

## **Welcome BULLDOGS to your NEW HOME**

Excitement is in the air for our high school students - on multiple levels – literally!

Our new two-story North Mason high school opened for business right on schedule. Students stepped inside their gleaming spacious schoolhouse for the first time on Wednesday, September 9. Suffice it to say, the WOW factor was huge!

I had an opportunity to view the new two-story high school last month and I have to say all 120,000 square feet are amazing.

There are 2 gyms, a drama room, a music room and an incredible athletic center. Every bit of the new high school reflects the spirit of North Mason. We are even looking at naming several rooms or buildings for beloved faculty.

We are also expanding our academic offerings. The process of adding new classes began with the initial construction of the new building last year. A new woodshop allows us to expand the woodworking program to offer a course in Boatbuilding. Ceramics course offerings have been expanded, as well as Graphic Design and Animation and Sports medicine, to name a few.

Over this last summer both elementary projects were also completed. We approved the final acceptance of the Belfair Elementary playground and parking improvements at the July board meeting. Also approved during that meeting was the cost for moving portables from the high school to both elementary campuses.

Eric Nelson, our Project Manager, shares that the renovation project of the old NMHS to create the new Hawkins Middle School is scheduled for completion in August 2016, prior to the start of the next school year. However, a portion of that project includes a phase to demolish the existing Hawkins and renovate that site into parking. That portion of the project is scheduled to be completed by December of 2016.

Much of the footprint and structure of the existing NMHS building will stay, with construction of a small addition planned on the west side. The building will also receive new exterior finishes as a further upgrade to match the new NMHS.

New quarters for PACE Academy and the Homelink program are scheduled for completion later this fall also on the secondary campus near North Mason School Road.

Everyone has been very busy and the crews working at our schools have done an amazing job. I would like to thank all of the staff, parents and students who have exercised patience while our new schools have taken shape.

The entire North Mason community is cordially invited to the Grand Opening of the new North Mason High School on Tuesday evening, September 22, 2015. Festivities will begin at 6:00pm. I hope to see you all there as we start a new page in North Mason history!

Dinah Griffey, Director, District 5