

# **Progress Central Middle School**

## **Week of August 9, 2019**

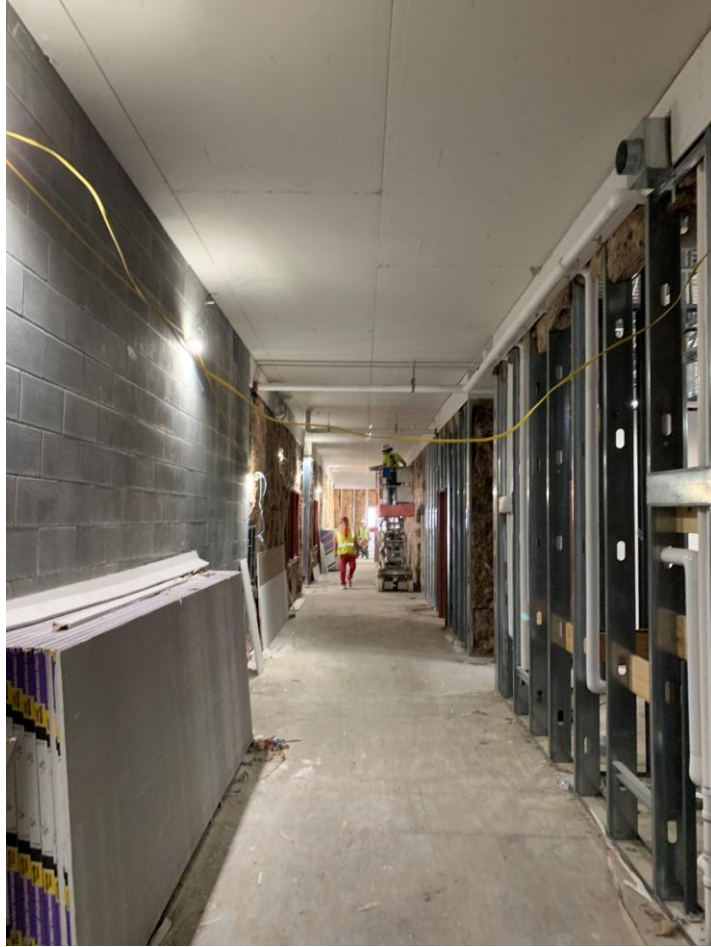
Dear Colleagues,

My level of excitement about the progress at Central has not diminished at all from last week. I went to the school on Thursday to take pictures and look around. The first thing I noticed was the east entrance.



The purple stuff is gypsum board. I will make no predictions at this point on what will go on top of the gypsum board other than I doubt it will be sheetrock.

As I walked into the front hallway I could see big changes with the fire rated ceiling on the hall having the sheetrock in place on the bottom side and a worker on the scissor lift mudding and taping the seams and the corner where the wall meets the ceiling.



I continued on down the hallway and decided I needed to take a closer picture because this was certainly a first for me.



That is a lady finishing that seam. She first applied mud to the vertical seams and the corner and now she is applying tape from right to left using a putty knife to shape the corner leaving it very smooth. It certainly did not look like anything I would have done, and I am very glad for that.

I am always looking at safety. Anyone working over four feet off the floor is supposed to have a safety lanyard attached to a secure point to limit their fall if they should fall over the rail. I had to look closely to determine she is properly tied off. Looking closely at a picture I did not use, it appears she tied off at floor level to a point inside the toe rail between the 2 and the 1. This is the first time I have seen females employed as skilled labor on this job. There are two ladies doing finish work on the sheetrock and one female laborer on this crew. They are demonstrating the same ability and pride as their male counterparts.

The concrete at the front entrance is complete as is the curb and gutter. From approximately where I was standing to take the picture, and to the east end of

the new building, the water will run to each side of the roadway. The water on the building side of the drive will drain to a ditch behind the back driveway.



The driveway west of where I was standing will drain to the front meaning the curb and gutter and pavement will be at a higher elevation than before.



This is the view looking west past the cafeteria. None of the curb and gutter was in place last week nor was any of the old driveway removed. The crews have really made good things happen this week.

Things are really taking shape when you look down the eighth grade hallway from the front entrance. The bottom side of the fire rated hallway is up and the first section of vertical wall is up just as on the front hallway through the administrative area.



Moving to the inside, the electrical room is showing great progress. Two of the breaker boxes have the breakers in and the fronts attached, indicating the wires

are connected and the box is ready to go into service.



There are more boxes in this room as you can see on the left that still have work left to be done.

The Business Technology Computer Lab continues to take shape. There are data ports in the floor, we will see come to life as the project get closer to completion.





This is a big room that will fill quickly when cabinets are installed on two walls and workstations are located at each data port. One of the data port boxes is barely visible on the near side of the ladder, about in line with the center of the top of the ladder. The large flexible ducts at the left top are feeding the air handlers we observed being lifted in place on top of the scissor lift weeks ago. It is really fun to think back about how all these puzzle pieces fit and work together.

On my way over to the seventh grade wing I looked out the back door of the connector hallway to observe the new anodized aluminum storefront windows

installed on the east side of the seventh grade wing.



Plastic sheet covers some of the openings as the emergency egress windows are not yet on site and some small sections of glass are yet to arrive.

Moving inside the ceiling grid and tiles are in this room, the BARG unit is running and working well as that room was very comfortable, the floors are in varying stages of installation of the VCT flooring (that is simply glued down vinyl

tile to us non-construction folks).



This handicapped assessable restroom is really taking shape!!



Another handicapped assessable restroom.



And a regular restroom!



There is paper over the most of the tile to make it easier to clean everything after construction is completed. You can see things are really coming together.

This classroom has been sanded to remove any remaining glue and will have a leveling material applied to flatten the



floor even more before the VCT is installed. Those things from ceiling to floor are electrical connections that were used in the old classroom and will continue to be used in the renovated classroom.

This man is sanding the concrete floor in the southeast corner classroom in the seventh grade wing.

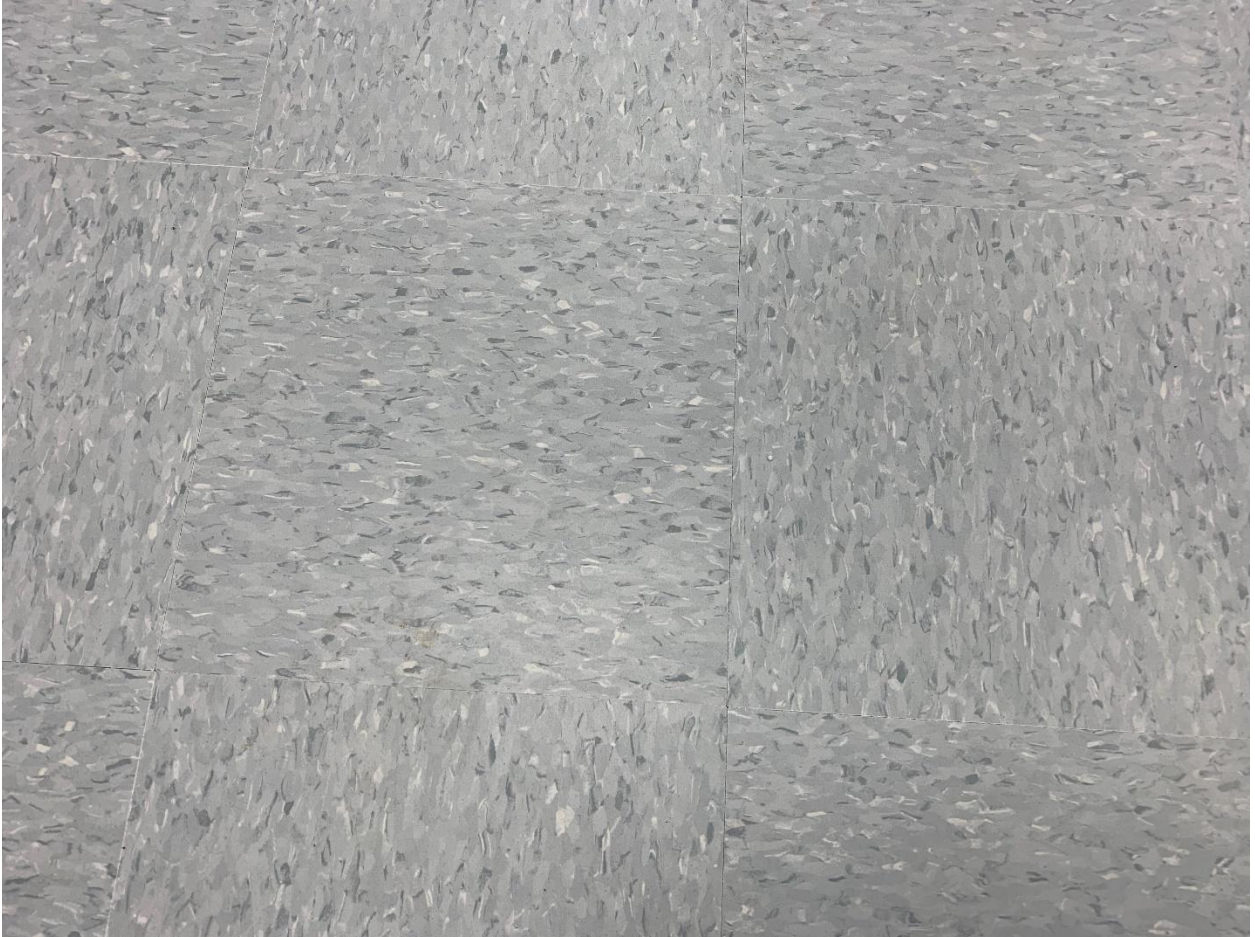




Finally we get to see a completed floor before it is waxed.



And we get to see it up close to really have a better idea of what the finished product will look like.



These doors are for the new openings and should have been installed today.



The new doors for the classrooms should be ready for installation as soon as the flooring is installed.

This material is something we will not see when the new school is operating. It is cable trays for data cable to be laid in across the ceilings instead of it having to

be routed through much more expensive conduit as the electrical lines require.



Roof sheets are moving right along with most of the eighth grade wing covered and across part of the front.



Sheets are in place at the south end of the gym waiting to be installed. Look for a picture of the front of the building in next week's newspaper. I simply forgot to take a picture of the front today.

Thank you for your patience and interest as we continue to move closer to completion of both projects and especially of the seventh grade wing. I fully expect the seventh grade wing to be occupied on time and for it to be something we all can take great pride in having been part of making it happen.

Mr. Brian Plyler continues to tell me we will see the new construction completed by April 2020. Right or wrong, I am more optimistic than that BUT this is like forecasting what's for supper. It is hard to be right when I'm not cooking!

Thank you again for your patience and interest. Ray