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A BRIGHT FUTURE

Construction progress visible at RE-1 Valley schools

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STERLING — Much of the construction disruption taking place in the RE-1 Valley schools this fall has affected Sterling High School, but the end results should be well worth it. The building is undergoing major changes, as well as energy efficiency improvements.

Dr. Betty Summers, RE-1 Valley superintendent, said the work at Sterling High School is progressing well.

"There are four visible additions," she said. "One, they are now occupying is the new girls' locker room. And second, we anticipate the special needs addition will be finished in mid-October." Summers said the third addition, to the building's front office space, should be over by the end of October.

"And the new ticket entry off Wally Post gym should be finished in the very near future," she added.

Inside the building, out of public view, the classroom space on both the first and second floors is undergoing a complete remodel. Each set of three classrooms is being converted to two rooms, making all the classrooms 50 percent larger.

Everyone who wants a good look inside Sterling High can come to the RE-1 Foundation's fundraising party on Oct. 21. The event will include a "Buffalo Dinner" in the SHS cafeteria. The foundation will be serving home style dinners at two sittings, 5 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and older students, and \$5 for students in grade five and younger. There will be an alternate menu item for those not wanting buffalo. Tours of the high school renovations will be part of the party.

From the street, Campbell Elementary School has appeared strikingly different for many weeks now. First, the large addition on the southwest corner of the building was framed in steel, showing the shape of things to come. Then for several weeks, the outside walls of the new addition have been covered in a bright yellow insulating material. The past few days, the yellow walls have been slowly disappearing under a layer of bricks.



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These bright yellow walls on Campbell Elementary School's new addition are rapidly being covered by bricks. The yellow material is insulation, designed to make the building more fuel-efficient. Campbell is just one of several RE-1 Valley schools being renovated this year.

Construction at Ayres School took place over the summer. This building was also expanded, with the addition finished in time for school to start. The first day of school for RE-1 Valley was moved back this year to the Tuesday after Labor Day, allowing Ayres School to be completed. It also shortened the time that students and staff at Sterling High will have to "live with" the construction.

Summers emphasized that energy efficiency was a high priority in all the renovations, as well as in the new construction.

"We worked with specialists to do the very best we could to make sure the students are safe and have the best learning environment we can provide," she said. The result should be the best buildings the district can afford, along with lowered energy costs.

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