

Dewing Summer Projects - Capital & Maintenance

Dear Dewing Community,

I want to take a moment to inform you of some of the wonderful work that is taking place at the Dewing School this summer. Much of this work is not normally thought of when we talk about teaching and learning resources -- it is of creating and maintaining an infrastructure that supports all of the wonderful programs and play that happen here. We are enormously grateful for the town and school facilities departments (shout out to leader Jon Marchand), as well as the Central Administration for their efforts in seeing to the short, medium and long-term needs of this school.

The following list of projects and job are listed below, along with the possible implications for any of us who will be in the building this summer.

New Audio System - Cafeteria/Stage. Speakers at the front, middle and rear of cafeteria. Larger screen. Ceiling mount projector. Podium hub/control center - includes computer, USB, Bluetooth, network links, projection control. Implications: Workers in cafeteria during breakfast or lunch times.

36 more parking spaces to be added, plus paving. 7 trees coming down, then paving of driveways. Implications: Traffic patterns may change depending on where the work is happening. Be prepared to drive in or out either of the 2 main driveways plus the Ella Fleming Building access. Tree workers and paving company should have safety cones on the days when change is needed.

Security System Upgrade. Installation of interior and exterior cameras. Additional key card entry locations for staff.

Electrical system Upgrade. All wings, all-system updated so that it can accommodate modern HVAC and technology needs. Implications: Scattered power shut offs in sections. Electrical crew will try to do most shut-offs after 3 p.m. and on Fridays when no program runs. It may be necessary for classrooms to make temporary moves (teachers and students) to a part of the building that's not being worked on.

Networking/Wi-Fi upgrade. There are technical pieces to this that I heard, but forget, (details like going from a grade xx to a grade yy or something). All classrooms and areas will be properly wired to handle all hard-wired and wireless demands. Every classroom will have a wireless access point. Implications: Lots of cable removed and laid out in new configurations. We will have to be mindful where we step.

Air conditioning for computer server room.

Front yard (wayside) school sign replaced. Will include electrical message board component at bottom of sign. Electrical access needed as part of this project.

Repair/Replace exterior handrails. Many of current railings are loose and rusted. Implications: Sporadic access issues as each stairway is addressed.

All Exterior Doors to be replaced. Lots of doors - classrooms, general building spaces. Normal wear and tear leads to need for energy efficiency and school safety.

New Stand-alone hot water heater. Right now, the only way the kitchen can get hot water is to turn on one of the major boilers and run the heat. Thanks to a grant, there will be a new, separate unit. Implications: Long term energy savings. None anticipated for summer.

Dismantling Computer Lab and Beginning new STEM space. Computer labs with desktops are quickly becoming obsolete. Our Computer specialist will have a portable hub of Chromebooks, and the area of the library that was the lab will be turned into a space where our STEM specialist and Computer specialist can create hands-on lessons for students in kindergarten, first and second grade. We don't have all the details yet, but we are excited to be moving in this direction.

Sensory Walks on hallway floors. Donated by our PAC, we've purchased floor decals that are to be laid in a design that allows students to expend energy while working large muscle motor skills. The path items were delivered, but we discovered each item had to be cut individually from the vinyl roll it came on. Summer programs and facilities department floor maintenance schedules will have to be carefully managed so that these can be installed before the start of the new school year (it takes 2-3 days to strip, wash floor, lay vinyl walkway items, then cover with multiple layers of commercial floor wax, then wait 24-48 hours before floor can be walked on.)

So...have patience this summer as you visit the Dewing, as you participate in summer programs as a student or staff member. Things will eventually be fabulous, but we'll have several weeks of discomfort during the process. The wait will be worth it.

Terry