

New C-PP middle school taking shape

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One of the new additions at the new Corning Middle School includes a two story window in the stairwell. Eric Wensel/The Leader

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PAINTED POST – As the Corning-Painted Post school district's \$97 million facilities has slowly progressed, the construction of the new high school has probably gotten the most attention, with marquee features such as a cavernous 2,100-seat gym/fieldhouse and a plush 1,100-seat auditorium.

But up in Painted Post, work is also humming along on the new C-PP Middle School.

The old West High campus is being renovated and expanded to accommodate the district's roughly 1,100 middle school students, taking the place of the cramped, aging Corning Free Academy and Northside Blodgett Middle School.

The changes will be evident almost immediately for students walking into the building on the first day of school in September, said Gus Smith, project superintendent for construction firm Welliver Inc., during a hardhat tour with The Leader.

A new flagpole and LED message sign will sit out front. Students will enter through a revamped, secure front entrance with a buzzer system that leads right into the attendance office.

Just off the main lobby, the cafeteria has been enlarged and completely renovated, with skylights, terazzo floors and an outdoor seating area. There will be food stations and several checkout stations for the cashiers.

The back-of-house areas in the cafeteria - the kitchen, walk-in coolers, storage room and dishwashing room - have also been redone, and they connect to a new loading dock.

Behind the building, a one-story, 3,700-square-foot addition has been built to house the Family and Consumer Science rooms. Several of the rooms have kitchens built in for cooking classes.

But the really big addition is sort of hidden on the back of the campus: A two-story, 20,000-square-foot new wing that houses 23 classrooms for multiple subject areas, including 1,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art science rooms.

The new wing also includes new computer labs and special education rooms. A new elevator was installed for special needs students.

Both of the new wings will be air-conditioned.

Along with the new cafeteria and the two additions, much of the existing West High building has been renovated, including 15 or 20 classrooms, Smith said. The classrooms were spruced up with new floors, ceilings, paint, and furniture, and every single room in the new C-PP Middle School will have whiteboards and wi-fi.

The mechanical rooms were also rebuilt, with new boilers, ventilation systems and electrical panels, he said.

The library, auditorium and both gymnasiums will all get a fresh coat of paint.

“We’ve been working in every nook and cranny of the building,” Smith said.

While the athletic facilities outside aren’t being worked on, there will be a huge upgrade simply by moving the middle schoolers to a high school campus, said Bill Pierce, C-PP’s athletic director.

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