district services in this building. A decision could be made as early as this fall.

Summer Progress

Preliminary design plans to be unveiled in August

In August, preliminary design plans for the new K-3 elementary school in Blaine, set to open in the fall of 2008 will be presented to the School Board.

As soon as they are available, these plans will be posted on the district's website along with other facilities updates. Visit: www.springlakeparkschools.org

Preliminary plans for the Spring Lake Park High School music/athletic/fine arts center addition, and the early childhood programs addition to Woodcrest Elementary are expected to be available in the fall.



Construction and Renovation Timeline

The Facilities Improvement Plan includes major construction projects as well as remodeling and deferred maintenance projects at all school sites. The projects will take several years to complete. Most of the work will be completed during the summer months to avoid disruption of learning and maintain a focus on student and staff safety. We thank you in advance for your patience as we enter this exciting era of significant improvement to our educational facilities. Thanks to you, we are building a better future for our community's children.

A broad view of the construction and renovation schedule is provided below.

	2006	2007	2008	2009
Woodcrest Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Design phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bid and construct Early Childhood Programs addition, begin spring 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete remodeling, deferred maintenance projects, and site revisions by fall 2008 	
Spring Lake Park High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Design phase ■ Correct the drainage problem, unsafe track, and seldom-used field at Panther Stadium by August 2006 (<i>Not a Bond Referendum project</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demolish Early Childhood wing in spring 2007 ■ Begin music/physical education addition in April 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete music/physical education addition ■ Begin new two-story section ■ Construct new east entry ■ Demolish Learning Alternatives wing by fall 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Demolish District Offices and most of Kenneth Hall Elementary ■ Complete new high school two-story section ■ Final site revisions by December 2009
New K-3 Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Design phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bid and begin construction in spring 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete construction and open school in fall 2008 	
Park Terrace Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Design, bid, and construct 7 additional classrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete design, bid the remodeling and deferred maintenance projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete remodeling, deferred maintenance, and site revisions by fall 2008 	
Westwood Intermediate School & Westwood Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Design, bid, and construct new media center; create four classrooms from former media center at Westwood Intermediate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bid and begin construction of new addition for shared entryway, office relocation, cafeteria, additional classrooms, and interior remodeling in Spring 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Begin remodeling and deferred maintenance projects at the elementary school and middle school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete construction of new addition for shared entryway, offices, cafeteria, additional classrooms, and interior remodeling. ■ Complete all remodeling, and site improvements by fall 2009

Continual updates on facilities projects

The district has been providing Facilities Improvement Plan updates on the **website** and will continue to do so throughout this several-year project. Updates, photographs, and architectural drawings are or will be a part of what you'll find when you go to "Facilities Improvement Plan Updates" on the home page of www.springlakeparkschools.org

In addition, those subscribing to school district **E-News Updates** will receive updates on facilities as well as other school news delivered to their e-mail addresses. If you are not already subscribed, you can do so in about in one minute by going to "E-News Updates" on the website home page.