



Rebuilding Albany High School Project Update – November 2018

Dear Falcon Families:

As you know, our Rebuilding Albany High School construction project is well underway this fall. While we are moving through the daily and weekly routines of the school year, there is a lot going on as our construction partners make progress on Phase I and plan for the start of Phase II in the spring. To keep you updated, we are sending home a monthly update. These monthly updates, along with much more information about the project, also are available at albanyschools.org/RebuildingAHS.

General overview

Phase I consists primarily of a new three-story, 120,000-square-foot academic building in back of our school. It is scheduled to be ready in January 2020 (*please note that this is a change from the original target completion date of fall 2019 due to delays caused by bad weather during the summer and fall, unforeseen conditions during excavation and the unanticipated rubber-gym renovations*). Phase I also includes a new mechanical building in an area behind the auditorium and adjacent to the old Washington Avenue parking lot.

Phase II will begin next spring. This will consist primarily of another new academic building in the front of our school, extending east from the auditorium along Washington Avenue. It will be the home of music, art and foreign-language classrooms when it is done in the fall of 2020.

Phases III and IV will include renovation of the auditorium, including the addition of a balcony, the addition of an elevated jogging track in the main gym, the enclosure of the courtyard, and a complete renovation of the current academic building to accommodate four academies on the top two floors and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs on the first floor. The full project is scheduled to be finished in the fall of 2025.

Phase I updates

- **New academic building:**
 - Crews started building the steel framework in early November.
 - Masonry on stair towers for the new building, and underground utility work, continue.
 - Underground plumbing and sanitary piping within the structure are completed.

- **Gymnasium and athletic facilities:**
 - Installation of temporary exit stairs from the main gym into the courtyard is completed. This temporary exit has reduced the gym capacity to 1,580.
 - On the Athletics main floor, the equipment room, mud lobby, and team room off the boys' locker room will remain closed until January.
 - The trailers in the old Washington Avenue lot for fall athletic teams have been removed.

(more)

- **Rubber gym renovations:**
 - Demolition last summer discovered unexpected deterioration in the steel support columns on the northeast side of the rubber gym. Repairs are expected to be done by mid-February. The rubber gym will be closed until then.
 - As part of this project, we did routine precautionary testing and discovered that the gym's flooring contains mercury, a common material in polyurethane flooring from the 1960s into the 1980s. We will be removing portions of the flooring as part of the rehabilitation of the steel support beams in the rubber gym.
 - A certified independent laboratory monitored concentrations of mercury vapor in the rubber gym from Sept. 20-26. Concentrations throughout this period ranged from 0.00001 milligrams per cubic meter to 0.003561 milligrams per cubic meter. These measurements are within safe limits set by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (0.1 milligrams per cubic meter), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (0.05 milligrams per cubic meter) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (0.025 milligrams per cubic meter). These results show no health hazards for students, employees or campus visitors.
 - While these results are within industry safety standards, the safety and well-being of all of our students, employees and campus visitors are first on our mind. We will treat the partial removal of the rubber gym floor as an abatement project.
 - State and federal regulations require proper signage, sealing (or tenting) the area, a ventilation system to generate negative air so no air escapes the tent, and independent third-party environmental monitoring. The partial removal of the flooring in the rubber gym will take place on second and third shifts (late afternoon and night) when few people are in the building.
 - The girls' locker room below the rubber gym has been closed since August and will remain closed until the renovations are completed in mid-February. Both pool locker rooms are serving as temporary replacements for the girls' locker room.
 - Full renovation of the rubber gym, including full replacement of the flooring, is scheduled to be completed during Phase III of the overall construction project.

- **Parking reminders:**
 - The new Washington Avenue parking lot is open and available for visitors. The old lot is closed permanently and will be removed next year for Phase II construction.
 - There is no student parking available on campus throughout the 2018-19 school year.

- **Courtyard reminders:**
 - While the courtyard is open for access to all east stair towers on the academic building (towers 4, 5 and 6), it is closed off between towers 5 and 6. You can access tower 6 from the rear of the campus (North Main Avenue entrance) and towers 4-5 from the front of the campus (Washington Avenue).

- **Questions or comments?**
 - If you have any questions or comments about the construction project, please contact:
 - Director of Facilities Planning Ben Marra
 - bmarra@albany.k12.ny.us or (518) 475-6109

(more)

We appreciate your continued cooperation as we work to rebuild Albany High and provide our students and our community with an exceptional high-school facility and campus that we all can be proud of for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Jodi M. Commerford
Principal