

## **New High School Still on Schedule and Still on Budget**

*By Bob Olson, Director of Facilities, Infrastructure, and Security*

Three years ago, our generous Owatonna community supported building a new Owatonna High School, through both positive votes on a building bond question and donations from local businesses. Since then, the school district has been hard at work designing and building the new school, set to open fall 2023. We look forward to all of the ways the new building will create connections for both our students and the community as a whole. The great news: our community's new high school is still on budget and on schedule.

It is hard to believe we have been under construction for over a year now. It seems like just yesterday we were having a groundbreaking ceremony. Since that time, the construction of the new school has been progressing very well with over 150 construction workers on site daily.

A project this large has many moving parts, and our construction management team from Kraus-Anderson orchestrates everything to the point where they make it look easy.

If you were to walk into the building, here is what you would see:

- The third floor sheetrock and door frames are installed and windows are starting to be installed.
- The second floor wall framing is complete and the electricians are roughing in the conduits.
- On the first floor, the learning stairs are being installed in the commons and the kitchen is starting to take shape.
- The auditorium concrete floor is in the process of being poured a few steps a day, and the gymnasium floor will be next. Around the top of the gymnasium, the walking track is installed and concrete has been poured.

On the exterior of the building:

- Windows are being installed and brick is being added to the block walls.
- The bleacher installers are putting the final touches on the stadium and softball bleachers.
- The grass outdoor fields are being prepped for seeding, and the artificial turf fields are being prepped for turf to be installed this fall and early spring.
- The bus driveway has been paved, with the tennis courts and large parking lot next on the list.

The number one question I am asked on a daily basis is, “How is the new high school coming along?” As you can see, it is coming along great! Please drive by the construction site and take a peek from the road. You can also scan the QR code on the 18th Street fence or follow progress at [isd761.org/new-high-school](https://isd761.org/new-high-school).

We are so grateful to have a community that supports our schools and look forward to sharing this state-of-the-art facility with you all. And we are #OwatonnaProud to say our new Owatonna High School is on schedule and on budget!