

Due to construction projects that will be facilitated during the summer of 2017, the 2016-2017 school year will start before Labor Day. **Students in grades 5-12 will begin school on Monday, August 29. Students in grades K-4 will be attending scheduled orientation days both Monday and Tuesday, August 29 and 30.** Families of students in grades K-4 should have and will receive additional information regarding these two orientation days in the near future.



As you all know, last fall the Delano School District community supported a bond referendum that will provide 65 million dollars for our facility needs. This past summer we started three small projects that are supported by bond referendum dollars. The elementary school cafeteria will be expanded to meet enrollment needs, especially during lunch times. The second project includes installing an elevator in the community education building and designing a secure vestibule for the front entrance of the building. The third project will be relocating utilities in front of the high school and middle school in preparation for the expansion of the front office and performing arts center. All of these projects are slated to be completed by the end of 2016.

The location of the new intermediate school building has been decided to be in the northwest corner of the campus across from the elementary school. This was the original location for the school that was discussed back in 2007-08. The district took additional time to study all possible locations for the purpose of improving traffic flow on campus. An option to locate the school east of the football stadium was considered, but in the final analysis it became apparent that the southeastern location would not improve traffic flow to a degree to warrant further investment of an additional road project. It is likely that the beginning of this project will now commence in the spring of 2017, with a projected move in date at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. Some additional building projects that will begin in the late fall of 2016 include the turfing of the soccer field and football stadium with a newly constructed track.

The high school redesign project will begin in the late fall of 2016 with a completion date during the summer of 2019. This is an extremely complex redesign project that will be implemented in phases over the next three years. This project is designed to create flexible learning environments for all students in grades 7-12 that will optimize academic opportunities for our secondary students.

Over the next three years, our school campus will be involved in multiple building projects that will require patience and flexibility during the school years. In the final analysis, our goal is to build and redesign facilities for our students that will provide systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence for every learner in a digital society. In addition, our goal is to provide outdoor campus facilities that will meet the needs of all our community members pre-K through adult. Let us begin our building journey!

**- Matthew W. Schoen, Ed.S.
Superintendent**