

# Construction completed at two middle schools

☞ Raymond Rendleman    y Friday, October 11, 2019

**North Clackamas School District cuts ribbon on Rowe, Alder Creek projects, \$43M of \$433M bond projects**

North Clackamas officials marked the beginning of the 2019-20 school year by celebrating the completion of projects to modernize the district's two oldest middle schools.

Renovations at Alder Creek Middle School, which originally was built in 1957, took place in three phases, beginning in April 2018, so that most of the \$23 million project occurred over the past two summers.



COURTESY PHOTOS - North Clackamas Superintendent Matt Utterback, board Chair Steven Schroedl and Alder Creek Principal Rene Canler cut the ribbon on Sept. 17 with students Catelyn Turk, Christopher Lavadores and Ari Franco Salinas.

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Several new classrooms at Alder Creek opened in January 2019. In addition, the \$5 million district stadium at the site, updated common areas, and bathrooms were ready for students to use by the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

"There's been excitement since last year," said René Canler, Alder Creek principal.

"It was fun for students to walk into new classrooms in January. It was well planned and executed," he said. "There was construction during the school year, but it did not affect the majority of the school."

This fall, Alder Creek students returned to find that E Hall and F wing, which form the southern side of the school and

used to be exterior to the building, had been renovated to become completely enclosed.

Alder Creek's auditorium received new seating, athletic lockers were replaced, and a newly covered recreation area featuring two basketball courts provides a weatherproof space outside for the first time.

Originally built in 1963, Wilbur Rowe Middle School also received new covered basketball courts and saw its athletic fields upgraded this past summer, but the most significant features of the \$19 million renovation are located inside the building.

"Each of our classrooms got upgrades and renovations so they look welcoming, they look new, and they look nice," said Rowe Principal Greg Harris.

"Some teachers would have to travel from classroom to classroom throughout the day, but that's not an issue anymore."

Two hallways that previously dead-ended were connected to create a continuous loop and improve the flow of students between classes. An expansion of the cafeteria features an updated kitchen, more windows and a new courtyard.

"Students will be able to spread out, have light from inside and outside, and just have a more relaxing lunchtime," Harris said.

Rowe's media center, which was the smallest among NCSD middle schools, is now flexible enough to accommodate a variety of functions for students, and also is designed in a way that is more welcoming.

"It feels like a space that kids would want to come into," Harris said.

Unexpectedly robust markets meant that NCSD bond sales brought in \$47 million above the \$433 million face value that voters approved in 2016, yielding a total of \$480 million. Added revenue helped cover rising construction costs.