

# Durand marks end of districtwide face-lift

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**DURAND** — The dust is settling and the paint has dried as construction wraps up at six renovated buildings in the Durand School District.

"All six of our buildings had renovations," said Superintendent Cindy Weber. "In the elementary buildings they all got new lighting, ceiling, clocks and sprinkler systems. All the buildings got new bus-drop turnarounds, and there were many individual projects."

Those individual projects ranged from renovating the high school gym to installing sinks and water fountains in elementary schools classrooms.

The three-year project was paid for with a \$13.5-million bond.

Doyle Knight Elementary in Lennon had one of the most dra-

## Renovation celebration

- The Durand School District will celebrate renovations of six schools at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Durand High School Stadium Complex, with fireworks and a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8 p.m.
- The three-year project was funded by a \$13.5-million bond.

matic overhauls, said Principal Lory Thayer.

The school relied on child and educational psychology to determine what colors to paint the inside of the building, such as calm and relaxing blue. Classroom chalkboards were replaced with marker boards.

In the school's library — which was once the gym — the ceiling was lowered and new lighting was installed.

"It was fun to see kids' faces

the first time they saw (the new library)," said Martha Daunt, a first-grade teacher who has worked at the elementary since the mid-1970s.

One of the top features for the elementary school, which has 225 students, has been the new bathrooms with automatic-flush toilets.

"I used to make public announcements to remind students to flush the toilet," Thayer said.

Doyle Knight is considered one of the schools that needed the most work. The school, built in 1959, hadn't had any new construction since 1979 when a second wing was built, Thayer said.

"With the economy the way it is, it has been nice for parents and voters to see they got their money's worth," Thayer said.

Improvements to many of the buildings that hadn't been renovated in decades also meant com-

ing up to code for the Americans with Disability Act requirements.

At Durand High School, which hadn't been changed since 1964, doors switched from round knobs to flip-down handles, and electronic lockers and an additional ramp were installed.

"We never had a ramp to the gym. Students with disabilities had to go outside and around the side of the building to get to certain classes and the gym," said Principal Doug Lindsay.

"It's a huge face-lift for the school and the building," Lindsay said. "The kids have a lot of respect for what's been done and the students who've graduated are a little jealous."

The 600-student high school got eight new tennis courts, buildingwide air conditioning, motion sensors in classrooms, new cafeteria furniture and a portable com-

puter lab with 30 laptops.

"I like the concept," Lindsay said of the portable computer lab. "It saves on space and especially helps with advanced placement chemistry class because they can make use during labs."

But for students, the highlights are sports-related improvements, from the new locker rooms to the lighting on the football field.

"The locker rooms were pretty much trashed before," said senior Greyson Lytle, 17. "We got all new lockers. Before they were really small, now (they are) about four inches wider."

The gym received a new sound system, plastic bleachers and lighting that make it look 10 times better, said senior Jessica Anderson, 17.

"The new sound system makes warm-ups better," said Anderson, who also plays volleyball.