



# Construction Update

July 8, 2016

The goal of our construction project was to vacate the worn building that was the middle school, build a high school that honored creativity, and would provide a gathering place for our entire community that would be a source of pride. I have the unique opportunity of touring construction progress several times a week and, as areas are finished, have been wondering both privately and aloud how we will make the spaces our own. It begins with the naming of the building.

Todd Signs was on hand on Wednesday and used a template to lay out correct spacing for our new building that will be called *Hermantown Middle-High School*. Careful measurements, placement of a computer-aided template on the entrance awning, a hammer drill, and cast-aluminum letters were used to hail a welcome to all.



The varsity gymnasium's bleachers were nearing completion on Wednesday morning. In talking with Activities Director and Girls' Basketball Coach, Beth Clark, last week, I posed the question: *How do we make this a bastion of confidence for our coaches and athletes while make it a very difficult place for our competitors come to play?* The youngsters say things like, "Protect this house!" and "Not here; not ever!" I know that the band boxes that served as gymnasiums a generation ago have gone by the wayside as both spectator and player safety have risen to a higher level of prominence and resulted in the provision of much more spacious arenas. I trust that you'll help to make these spaces feel cozy by participating either as a fan or a player, and I look forward to watching a lifeless gym 'morph to raucous home this fall.



The final overhaul of the current high school has brought about a significant change to rooms that were at the front, or south-facing side, of the building. The main office and counseling offices were gutted and reconfigured to create a new entrance to the middle school.

As you enter the middle school, the principal's main office will be on the left and counseling/conference rooms will be on the right.

A new section of special education rooms will be found off the corridor that swings to the right as one enters the school. A bathroom has been framed in one of the rooms and the water supply in that room will be stretched up to the second floor to provide a water source for the fifth grade science classrooms.





The auditorium is nearly complete. On Tuesday, workers were sorting through miles of speaker and other low-voltage wiring that are the heart of the sound system. Their hope was to give it a full

test sometime at the end of next week and have the space turned over to the cleaning crew before proceeding with a punch list.

As you can see, the system is digital and can either be controlled from the back of the house in the sound booth, or a technician can sit out in the audience and adjust microphones or sound levels that may be accurate to what the crowd is hearing.



During the information gathering phase of the referendum, several community and staff members pointed out that it was very dark around our facilities during evening hours. Minimal lighting had been provided for the parking lots and buildings. Through a concerted effort by our construction managers, energy rebates from Minnesota Power were converted to more lighting on Hawk Circle Drive. These are the same LED lights that you may have noticed in the current parking lot and will provide excellent visibility for drivers and pedestrians.

Loose ends are being tied together and soon, we'll be making a construction site "home."