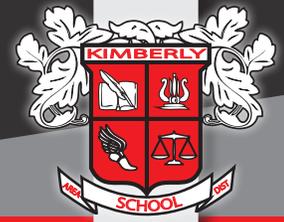


# School Matters



Special Insert  
September 2016

School News for Residents of the Kimberly Area School District



Robert S. Mayfield, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

We strive to be responsible stewards of community resources by ensuring the District's buildings and grounds are maintained. Routine maintenance, upgrades for energy efficiencies and renovations to improve the safety of our facilities are priority projects.

To remain a destination District for families in the Fox Cities, we must meet the current and future needs of local youth through innovative facilities. The summer is an especially exciting time as we improve the facilities for students. Read more about a few of the larger projects completed this summer in this Special Insert Edition of School Matters.

-- Bob Mayfield

## Facilities Improvements Completed Over the Summer

The most exciting time of year for the Kimberly Area School District's facilities department is the summer. While school is out of session and with the help of about 20 summer workers - mostly college students who are Kimberly High School alumni - the department works on a lengthy project list.

With over one million square feet maintained throughout 21 District facilities, the upkeep and improvement of facilities takes significant planning and resources. Through a 10-year capital improvement plan created and updated each year by Joe Harvey, Director of Buildings and Grounds, facilities projects are strategically scheduled into the future. The plan includes many improvements throughout the District's buildings including heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), flooring, parking lot lighting, bathrooms and security cameras. Many of the upgrades increase safety for students and staff, support student success and allow the district to realize significant energy savings.

### Westside Elementary School's New Walls

When Westside Elementary School was built in 1969, it was constructed in the open concept layout that was popular at the time. The philosophy is that the free-flowing design allows students and educators to easily move between areas for collaboration. Westside is unique in that it is the only open concept school within the Kimberly Area School District.

"Westside is known for its warm, inviting atmosphere which is created by the staff, students and families," said Shelly Van Daalwyk, a third grade teacher at Westside. Although being relatively open, there are large defined areas known as pods divided into classrooms where students learn in a more focused setting. The classrooms were originally created through the use of room partitions, lockers and shelving that stood between 4 and 8 feet tall.

The partitions and shelving were deteriorating from wear and tear. Rather than just replace them, the school evaluated



Before and after pictures of a hallway at Westside Elementary School showing the new partial walls (photo on the right).

...continued on back

the building and how it is currently being used by educators. They determined that they would keep the open concept layout but replace the partitions with six foot walls. The walls reduce the noise that travels between classrooms, creates an environment that is more organized and makes the school easier to navigate. “The new uniform walls, lockers and cabinetry help create a clean and fresh learning environment,” said Van Daalwyk. “The open concept feel still remains which continues to nurture collaborative learning. The updates have not changed the learning and teaching atmosphere, but have provided a renewed sense of pride in our building.”

### **Early Childhood Lab**

Kimberly High School (KHS) had several maintenance and improvement projects come to fruition over the summer. With the new Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative at KHS, more students have their own device therefore reducing the need for school-based computer labs.

In response to the changing needs of students and an increasing demand by local employers for qualified early childhood teachers, a computer lab was transformed into an early childhood lab. “We modeled our early childhood lab after the Early Childhood Education Lab at Fox Valley Technical College,” said Kendra Scherg, a family and consumer science teacher at KHS. “In the lab, students



Students will have more space for collaboration as they create learning materials in the new early childhood lab at KHS.

have access to technology, equipment, resources, materials and supplies for their early childhood coursework.” Students are able to develop, create and implement high-quality early learning materials and activities in KASD’s 4K Center for Literacy, group child care centers, community-based programs and for student portfolios that are aligned to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s Skills Standards and the Wisconsin Technical College System’s Early Childhood Education program outcomes.

Senior level courses are offered in a hybrid format, meaning they consist of online, lab and evening seminar components. “Students who have employment outside of school through the early childhood co-op program typically work during the day since that is when child care centers operate,” said Scherg. “Therefore, lab time and evening seminars are the only time to get together for collaboration and discussion. Students come together in the lab to talk about their work and experiences, talk about problems and questions, and reflect on the growth that they’ve had.”

Between the industry certification courses that KHS offers and transcribed courses through Fox Valley Technical College, students can accumulate 15 or more credits that can be applied to the Early Childhood Education program at any school in the Wisconsin Technical College System. Close to 150 students will utilize the early childhood lab over the course of this school year.

### **Additional Projects**

Another computer lab at KHS was transformed into an additional science classroom. The extra room is allowing the school to better help students in science. “I will be teaching biology in the new classroom,” said Laura Wierschke, a science teacher at KHS. “One benefit of having an additional science classroom is not having to move from room to room each Wednesday during extended learning time, we had a difficult time finding space for students who needed to utilize space at that time.” There will be five courses of biology with about 140 students throughout the school year who will be using the new science classroom.

Many other projects took place over the summer to maintain and improve District facilities, from flooring replacements to lighting upgraded to energy-saving LEDs. To remain a destination District for families in the Fox Cities, we must meet the current and future needs of local youth through innovative facilities. Our 10-year capital improvement plan supports our mission to ensure students have every opportunity to reach their potential in academics, the arts and co-curricular activities.