



Aug. 28, 2026

Dear Staff, Students, and Families,

I'm writing to update you on the revised timeframes for completing Project 2, our new Physical Education wing. Unfortunately, several challenges have affected the delivery schedule. Below, you will find the revised timeline and the primary drivers behind each of the schedule adjustments. I know we all were looking forward to opening the building at the start of the school year. But taking this additional time is absolutely necessary to ensure the new building is fully complete, safe, and ready to support learning from day one.

All spaces except pool and three-court gym

We expect completion of these spaces by Oct. 1.

The revised completion date for all spaces other than the pool and three-court gym is due largely to ensuring that we are meeting regulatory requirements for critical building systems. In particular, both the fire pump for our sprinkler system and final inspection of the elevator system are pushing us past our recently communicated September 1 deadline. Our contractor has expressed confidence in making these spaces available by October 1, and if we are able to open them sooner, we certainly will.

Pool and three-court multipurpose gym

We expect completion of the pool by Nov. 1. The date for the gym is yet to be determined.

As many of you know, the three-court gym is on the third floor, directly above the pool. The original project schedule anticipated the pool entering its finishing phase approximately five weeks ahead of the gym. However, in order to address earlier schedule challenges, we compressed that sequencing, resulting in both spaces being planned for completion at the same time. This compressed schedule has brought some unanticipated challenges.

During the initial testing of the pool, the extreme humidity we experienced earlier this summer, coupled with the humidity from the pool itself, resulted in significant condensation beneath portions of the gym flooring system directly above it. We needed to investigate to find the solution, and this significantly delayed our progress in both spaces. What we have now learned is that these challenges were largely due to the fact that this work preceded the temperature and humidity control systems in the pool being fully operational. The readjusted timeline addresses this issue, and we are resuming work in both spaces, while ensuring that the problem will not recur once the pool and its environmental systems are complete and fully operational.

These delays have been unexpected and challenging. But we are managing. I'm extremely grateful to our PE and Athletics staff, as well as our students, who over the past two years have shown enormous flexibility in using temporary locations for classes and extracurriculars. Now, we find ourselves needing to rely on that flexibility for just a bit longer, and I speak for our entire team at OPRF in expressing how thankful we are for everyone's continued patience and support.

Going forward, we are continuing to plan our programming using the spaces we have relied on over the past two years. I want to specifically offer my regrets for the effect that these delays have on our girls swim program, which now likely will not be able to use our new pool during their current season. Fortunately, we have strong partnerships both within our community and with surrounding school districts that will help us ensure that all programs have a place to operate. We are especially thankful to the Park District of Oak Park, Morton School District, Riverside Brookfield, and Tri-Star Gymnastics.

We are all eager to see our students learning, growing, and thriving in our new spaces. But for now, the ribbon cutting and public tours we expected to host on Oct. 3 will be rescheduled for a later time, and we'll be in touch once we are certain that we have a final date. I look forward to seeing many of you then, and I appreciate your ongoing support of the high school.

Sincerely,
Dr. Greg Johnson



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