

Construction Update



Dear Avonworth School Community,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying these beautiful fall days. With fall in full swing, we have crossed the first quarter mark for the 2023-2024 school year. After each quarter, I will send an update on our renovation/construction project.

We broke ground on the project on June 5, 2023. Over the summer, the first phase of the project was completed.

This phase included the following:

- Technology Office
- Three smaller classroom/office spaces
- Seven new classroom spaces
- New library with three study rooms



Classroom Renovations

New Carpet, Paint, Lights, and Ceiling Tile



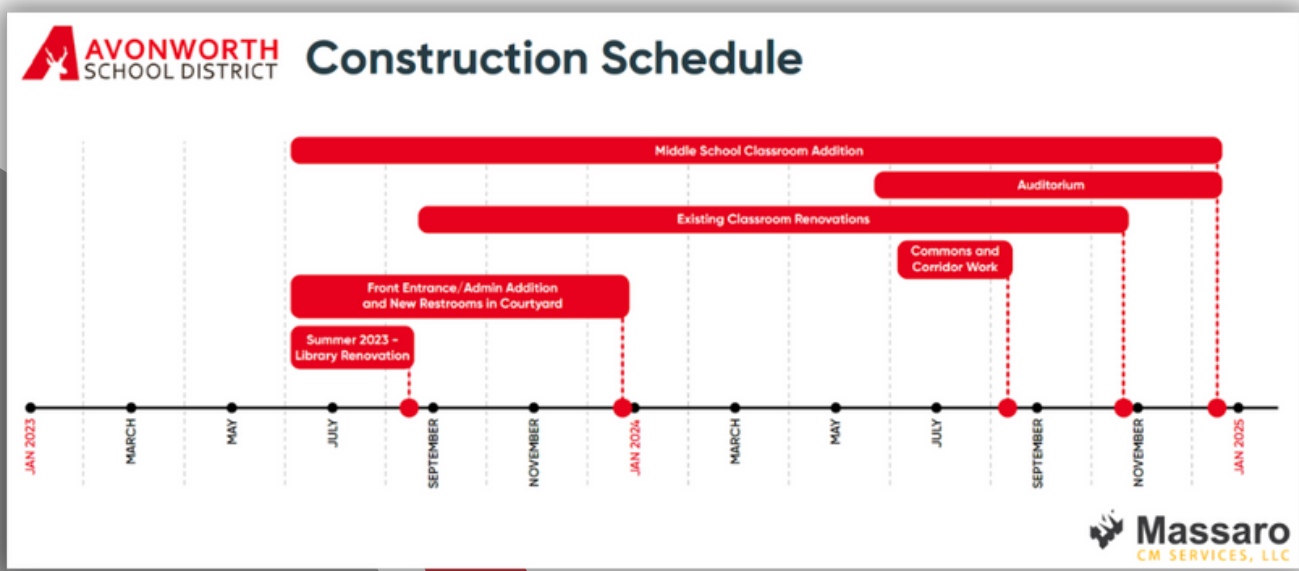


After the start of the school year, the project shifted to classroom renovations, construction of the new middle/high school administrative addition, new bathrooms in the back hallway of the high school, and foundation work for the two-story middle school addition.

Since the start of the school year, five classrooms have been renovated, and the next phase of classroom renovations is underway. In addition to classroom renovations and bathrooms, the next significant area to be completed is the middle/high school administrative addition. This addition is scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year. It will include the new main entrance to the middle/high school, the main office for the middle/high school, administrative offices, the athletic director's office, the nursing suite, and the counseling suite.

For additional project photos, our construction manager, Massaro CM Services, LLC, provides a new slide show monthly. You can [access their most recent slide show](#). Additionally, all information and updates on this project [can be found on our website](#).

One question that may be on your mind is whether or not the project is currently on schedule. At this moment, it is. If you are curious about the [overall construction schedule](#), please refer to the graphic below.





Questions have come up concerning some of the design elements in this project, such as interior windows in classrooms and eliminating lockers to widen hallways. To land on a final design for this project, the District's architect, IKM, conducted focus groups and gathered input from a School Design Action Team (SDAT) consisting of students, staff, administrators, board members, and community members. Members of the SDAT also visited other schools to identify design elements that met what the team identified for our project. The input from focus groups and the SDAT indicated a desire to see an increase in natural light, improve circulation, provide spaces for collaboration, and create community spaces where students feel welcome. This article is a good read to gain additional insight into the philosophy of the design elements incorporated by IKM. [Safer K-12 Design: School Should Feel - and Look - Like School](#)

I want to acknowledge the feedback we have received concerning removing lockers to widen our hallways. Input received by IKM through our design process indicated that students were largely no longer using lockers. Students carry their Chromebooks throughout the day and can digitally access most of what they need for class. In most cases, books are not required to be carried by students and are available in the classroom and digitally. These are certainly changes from how I, and most of you, experienced school.

Although school and how our students access materials for learning have changed, we have heard and listened to parents and students who have expressed concerns about needing to carry items during the school day and where students will hang jackets.



Rendering of the New Middle/High School Entrance



During construction, we will hang hooks in designated locations in both the middle and high school, where students can hang a jacket. Concerning backpacks during construction, students and teachers have done an excellent job creating systems to make things work the best they can. We do encourage students to eliminate as much weight as possible from backpacks by bringing a charged Chromebook to school and leaving the charging cord at home, bringing an empty water bottle to school and filling it up at school, and eliminating any materials that are not necessary for school.

When this project is completed, the middle and high school will have designated areas where jackets, sports equipment, and other items can be stored safely during the day. Additionally, with the feedback received, we are looking into additional storage solutions, such as cubbies or small lockers that we can incorporate into the project.

We understand the inconveniences a project of this magnitude will create and are extremely grateful for our amazing teachers, students, and parents for doing their best to be patient and flexible. Working together, we have had a very successful start to the year considering the construction occurring on the campus. We will continue to do our best to ensure the smooth operation of the secondary campus on a daily basis throughout the project.

We look forward to revealing the next phase at the end of the calendar year!

Best,

Jeff Hadley, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Avonworth School District

