

Countdown to the New School



“The new Community School on is on time and under budget” according to Gordon Bristol, the Owner’s Project Manager. He forecast that there will be a late April move from the downtown schools (AES and ARD) to this new K-8 school on River Road. Shannon Kruger, ASD Supervising School Principal, pinpointed the opening date as Friday May 3rd.

Mr. Bristol stated that “workers are doing final painting, installing ceiling tiles, installing cafeteria equipment, and installing flooring for the new gymnasium. That will take place from now into February.” He added that “in March, we will focus on the final detail work, making sure everything is working properly, and buttoning up loose ends.” When asked how the transition will occur, Mr. Bristol explained that “while the schools are closed for spring vacation from April 19 to May 2, the Sterling Moving Company will remove all school furniture and equipment from the elementary and middle schools and install it all in the new school. Students will leave their old schools one day and, after spring break, take buses to the new school.”

Shannon Kruger was quite upbeat that “the students and teachers are getting excited about the move as the date approaches.” She further explained that she has sent teachers information to help them plan how to get their items moved to their classrooms, and that the moving company has delivered packing labels.

When asked about bus schedules and school hours, she said that, “Dail Transportation will continue to provide three buses. The start and end of the school day will probably be within a few minutes of the current schedule but the School Board will have to approve the final pick up and drop off times for buses and the new routes.”

When asked about parents who line up their cars to drop off or pick up children, she admitted, “That has been an ongoing challenge in our current buildings due to their locations, but we don’t anticipate it continuing at the new school.”

She was enthusiastic when she spoke of a live video event on February 2nd, called “Magical Mystery Tour of ACS – On Location.” Principal Kruger further elaborated, “I will be at the new school filming and walking around to show off places like the library, gym, and cafeteria. Students will be able to watch from their classrooms at AES and ARD.

When asked if they are planning an Open House, she explained that “There will be two public events scheduled in May. We will host a Family Night for students and parents on May 2nd and then a Community Night for town residents on May 3rd.”

Once vacated, the town will take possession of the old schools based on warrant articles approved last year. The town is investigating conversion of the elementary school into new town offices and leased office space and has set up a capital reserve fund for renovation expenses. The other school will be put up for sale.

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