June 3, 2025

Dear Amherst Families,

In April, I provided an update on the start of Phase 2 of our Capital Improvement Project. To recap, work began in early May on the UPK Early Childhood Center addition at Windermere Boulevard Elementary and the interior project of abatement in the crawlspace at Amherst Middle School. You will start to see construction fencing soon at Dennis Ford Athletic Field. Work is scheduled to start there on June 9 and will continue into late 2026.

Today's message provides more details about the Phase 2 summer work scheduled to begin at all of the buildings on or around June 27 after school has ended.

An important reminder: there will be construction fencing at every school building. For safety reasons, please stay out of all construction zones and any area that is fenced off and posted with construction signs. Please remind your children not to enter any fenced construction areas at our buildings.

Summer Building Access & Programming
Starting June 27, there will be no building access for families at Amherst Middle School, Smallwood Drive Elementary or Windermere Boulevard Elementary with the exception of community education summer camp at the middle school. Registered families will be emailed information about which building entrances to use for the camp.

Middle School summer school will be held at the high school and participating families have been notified. If you have information that needs to be dropped at AMS, SDS or WBS, please call the main office to make arrangements.

Playgrounds & Facilities
While the playgrounds at both elementary schools will remain available to families, they close at dusk. The tennis courts at Windermere Boulevard will not be available for use this summer as the existing court is being renovated into a multi-purpose tennis/playcourt similar to what was constructed at Smallwood Drive Elementary. This summer and throughout the project, for safety reasons, please observe posted signage and do not enter any fenced construction areas.

The majority of the work listed below is expected to be completed for the start of school in September.

Phase 2: Smallwood Drive Elementary School

- Secure entrance renovations
- Main office renovations (anticipated completion November 2025)
- IT closet renovations
- First and second floor bathroom upgrades
- Public address system and classroom clock updates

Phase 2: Windermere Boulevard Elementary School

- New Universal Prekindergarten Addition (anticipated completion August 2026)
- UPK parent drop off and pick up loop (anticipated completion August 2026)
- Tennis / playcourt renovations
- Public address system and classroom clock updates
- IT closet renovations

Phase 2: Amherst Middle School

- Abatement in crawlspace areas and classrooms to prepare for a steam-to-hot water HVAC conversion

- Remove divider in South Gym
- IT closet renovations

Phase 2: Amherst Central High School

- Plaster repairs to auditorium first floor and balcony
- Plaster repairs to select stairwells
- Masonry repairs to building exterior

I will continue to provide updates prior to the start of each construction phase. As you may recall, this Project was split into three phases with work at all buildings occurring between May 2024 and summer of 2027. Schedules, timelines, and site plans for each phase of work will be posted on the 2022 Capital Project webpage. If you have questions regarding building access, please reach out to your building principal.

Thank you,

Anthony J. Panella, Superintendent