

Administrators and staff members, along with Holabird and Root (architect) and Hammond Construction, have continued to work diligently on the new Wadsworth Intermediate project. The new 116,000 square foot facility will be home to fifth and sixth grade students, located on our existing middle and high school campus. The building features open spaces, ample daylighting, a gymnasium, art and music wing and flexible learning environments that encourage collaboration. The new school will also house a state-of-the-art theater with seating for over 950 patrons. The theater will have the same amenities as our high school theater but will accommodate a larger audience for school productions and performances.

Since the groundbreaking ceremony in July, the building site has begun a massive transformation. Construction crews have mobilized to complete the early site preparations. This initial phase focused on installing stormwater controls, underground utilities, and mass grading of site elevations to accommodate the future building footprint. Perimeter fencing and signage was also put into place around the building area as a part of Hammond Construction's site safety plan. Hammond, our construction manager, is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for students and staff throughout the building process.

An early site package allows the project to get a "head-start" on the building construction next spring. Construction progress and execution is always dependent on weather conditions. Our construction team has developed a detailed schedule incorporating winter weather provisions while also maintaining important project milestones. The building site will appear to be mostly dormant this winter; however, this is all a part of the master schedule. Significant activity will commence in the spring after winter weather has passed.

In the fall, the project reached another important milestone in the design and construction process by putting the building portion of the project out on the market for bidding. In late October, qualified subcontractors were invited to bid the Intermediate School. The bids were submitted to Hammond in November, and we are proud to say that the project remains on budget. The bid packages are currently being awarded to subcontractors, and work will commence on the building proper in 2024.

We are on track to open the new facility at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, with the theater opening in December of 2025.