

# Central Middle School

## Week of February 7, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I did not get out to Central this week until Friday morning. I went in through the main entrance remembering schools were out because of the weather. When I walked through the front door, I could tell there was a much better shine on the hallways than had been there before. I then saw the head custodian, Mrs. Walker, headed down the hall. I had her stop for me to show her and the beautiful hallway.



I took a few more steps and looked down the hallway to the old school. Notice Mrs. Walker does not have to improve her game on the old side to fit well with the new side. She always takes pride in what she is doing.



I eased into Ms. Dail's classroom and observed new desks in place with a few items of old furniture and she is almost ready to start teaching. I took particular notice of the desks. There is enough room in those desks for me to sit comfortably. That shows how much we have advanced with the computer age. Kids used to be built like string beans when they got outside running and romping in the yard and doing chores that kept them active. We have advanced far with the computers but they sure cannot replace the benefits of regular activity.



I happened to look behind me and there were Ms. Eure, the acting principal and Mr. Johnny Greene, the maintenance director. I had them pose for me to show the hall in the opposite direction.



Ms. Eure went into the classroom and observed Ms. Dail familiarizing herself with the new Smart Board. The new Smart Board has a built in computer and the screen is interactive. Both ladies seemed to be quite impressed with the new technology and looking forward to taking it through its' paces.



I went across the hall to Ms. Owens English Language Arts classroom. She was all smiles and looking forward to a much improved teaching environment. She and the rest of the folks you will observe did NOT have to be there Friday. It was an optional teacher workday.



I next stopped by Ms. Copeland's room. She had her back to me when I went in so I zoomed my camera and then spoke so I could catch her as she really was. Ms. Copeland looked quite happy to be there and excited to be moving into a new

classroom.



Ms. Collins CTE classroom looks ready to make good things happen. I did not see her in the classroom but that is far from saying she was not there or that she did not come in later. I just want to show you the nice learning environment we have created.



This is the classroom for Ms. Randolph, the social studies teacher. She has no furniture because she did not feel she needed new furniture as badly as some other teachers and will have her furniture moved from the mobile classroom. Ms. Randolph understands Gates County Schools is NOT a bottomless pit full of money. I sincerely appreciate that and hope you do as well!





Somewhere along the way I encountered Ms. Simpson, a sixth grade teacher who is helping coordinate the move and orchestrate the ribbon cutting ceremony on March 6. We got to the gym at the doors on the east hallway. I wanted to go in but the doors were secured to keep from anyone entering and walking on the fresh varnish. I am thrilled with the gym floor even before the lines are added. The picture was taken with my phone through the small widow in that side door.



There are lines to be painted next week and there may be a top coat of varnish after the lines. I am not sure how all that goes together. I will try to document some of the processes involved in completing the gym floor and the locker rooms that might take place next week.

Please do not think the teachers I mentioned were the only teachers present on Friday. I saw other teachers but they were not in their classrooms when I went by so I did not document their presence.

Mr. Greene says we could possibly have the move completed before the end of next week (February 14) if furniture comes in as scheduled and we don't hit any unexpected bumps.

As always, thank you for your continued interest, support and patience as we move closer to completion.

Ray