

'It's so spacious'

School offers peek at new classrooms

The two-story, 34-classroom wing marks the first phase of the \$82 million high school renovation and construction project.

By RACHEL CANELLI COURIER TIMES

Today, Neshaminy High School students will be returning from their winter break to some brand new classrooms.

But many teens and their families got a sneak peek of the two-story, 34-classroom wing during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday night.

The event marked the completion of the first phase of the \$82 million Middletown high school renovation and construction project. The district borrowed \$77 million to fund the project, officials said.

All of the updated classrooms include new desks and flat-screen televisions. Teachers also have planning centers for each subject's department, said administrators.

"It's so spacious," said 16-year-old Lauren Holliday referring to the new building's wide hallways. "We can actually breathe. Before it was so crammed when classes let out."

A second two-story, 34-classroom wing should be done by the summer. Both facilities feed into the main corridor called "Main Street," which links the new main entrance, auxiliary gym and auditorium, said business administrator Joseph Paradise.

A section of classrooms will be torn down to make room for a road leading to that entrance, he said.

"There's a synergy for the first time connecting the entire high school," said Paradise.

Although there were many people who wanted the district to build a whole new school, the school board settled on 60 percent new space and the rest renovated, administrators said.

The school's current main offices will be also be demolished and rebuilt by the summer. At that time, 16 modular classrooms will be disassembled, officials said.

"It's beautiful and very bright," said Middletown resident Debbie Hazelett.

But while the project is 78 weeks in, there's still 90 more to go. It's expected to be finished in September 2009, administrators said.

"This is a place of learning where tens of thousands will walk through the halls to prepare themselves to change the future..." said Superintendent Paul Kadri.



Some students and their families toured the facility Monday night. "It's beautiful and very bright," said Middletown resident Debbie Hazelett. BILL FRASER COURIER TIMES





Neshaminy school district officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the high school's new classroom wing. The entire school construction project is expected to be finished in September 2009. BILL FRASER / COURIER TIMES