



Rebuilding Albany High School

Project Update – October 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 on the progress, we will be sending home a monthly update throughout the school year. These monthly updates, along with much more information about the project, also are available in the Rebuilding Albany High School section of the City School District of Albany website – albanyschools.org/RebuildingAHS.

General overview

Phase I, which consists primarily of a new three-story, 120,000-square-foot academic building in back of our school, is on schedule to be ready in the fall of 2019. 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 construction of another new academic building in the front of our school, in what is now the old Washington Avenue parking lot. That new classroom building, extending east from the auditorium toward the athletic field, will be the new home for music, art and foreign-language classrooms when it is completed 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:**
 - The construction crane that will be used to build the steel structure has been set up. Crews are scheduled to begin building the steel frame Oct. 25.
 - Site work and excavation continues for the footings.
 - Installation continues with the foundations.
 - Masonry has begun on stair towers for the new academic building.
 - Demolition on the courtyard stairway to the old Washington Avenue parking continues. This stairway is no longer accessible.

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- **Gymnasium and athletic facilities:**
 - Installation of temporary exit stairs from the main gym began Oct. 15 and is scheduled for completion in November. The installation of this temporary exit will reduce the main gym capacity to 1,580.
 - On the main floor of the Athletic building, the equipment room, mud lobby, team room off the boys' locker room and dance studio will remain closed until late this month or early November, and possibly longer.
 - The two temporary trailers that have been in place in the old Washington Avenue parking lot for our athletic teams this fall are scheduled to be removed by the end of October as the fall sports season comes to an end.

- **Rubber gym renovations:**
 - Demolition late this summer that was scheduled as part of Phase I discovered unexpected deterioration in the steel support columns on the northeast side of the rubber gym. The steel repairs are underway and expected to be completed in late November or December.
 - As part of this project, we conducted routine precautionary testing and discovered that the gym's flooring contains mercury. This was 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 this fall.
 - 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 our 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. Additionally, the partial removal of the flooring in the rubber gym is scheduled to take place on second and third shifts (late afternoon and night) when few people are in the building.
 - In addition to the rubber gym, the girls' locker room located below the rubber gym has been closed since August and will remain closed until the current renovations are completed in late November or December. During that time, 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. This is the new Washington Avenue parking lot; the old lot is closed for parking permanently and will be completely removed next year for Phase II construction.
 - There is no student parking available on campus throughout the 2018-19 school year.

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- **Courtyard reminders:**
 - While the courtyard remains open for access to all three stair towers on the east side of the academic building (towers 4, 5 and 6), the courtyard is closed off between towers 5 and 6. There is no through passage.
 - 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 these updates or any aspect of the Rebuilding Albany High School project, please contact:
 - Director of Facilities Planning Ben Marra
 - bmarra@albany.k12.ny.us
 - (518) 475-6109

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