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Hackett, School 19 moving back home

The grand reopenings of William S. Hackett Middle School and New Scotland Elementary School (the former School 19) will highlight the district's continued progress in its facilities project in 2008-09.

Work also will begin on the complete renovation of Arbor Hill Elementary School, with the school relocating to the former Philip Schuyler Elementary School at 141 Western Ave. for the start of the school year.

Work also will continue this summer at Giffen Memorial Elementary School and Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST).

Hackett will reopen for the start of the school year in its familiar location at 45 Delaware Ave. Events for Hackett families and the entire community are being planned for August. New Scotland Elementary will return home to 369 New Scotland Ave. when students return from the winter break in January.

Giffen and TOAST will be closed to all public use throughout the summer. Work at those schools will be completed in the summer of 2009. The facilities project will conclude in the fall of 2010 when Arbor Hill Elementary moves back home to 1 Arbor Drive.

One June 20, the Arbor Hill Elementary school community held a moving celebration as they prepared to leave the school for the next two years while the 35-year-old facility is updated and renovated.

The school opened in 1973 and featured a unique classrooms-without-walls design that marked an innovative approach to learning in the 1970s. The open-school concept will be replaced by traditional classrooms as part of the project.



Arbor Hill Elementary students celebrated their school June 20 in a ceremony marking the end of one era and the start of another for the unique 35-year-old school.