

South Whidbey School District Building Modernization Projects Bring Visible Changes to School Campuses

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South Whidbey School District Building Modernization Projects Bring Visible Changes to School Campuses

LANGLEY, WA – The South Whidbey School District is advancing its comprehensive \$79.8 million bond project with significant milestones achieved and major improvements underway across district facilities.

“It’s wonderful to watch the changes and improvements on the outside of the South Whidbey Middle & High School building unfold through the school year,” says Cailyn Murray, parent and co-executive director of Readiness to Learn. “Having a modern, clean, and renovated building demonstrates that kids, teachers, and staff members are cared for by their community. This is something we can all be proud of!”

Solid Progress Across Multiple Campuses

Construction accelerated significantly over the summer, keeping major district modernization efforts on schedule as the new school year approaches. Dedicated coordination between district leaders, school administrators, custodial and maintenance staff, and project contractors ensured all campuses will open on time and be fully functional for staff and students.

“We are deeply grateful to our community for their support as we deliver on our commitment to modernize these facilities,” said Superintendent Dr. Becky Clifford. “Keeping our students’ safety and learning experience at the center of every step of this construction, our teams have worked hand-in-hand all summer to ensure our campuses are safe, functional, and ready for day one.”

While learning will continue alongside active construction throughout the 2026–2027 school year, the district has achieved key milestones that bring us closer to state-of-the-art facilities for our community.

CAMPUS CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & WHAT TO EXPECT

Elementary School

Current Work Underway:

- **Safety & Security:** Main office and entryway security improvements; interior front bathroom renovations (phased updates started last February).

- **Infrastructure & Access:** Mechanical and electrical systems upgrades; new extended student drop-off and pick-up loop; pedestrian access improvements.

Celebrations, Milestones & Impacts for 2026–2027:

- **Office Access & Entry:** The main office and front entrance will be temporarily relocated while updates to the secure vestibule are completed.
- **Classroom Relocations:** Some classes will be temporarily relocated.
- **Facilities Timeline:**
 - *Mechanical Systems:* Operational for the start of school, with full completion by October 2026.
 - *Extended Drop-Off/Pick-Up Loop:* Expected to open in Spring 2027.
 - *Restrooms:* Phased work continues, with one set completing as the next begins.



Middle & High School

Current Work Underway:

- **Exterior & Structural:** Roofing replacement ongoing across campus; exterior envelope enhancements including new masonry, metal siding preparation, and window installations.
- **Interior Spaces:** Main reception and office, renovation of classrooms, and several restrooms including PE locker rooms.
- **Commons:** Construction on the Cougar Den and primary middle school stairwell, with the main kitchen temporarily displaced.
- **Athletics:** Replacement of the athletic field, track, and press box, along with athletic storage renovations.



Celebrations, Milestones & Impacts for 2026–2027:

- **Campus Navigation & Entry:**
 - The primary entrance by the main office will be open for regular daily access.
 - The Library will be fully open and operational.
 - The Athletic and Theater entryway will remain closed for the majority of the school year; dedicated courtyard walkways will provide access to indoor athletic events and performing arts (Band, Choir, and Theater).
 - The courtyard will serve as an extension of the hallway and commons, featuring canopy-covered outdoor lunch seating and dedicated walkways guiding students to classes.
 - Food services will operate out of the secondary kitchen.
- **Classroom & Restroom Adjustments:**
 - High School north wing classrooms will be fully open.

- Some classrooms are actively undergoing renovation, and impacted classes have been relocated.
- The Cougar Den and primary middle school stairwell will remain under construction for most of the academic year.
- North wing restrooms will reopen in mid-Fall 2026, with temporary portable facilities and alternative indoor restrooms available in the interim.

- **Athletics & Extracurricular Schedule:**

- *Football:* The team will utilize practice fields and play all games on the road for the 2026–2027 season, returning home for 2027–2028.
- *Girls Soccer:* Fall home games will be held on the upper field Community Park of the South Whidbey Sports Complex.
- *Cross Country:* Athletes will continue practicing on the South Whidbey trail system.
- *Track & Field:* Barring unforeseen delays, the upgraded track and field will open for the Spring 2027 season.



SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH TRANSITION

District leaders recognize that navigating active construction can feel like a big shift, especially for incoming students from kindergarten to 6th grade who are stepping onto a new school campus for the very first time.

“We know a new school year brings excitement, and seeing construction can naturally raise questions for families and students,” said Middle School Principal Phillips. “Our entire staff is prepared and eager to welcome everyone back. We’ve built intentional time into our first days together to walk hallways, practice new routines, and make sure every student, especially our incoming 6th graders, feels safe, supported, and ready to thrive from day one.”

Principals across all schools will share detailed, campus-specific guidance in their upcoming back-to-school welcome letters. District and school teams remain fully committed to providing a predictable, welcoming, and supportive environment for all K–12 families.

For complete project timelines, updates, and design plans, visit www.sw.wednet.edu/our-district/bond-2023.