April 25, 2025

Dear Amherst Families,

As you may recall, in December 2022, the Amherst Central School District Capital Improvement Project was approved by voters. Overall, the three phases of the project include work at all of our buildings. Phase 1 work was completed last summer and early fall.

You will begin to see signs of Phase 2 on May 5 at Windermere Boulevard Elementary and Amherst Middle School and around June 2 at the Dennis Ford Athletic Field as staging areas, fencing and signage will be installed. Today's message will focus on the work that will occur this spring and what you can expect this summer. At the end of May, I will send another update outlining more details of the summer work that will start June 27 at each building after school has ended.

At Windermere Boulevard Elementary, we are constructing a UPK Early Childhood Center with four new classrooms, a multi-purpose STEM room and an outdoor play area that will be used for the Universal Prekindergarten program in the 2026-27 school year. Work will start in May on the new addition and continue this summer and into the summer of 2026, with an tentative completion date of August 2026. The new UPK addition will be built on the north side of the school. It will have a separate, secure entrance to those classrooms, as well as its own UPK parent drop off and pick up loop. Starting in the 2026-27 school year, the district will no longer provide transportation for UPK students since it's not required.

Work will begin this summer at Windermere on the new UPK parent drop off and pick up loop and renovation of the tennis courts into a multi-purpose tennis/playcourt similar to what was constructed at Smallwood Drive Elementary. The Windermere tennis courts will not be available for use from July - September. The tentative completion date for the tennis court renovation is late September.

At the Middle School, an interior project of abatement in the crawlspace will start in May, which is an area that does not impact student learning. There will be a fenced construction staging area on the back of the school near the gyms.

In early June, after the spring sports season ends, fencing will go up at Dennis Ford Athletic Field that runs between Westmoreland Road and Kings Highway and work could possibly begin as soon as June 2, 2025 on the new multi-field turf complex and restroom/concession/storage building. The anticipated completion date is late 2026. Construction access to the site will be through designated gated entrances on Westmoreland and Kings Highway, with the primary entrance on Westmoreland. Crews have been coordinated to minimize construction traffic during student arrival / dismissal times for the High School and Middle School.

As we did in Phase 1, we will post schedules, timelines, and site plans for each phase of work on the 2022 Capital Project webpage.

For safety purposes throughout the course of construction, we ask you to abide by the signs and not enter any construction areas.

We aim to be a good neighbor and keep the lines of communication open with our families. Please reach out to your principal or Mark Rampado, Director of Facilities, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Anthony J. Panella, Superintendent