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As we turn the calendar to the start of 2019 we have the opportunity to think about new goals, new dreams and new action. This is also a perfect time to update you on new construction that is in full force as we begin the new year.

Despite the cold weather, crews have been hard at work building additional spaces for students throughout our district. This is of course thanks to voter approval of Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools' two school funding requests in 2017.

Since that time, teams of staff, parents and community members have been working hard researching and providing input to create exciting learning spaces across the district. All schools in our district have or will be receiving additions or renovations due to growing student enrollment.

Last summer Glendale Elementary received additional space for special education classrooms and Five Hawks Elementary kindergarten spaces were renovated. Soon to follow, we broke ground at WestWood Elementary and Edgewood School where remodeling is taking place with the highlight being a new kitchen and cafeteria/commons area that will connect the two schools to serve students in both buildings.

Construction is well underway at Redtail Ridge and Jeffers Pond Elementary, both of which will receive two additional kindergarten classrooms. Progress is also being made at Prior Lake High School where two, three-story classroom additions are being constructed. In addition, we are constructing a new space for Industrial Technology classes.

In the coming months, PLHS will continue construction with additional classrooms, a new north entrance, kitchen and cafeteria expansion, a four-court activity center and increased parking.

As you drive around Prior Lake it's hard not to notice the construction of the new Bridges Area Learning Center that will open on the Twin Oaks Middle School site in the fall of 2019. This building will be able to serve approximately 135 students and will feature classrooms and flexible learning spaces along with a kitchen and cafeteria; something Bridges students do not have in the strip mall space that currently is home to the ALC.

Progress is also being made on the new elementary school. Last month the School Board approved designs for the K-5 school that will be built in the Big Sky Estates development in Savage. The design will include classroom and learning common areas throughout the building to provide flexible and personalized learning opportunities.

To prepare for the opening of the new school, a name and new K-5 attendance boundaries will be determined, as follows.

- The Board will take action on a name for the elementary new school in February, based on public input.
- To prepare for the opening of the new elementary school in 2020, new elementary attendance boundaries will be established for the 2020/21 school year.
- In January, the district will begin the elementary attendance boundary process to study options. The final options will be forwarded to the School Board this spring for action.

More details regarding the process and feedback loops will be communicated via email and the PLSAS website.

For more information on our additional construction projects and timelines you can view a comprehensive schedule at www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/construction or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

School planning is a community-wide, participatory process. I would like to thank the many people who have spent hours with us providing input to help ensure that our building designs are representative of the school district community we serve.

We are off to a great start in 2019, poised for more space for students and even greater opportunities for collaboration and personalized learning. Thank you for your continued support of PLSAS! Happy New Year!