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News and Announcements

AHS to Celebrate Grand Reopening October 8

The Colonist community is invited to celebrate the Grand Reopening of Anaheim High School on October 8.

The event, which signals the completion of \$34.6 million in campus improvements, will begin with a 5:30 p.m. ceremony in the central courtyard. Following the ceremony, student guides will give tours of the campus. During the tours, which will last until 8 p.m., entertainment will be provided by members of the AHS band, choir, dance, theater, and cheer squads. Historical displays will also be featured in the gymnasium and in the library.

"We are excited to be able to share this beautiful campus with the community," said Superintendent Dr. Joseph Farley. "The transformation that took place at Anaheim High School is amazing."

Beginning in September 2006, the district began devoting considerable time and attention toward planning and executing the project at Anaheim High School. Officials restarted the project and took a completely fresh approach to the work. The new plans met the district's stringent quality guidelines while respecting the architectural history and integrity of the campus.

By September 2007, an east-west pedestrian corridor from the new Citron Street entrance to the new 49-classroom building was unveiled. Crews had removed the three old portable classrooms in the business and tech quads and replaced them with a landscaped courtyard with a raised platform for student gatherings. The music, art and cafeteria quads also were renovated with pavers and brickwork that fit in with the Craftsman style of the neighborhood.

Additional work to the main campus was completed, including the placement of five, 30-by-30 sunshades and a new wrought iron gate at the Citron entrance. Temporary classrooms in front of the gym and behind the administration building were replaced with 15 new 30-foot-by-32-foot permanent modular classrooms that look and function like regular classrooms.

By now, the district had entered the home stretch of the building program. The finishing touches were applied to the new 49-classroom building. The design and architecture of the project complemented the school's historical design, while providing state-of-the-art facilities for students. Once students and staff began occupying the new classroom building, the district moved ahead with plans for several projects to further enhance the beauty and historical nature of the flagship campus.

The exterior of the campus was painted from a new district color palette that allows schools to express their identity while better fitting into the context of their neighborhoods. At Anaheim High, the colors—several shades of tan, navy and dark grey—will match the new building, too.

The 42 temporary portables adjacent to the existing softball field that housed classrooms while the new building was being constructed were removed. The area was turned into two regulation softball fields for the varsity and junior varsity teams, and basketball courts.

Another project focused on landscaping. Under a partnership with Anaheim Public Utilities, the campus is showcasing a water-wise demonstration garden. The utility has pledged to provide funding for plant materials, showing residents how much water could be saved through water-efficient irrigation and a water-wise landscape design.

In addition, a north-south pedestrian corridor from the administration building to the gymnasium was constructed. The corridor is lined by a procession of giant queen palms. The area behind the administration building has been redone, too, with seat walls creating a new, grand entrance to the gym off Citron. A new stage was built in front of the gym, providing a great place for students to hang out or hold pep rallies. Lastly, the proper fixes were designed to the campus fountain to make it workable again.

"Once you see all of the improvements, we know you will agree that the campus can once again rightfully claim its title as the crown jewel of the district," said Mrs. Katherine Smith, school board president.

The completion of the Anaheim High School project marks the end of the Measure Z school bond program. The investment in the community that the Measure Z program represents sends the clear message that our students and staff deserve the best possible learning environment, said Board Member Mrs. Anna L. Piercy.

"I am pleased to report that we have successfully followed through on the commitment we made to the public of providing our students and staff with the world-class facilities they deserve," Mrs. Piercy said.



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