



School News

Central School District 13J | 1610 Monmouth St. | Independence, OR 97351-1096 | www.central.k12.or.us | 503-838-0030 | Fax: 503-838-0033

High school construction and instructional changes are expected to improve student learning



Message from Dr. Joseph Hunter, Superintendent
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If you've driven down Monmouth Street lately, you can see that construction is transforming Central High School. The exterior changes are symbolic of changes also taking shape in the building.

Our focus is on how to ensure the highest student achievement with our available budget.

We have undergone budget reductions, but we are trying to maximize our resources by increasing staff positions such as instructional coaches—staff who interact with students and assist teachers—in all buildings.

We can increase the number of instructional coaches by using federal stimulus funds that can't be used to hire classroom teachers. It is always good to have more teachers, but it is also good to have more staff who can support teachers.

The recent school report cards issued by the state showed where we need to increase our efforts at the high school to improve student achievement.

We know we need to find more ways to reach students in subjects such as math. We will continue to transform until we find a way to reach all students.

Voters to decide tax measures in January

Two tax measures affecting school funding will be on the January 2010 ballot. Revenue from both measures was included in the legislative funding package that schools will receive over the next two years (2009-11).

Measure 66 would increase taxes for Oregon households making more than \$250,000 annually.

Measure 67 increases the corporate minimum tax and establishes a new tax rate structure.

Potential impact on schools:
\$430 per average daily membership weighted (ADMw).
Central School District ADMw projected for 2009-10: 3,708
Potential loss in revenues if measure does not pass: \$1.6M

Instructional coaches mentor teachers, help students

As budgets have tightened, Central schools have looked for more ways to stretch education dollars. One cost-efficient way to reach students and see greater results in the classroom is by adding more instructional coaches in schools.

Instructional coaches fill instructional gaps and meet a variety of student and teacher needs. "There are many ways teachers use coaches. They serve as mentors to new teachers and provide extra help with students. The goal is to try to meet teachers where they need us," said Terry Kersey, literacy coach at Henry Hill Elementary School.

Instructional coaches are not new to many Title I schools. What is new is the expansion to all schools and the coordination of coaches to ensure that teachers have the resources they need. Last year Title I and federal stimulus funds were tapped to hire more coaches. These funds come



Spanish literacy instructional coach Michelle Martinez works with elementary student Cristobal Najjar.

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Bond update: CHS construction has started

The transformation of Central High School funded by the \$47.3 million construction bond is on track for a fall 2010 completion date. School is continuing with as few disruptions as possible to students.

The project has created more than 500 jobs and is using many local subcontractors and suppliers. Last summer's construction activity had 300 construction workers on site at once.

Additions and renovations include:

- Renovations of the **band and choir areas** were completed last summer.
- The **old gym** was completely refurbished with a new floor and all new equipment.
- The **P.E. locker rooms** were completely refurbished with new lockers and shower rooms with individual stalls.
- Work is almost complete on the **new main office and counseling area and its adjacent new main entry lobby** facing 16th street. The area will be occupied this month.
- The **two-story classroom wing** will be ready for occupancy in March 2010. Renovations will start on the old classrooms in March and be complete by August 2010.
- The **new 599-seat auditorium, the expansion of the cafeteria dining hall, and a complete renovation of the kitchen** will be the final project and will be completed in August 2010. The kitchen serving area will be expanded to accommodate six serving stations, each with different lunch offerings.
- The **new athletic stadium** with capacity of more than 1,600 spectators, including approximately 400 covered seats, will be complete in August 2010. The Panthers will play home games on campus beginning in September 2010.

"When the project is complete, Central High School will be a 21st century facility with virtually every space of the original building completely renovated. The new spaces will nearly double the total size of the facility, allowing us to remove ten modular classrooms from the campus," said Mike Maloney, bond project manager.

Pictured (from top): 1. The new high school entrance on 16th Street will be finished this month.

2. The new auditorium will provide seating for almost 600 people and include dressing rooms and an orchestra pit.

3. A courtyard will separate the new wings and provide picnic seating for students and staff.

4. The new main office and counseling area will be ready for staff to move into over winter break.





Focus on Henry Hill Elementary: Students eat healthy snacks



First graders Ernest Beaupre (left) and John Tetrault sample local grapes during snack time.

Every other day, Henry Hill Elementary School students enjoy a healthy snack break during the school day. The school was awarded a federal grant

to provide all students with fresh produce during a break before or after lunch. The snack exposes students to fruits and vegetables they may not have tried before and often lets them sample a range of locally grown produce.

The goal of the federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is to provide healthy food to students in order to boost learning, educate students about nutrition and establish healthy food habits. Henry Hill was one of 166 eligible Oregon schools that applied for the grant and one of only 41 schools selected for the program. The selection is based on the rate of free and reduced lunch eligibility. At Henry Hill, that is about 80 percent of students.

This year, students have tried carrots, radishes, snow peas, kiwis, apples, pears and grapes.

"It's been interesting to see their reaction," said Principal Sharon Tebb. "A whole radish is not something many students have seen. Most of them have been open to trying everything."

Henry Hill fourth graders harvest first community garden

Mr. Canclini's fourth-grade class got to the root of healthy eating by planting their own garden last year. After finishing the harvest this fall, students got their raised beds ready for winter and started work on expansion plans.

The garden, on school property, was a community venture. Students started the project by identifying business partners and writing letters for donations. They assisted with the planning, planting, care and watering over the summer.

"It was a great joint venture," said Principal Sharon Tebb. "We're trying to focus on good nutrition and teaching them to take care of themselves. This supported our efforts to make good food available," she said.

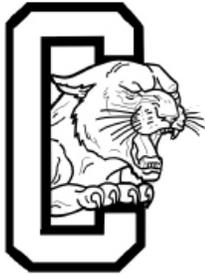
Tebb said Henry Hill students who live nearby helped take care of the garden during the summer months.

Students are already planning a second-bed expansion of the garden for next summer.

Thank you to the community partners who donated time and resources to make the school garden possible:

- **Town and Country True Value Hardware Store:** Designed garden bed, donated and cut lumber, donated petunias
- **Valley Concrete:** Donated top soil
- **Marr Brothers:** Donated compost
- **Bi-Mart:** Donated gift certificates, tools and plants





Central High School Winter Athletic Season

The winter sports season—Girls' and Boys' Basketball, Swim Team and Wrestling—has started. To find upcoming games and meets, go to www.highschoolsports.net. Under schedules, search by state

for Central High School.

For more information, contact Central High School Athletic Director Shane Hedrick at 503-606-2227.

Annual report cards released by state

Central Schools	2007-08	2008-09
Ash Creek	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Henry Hill	Strong	Satisfactory
Independence	Strong	Outstanding
Monmouth	Strong	Satisfactory
Talmadge	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Central High School	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) issued school reports cards for the 2008-09 school year. The reports are based on last year's school data and measure student academic progress, attendance, graduation rates, participation in state assessments and progress by student subgroups, including low-income, minority, special education and English Language Learner (ELL) students.

This year, ODE adopted a new report card formula and rating system, using different data and measurements. The new rating system has three different categories of school ratings instead of five and uses data from the past two years instead of four.

Central High School moved from satisfactory to needs improvement because math scores fell slightly below the state standard. Central administrators and teachers are identifying ways to integrate math into other coursework to improve test scores next year.

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with very specific rules for how they can be used.

Coaching fits exactly into the requirements for using federal stimulus money, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes increasing teacher effectiveness, providing targeted, intensive support and improving results for all students.

Each school has instructional coaches who are available to teachers as needed. Students reap the benefits when teachers can access help and instructional resources.

"Research shows that the best instruction comes directly from classroom teachers," said Dorie Vickery, math instructional coach at Independence and Henry Hill elementary schools. "But teachers need support."

Coaches say that the support they offer looks different in every classroom. "We ask open-ended questions, so teachers reflect on their practices and identify what they need," said Vickery.

In addition to identifying improvements in instructional practices, teachers typically need help with tasks they don't have enough time to do. The coaches conduct assessments, observe classrooms, recommend resources and best practices, help individual students, identify differentiated instruction, provide guidance on state standards and train instructional assistants.

So far, the coaches have been highly sought after by teachers. Kersey said trust and respect are key reasons.

"We're not evaluating teachers," said Kersey. "We're collaborating on how to help kids understand and learn."

High School building tours highlight construction progress every month

Community members, parents and staff can join the School Board for a tour of the new high school facility.

Monthly tours are led by the architect every month before the School Board meeting. The tour meets in the high school cafeteria at 4:45 p.m. on the first Monday of each month.

The next meeting will be on Jan. 11, 2010.

This newsletter is an update to the Monmouth/Independence Community about its schools. For Spanish copies, please call the District office, 503-838-0030. It is also posted on the district website at www.central.k12.or.us.

Este boletín se provee para informarles a los miembros de la Comunidad de Monmouth e Independence de lo que está pasando en sus escuelas. Hay traducciones al español disponibles al llamar a la Oficina del Distrito Escolar al 503-838-0030.

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