

Campus upgrades a welcome sight

Kids won't be the only ones donning new outer wear for the first day of school at one south county school.

The entire Days Creek Charter School campus is sporting new paint, trim and windows, which created quite the impression on teachers, parents and students attending the school's Back-to-School Bash Thursday evening.

When parent Lizzie Hartzell first saw the improvements, she said, "You guys are amazing. This place looks awesome. Days Creek is now a cut above!" Days Creek junior Vince Masotto had a similar reaction, "I was really surprised by how nice everything looked when I drove up tonight. I think the paint is my favorite because it really brightens up the place!"

From the outside, the paint job, which cost just under \$90,000, is one of the more visible facility improvements and deviates from the former exterior by adding a bit more red trim around the edges.

The new exterior is just one of \$470,000 the district has spent on campus building upgrades over the last three years.

"We've spent \$150,000 per summer each of the last three summers, plus an additional \$20,000 overall on shop improvements," said Days Creek Superintendent Dr. Mark Angle.

Other improvements this summer included sealing the parking lot, adding an additional storage building near the gymnasium and sanding and resurfacing the gymnasium floor. The storage building will hold equipment currently stored in the old Tiller School, once the sale of that property is final. The gymnasium floor updates eliminated age-related cupping of the individual boards. Regular maintenance schedules at Days Creek, established with Director of Facilities and Custodians Louis Calvert, also have several classrooms receiving new paint and flooring each summer.

"With increased student enrollment over the last few years, our budget has been larger, allowing us to focus on much needed facility improvements," Angle said. "We hope to be caught up on some of these bigger projects within the next few years and then transition to an ongoing, intentional annual maintenance schedule that will keep our facilities looking good and functioning properly long-term."

Maintenance work in previous years includes:

- installing new water lines to buildings
- upgrading restrooms and creating three single user restrooms
- upgrading metals shop to allow high school to offer dual credit welding
- purchasing a squat rack for the weight room
- installing new exterior doors with electronically controlled safety locks
- resurfacing the greenhouse
- purchasing 48 new banquet tables and a new portable stage for the gymnasium
- utilizing grant funds to conduct a seismic assessment of the campus.

Students and parents appreciated the campus' new look Thursday evening. Teachers were also looking forward to starting the new school year in style.

Long time science teacher Scott Hampton, who himself is a 1974 graduate of Days Creek, stated "the facilities have never looked this good!"

Days Creek students first day back to school was Monday, Aug. 28.

Picture on the last day of the 2016-17 school year



Picture at the start of the 2017-18 school year

