

# Central Middle School

## Week of October 18, 2019

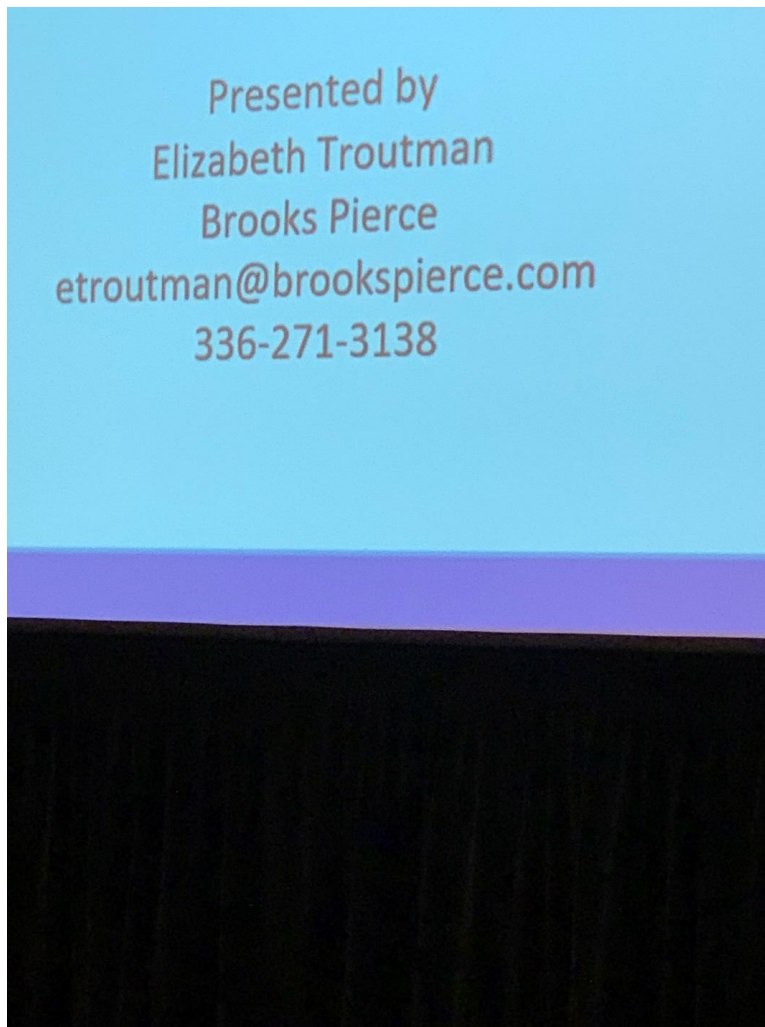
Dear Colleagues,

I am going to start out this week a little differently than usual. The first part is going to be a short dip into my trip to Asheville for a School Board Law Conference this week. If you are sitting there telling yourself you should have gone to catch the fall scenery, forget it. More trees are more colorful here than on the Parkway.



A picture is worth a thousand words. This is from the Parkway north of Asheville.

The reason I wanted to talk about the Law Conference is not to detail anything great I learned we are doing right or wrong. It is to talk about being inspired by a speaker.



This young lady presented “The School Board as a Public Employer: Free Speech, Nondiscrimination, Background Checks, Nepotism and Other Issues”. She did a great job of presenting the information, keeping it interesting, keeping us on the edge of our seats wondering what interest-holding event would happen next and was simply very positive the whole way through. Why would I take the time mentioning her in a newsletter about school construction? Because she did all this including progressing slides for the presentation without the advantage of sight! It is the same reason I regularly mention Mr. Jordan in these newsletters. Just like Elizabeth Troutman, we are inspired by the drive, dedication, determination and

love for Gates County we see regularly from Henry Jordan. Thank you, Mr. Jordan, for being such an inspiration to each of us.

Things, good things, have happened in a number of areas throughout the school in the past week. To me the most exciting is the front entrance now has doors!



are hung and are ready for the installation of hardware.

Starting on the west wing I found most receptacles are in, light switches are in including the cover plates in each classroom, the boxes are open and ready for data lines to be pulled for the smart boards and somebody got looking at the walls and decided to do touchup improvements when I could not find a thing wrong.



I talked with Brian Plyler about the progress while I was there. Since the humidity has finally leveled off at a lower level than we endured through the summer, he will possibly start dropping ceiling tile in the next week. Floor tile will have to wait until electrical is connected allowing us to run the BARD units because the mastic (glue) for the floor tile is very sensitive to moisture variations. Our holdup on getting the final electrical connections made is the electrical contractors are still working inside the panels and we do not want them to have to work in hot (electrified) boxes any more than absolutely necessary. Brian hopes to be at a point we could get the power turned on by the end of next week. Dominion Power is ready.

The first BIG progress I encountered was at the group restrooms on the west hallway. I have been talking about glass block walls for months. Finally they are

installed and looking great. These walls offer complete privacy to the students using these restrooms AND give teachers and administrators the ability to observe any unusual or inappropriate activity. They look nice and should add a definite extra level of security for our students.



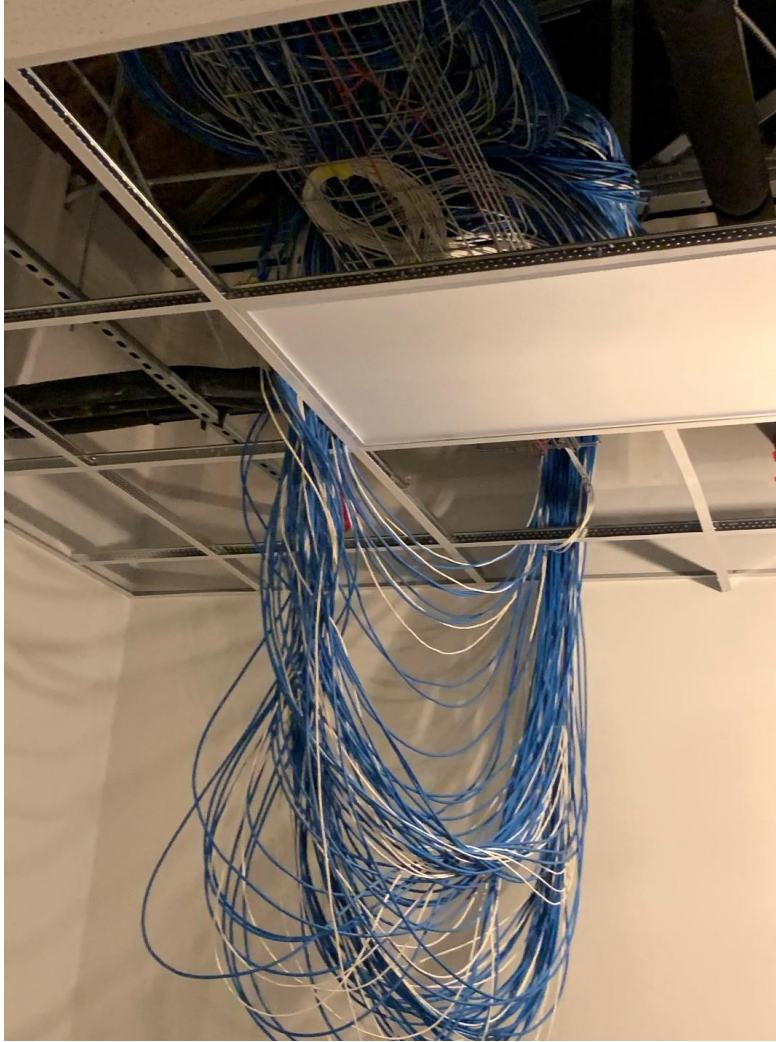


The ceramic tile floors are complete in both sides of these restrooms but covered by cardboard and Tyvek to help keep them clean and minimize the amount of labor required performing the final cleaning.

The hallway between the seventh and eighth grade wings has electrical and data control rooms on the south side. The data room has plenty of wire pulled through the conduits coming up through the floor.



There is an unimaginable amount of cable in the ceiling laid in the trays. All those wires look a diagram for a Chinese fire drill. I feel sure there is a loose end somewhere close so we do not have to look at that loop below the ceiling when things are completed.



Brian Plyler thinks the black wires are for cameras and the blue and white wires are for data. They will certainly provide numerous opportunities for someone to find the proper home for each end of each wire.

I got to the front hall and took a picture down the west hall just to show the glass block walls from the opposite view.





Then I took a shot of the front hall looking east. I hope you will notice how nice the walls have turned out.



The Media Center now has a back door. It looks much more like a Media Center should look.



Going down the east hallway, work is taking place, but you don't notice conduits having wire that might not have been there a week before or another coat of paint being applied or other necessary but hard to notice things happening. I did see two rooms with hangers for the ceiling grid in place and I did notice the perimeter for the ceiling grid installed and more classrooms.

Finally, I reached the gym. Brian Plyler says most of the sheetrock is now in place. The exterior doors afford another layer of weatherproofing. They are at each end of the east gym wall shown in the next picture.



The columns covered with sheetrock will look nice when the area is painted. I hope you are noticing housekeeping continues very well done.



Work has started in the ladies restroom at the front of the gym as evidenced by the mud mixer inside and bags of mud mix located just outside the door.





The mud is installed in a border about two feet wide around the outside walls to establish a high elevation then it is placed the rest of the way on the floor sloping to drains located in an open area near the center of the floor.

The band room has seen considerable progress this week with the first coats of paint on the walls and the ceiling grid installed with some lights also in place.



The art room has seen similar progress during the last week.





Data wires are in the tray at the east end of the front hall. I didn't notice any wires in any of the trays a week ago.



Progress is evident with the new exterior doors in place at the east entrance. The vertical wall above the brick at the gym should have beige, stucco finish panels in the next week or so. Next week the sidewalks around the building will get started really causing things to take shape.



I was very pleased with my tour this morning and with explanations and forecasts given by Brian Plyler. I can certainly feel my excitement level building as I see regular progress each week.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Ray