



Colorado Springs School District 11 Bond Construction Program “Snapshot” August 2008

It’s Been a Photo-Finish Summer!

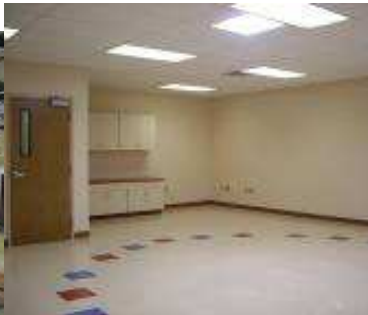
This third summer of the bond construction program has been the most challenging so far! Although we didn’t build any new schools or major additions, we accomplished **125** distinct projects at **35** schools at a cost of more than **\$33 million!** Some of the big ticket items include:

- the **Coronado** auditorium
- renovations at **Galileo** (formerly East), **Mann** and **Wasson**
- four more open concept school renovations (**Fremont, Grant, Keller** and **Penrose**)
- adding cooling to five more schools (**Emerson-Edison, Longfellow, Mann, Midland** and **Roosevelt-Edison**)
- whole window replacement for seven schools (**Hunt, Ivywild, Lincoln, Pike, Stratton, Taylor** and **Whittier**)

Many of these complex projects have taken the entire summer and wrapped up just in time for students’ August 18 return to classes.



Some of the most dramatic changes took place this summer at **Keller**, where permanent walls and fire-rated corridors have replaced the original open concept design. Students now learn in an environment that provides lots of natural lighting, improved security and direct access to classrooms.



From start to finish, the Keller remodeling project was a success! As the staff wrapped up the school year on May 2, they promptly packed up their classrooms and moved everything out of the building. Contractors made the most of the early release schedule, gaining three crucial weeks to convert Keller from big, open learning spaces to secure, walled classrooms – which earned high marks from families at the Aug. 11 open house.

Fremont, Grant and Penrose have similar success stories ...

“Open Concept” Renovations Result in More Security, Less Noise

Fremont, Grant and **Penrose** elementaries now are significantly safer, too, with fire-rated corridors, classroom walls and doors for “lockdown” emergencies and reduced distractions from surrounding classrooms.

Fremont



As families delivered school supplies during **Fremont’s** Aug. 15 open house, they commented on how bright and quiet the new classrooms and hallways are. Besides providing a better learning environment, the updated building now meets all current fire and safety codes. Students are excited to “finally have our own space,” and one parent told Principal Chris Carlson, “Our family has always loved this school; now, it’s better than brand new!”



Grant



On their “preview tour,” **Grant** teachers admire the cabinets in their newly enclosed classrooms. Wide, cheerful hallways and the attractive color scheme earned a big “thumbs up” from families who attended the Aug. 15 open house. Librarian Phyllis Miranda is thrilled that the computer lab has been relocated to the rear of the media center: “With the computers right here, I now can teach a variety of research skills.”



Penrose



In early August, **Penrose** Principal Kirsten Cortez showed off the renovations to her excited staff. Natural light now pours in through numerous skylights throughout the building. Teachers wasted no time making their new classrooms inviting, just in time for the Aug. 14 open house. Parents raved about the soft green and blue palette – a color scheme described as “happy” and “serene” - and students seemed delighted with their “huge” new classrooms.

Coronado, Wasson and Galileo Projects Near Completion

Construction on **Coronado's** new auditorium progressed at a furious pace all summer, with classroom space ready for the first day of school and the rest of the facility slated for early September completion. The 22,000 square foot performing arts facility expands the total seating capacity from 360 to 792 and features a balcony, orchestra classroom space, a scene shop and two stair towers. A green room and dressing rooms also were added.



Little remained of the original auditorium following December '07 demolition. Snow and bitter cold were just two of the challenges during the long construction process. In May, orchestra teacher Mindy Loewen tours her new "home" for the first time. As the start of the new school year approached, contractors scurried to complete the project. With superior acoustics and sight lines, there will be no bad seats!

When they returned to school in August, **Wasson** students noticed improvements at every turn, reflecting a combination of capital plan and site-determined projects that were completed over the summer. Physics teacher Janet Giddings approves of the new science area data drops, which allow for flexibility when students have labs. Shiny black cabinets and sleek stainless steel countertops give the Family Science kitchen a modern, professional look. Media center improvements include new carpeting and ceilings. Teachers are enjoying the attractive new cabinets, countertops and carpeting in their lounge. Additional improvements include several new walls and doors, band room carpeting, a new Alumni Association room and art department and counseling center enhancements.



Galileo School of Math and Science has been transformed on the site of the former East MS. Building modifications include new heating, ventilation and potable water systems. By combining bond funds and grant monies, the Galileo staff was able to refresh classrooms and offices with new paint, carpet and furnishings. Bright, remodeled science classrooms have been outfitted with sophisticated lab equipment. Contractors have installed Interwrite boards in each classroom, which replace overhead projectors and white boards and encourage students to be more engaged in their learning. Stained glass stars are displayed throughout the building, encouraging Galileo's young scholars to shine.

Bond Monies Fund Hundreds of Projects, Inside and Out

A record 1,000 windows were installed over the summer. Besides enhancing the appearance of the buildings, they are earning high marks for their super high efficiency glazing that reduces glare, decreases heat loss, increases comfort and should result in lower utility costs.



Some of the district's oldest schools now have new windows, including Taylor and Stratton (circa 1953), Lincoln (circa 1948) and Hunt and Whittier (circa 1901). Whittier librarian Dawn Bartlett is especially thrilled to have screens. "In the past," she recalls, "we couldn't open any of the windows because of all the bees!"

Wide Range of Site Determined Projects Completed

Several schools, such as **Edison**, now have new carpet and counters in their main office.



Fresh new blacktop improves both the safety and appearance of **Galileo's** parking lot.

New playground equipment awaited **Jefferson** students when they returned to school.



Examples of projects completed over the summer include:

- technology equipment
- card access systems
- security cameras
- carpeting and flooring replacement
- improvements to the library
- additional data drops
- playground equipment
- remodeled rooms
- additional computer labs
- marquees



More Summer '08 Highlights



Just in time for its 50th anniversary, **Mann MS** is keeping cool and comfortable thanks to the new "chilled water mechanical system" installed during the summer. This unusual technology relies

on making and storing ice overnight in three large tanks, which optimizes energy efficiency when electrical costs are lower. Cool air is also flowing for the first time at **Midland, Longfellow, Roosevelt-Edison and Emerson-**

Edison.



During the summer, IT finished construction of over 43 miles of fiber optics that D-11 owns and maintains. All schools have had their infrastructure converted to the new fiber ring. With this added bandwidth, IT is now

ready to tackle and support virtual field trips, video conferencing and distance education. For that reason, distance learning classrooms are being installed in each of the five high schools, including this former art room at **Wasson.**



By improving their grounds, schools such as **West MS** enhance their neighborhoods as well.



To save money, D-11 Facilities personnel agreed to install white boards (1,500 of them!) in numerous schools this summer.

This project is funded by the voter approved bond. For more information, visit our website:

<http://www.d11.org/capplanprojects/>