



# TO THE FINISH

## High School Remodeling

### What have we accomplished?

Over the last few years, much of Nevada High School has been updated and remodeled to reflect the needs of students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Each classroom is now fitted with wireless Internet access and an LCD projector, both of which enable teachers and students to take advantage of the resources available to them via the World-Wide Web. The remodeled parts of the high school are now considerably more energy efficient, equipped with “green” geothermal heating and cooling, updated electrical systems, and new windows and doors. This geothermal system has not only made the school more efficient but has also increased learning time for students. Much of the high school had no cooling system, but now that the geothermal system is up and running, there are no more early dismissals due to excessive heat. With only one outstanding bond issue (the \$4.1 million bond on the elementary remodel), the Nevada Community School district has worked hard to make sure tax dollars are used well. **In fact, the entire high school project to this point has been financed without an increase to property taxes.**

#### Phase I—\$0 increase in property taxes

- Constructed four new science classrooms, two special education classrooms, and restrooms
- Remodeled five classrooms on west end of the building, including entrances
- Remodeled and updated the Library Media Center
- Installed geothermal well field

#### Phase II—\$0 increase in property taxes

- Replaced bleachers in high school gym
- Remodeled and updated locker rooms
- Installed geothermal heating and cooling in gym
- Redesigned and expanded parking lot to fit a school the size of Nevada High School

#### Phase III—\$0 increase in property taxes

- Remodeled area on south side of the building to create three tiered classroom computer labs for business department and part of the social studies department
- Remodeled eight classrooms in center hallway in addition to restrooms

## Phase IV—\$0 increase in property taxes

- Remodeled and updated family/consumer science classrooms
- Created a designated TAG room for both middle and high school students
- Remodeled and updated agriculture, drafting, and electrical classrooms
- Remodeled and converted two former science rooms to language arts classrooms

## Construction currently in progress—\$0 increase in property taxes

- Tornado safe room and administrative offices (paid for by FEMA grant, State of Iowa grant, district SILO funds)
- Josephine Tope Community Auditorium (paid for by Tope Trust, community donations, district contribution not to exceed \$500,000)

## What needs to be done?

Although most classrooms have been updated to reflect the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century students, there is still work to be done. Several of the main spaces in the high school have had no work done in them since they were built. Many of these areas have asbestos that must be removed (floor tile and ceiling), and each of them needs to be connected to the geothermal heating and cooling system so they can be energy efficient. These new projects would begin in the spring of 2013 and be completed in 2014.

The **kitchen**, built in 1962, has had only minor renovations in the early 1990s when the middle school was built. The kitchen needs to be expanded to meet the needs of the staff who prepare nearly 750 meals per day, and the area needs to be reconfigured to save time and make serving more efficient; new plumbing, electricity, and high-efficiency appliances also need to be installed. Arrangements have already been made for the food service department to operate out of the Gates Hall kitchen and students to be served lunch at Gates Hall for the three months of the 2013 school year (March-May) this portion of the renovation will take place. This has been budgeted into the bond issue.

The **commons** (lunchroom) area was built in 1962, with the foyer added in 1977. No renovations have ever been done in these areas. After removing the asbestos tile, these two areas will be opened into one large commons that will serve as the lunchroom during the day and overflow mingling space during evening events in the gym or auditorium. Bathrooms in this area will also be reconfigured and enlarged to meet the code requirements for the gym. Remodeling will transform this area into a welcoming school entrance to showcase our school's achievements and awards.

Built in 1962, the current **art room** was originally intended to be a band room. There are no windows for natural lighting and no separate spaces for ceramics (wet) and painting (dry). Creating opportunities for natural light and separate teaching and working spaces will enable students to engage in their work in a way they are unable to right now.

The **band and chorus rooms** were both added in 1977, and no work has been done in them since that time. These areas need updates to improve acoustics and sound booths, store instruments, and better utilize the existing classroom space.

The **current office area** and the **woods/metals shops** also need general updating so the spaces are more efficient in function and use. The office area will be reconfigured to serve as a teacher conference room and work space; the woods/metals shop will have a new air handling system installed to improve the air quality in the space.

As the back parking area of the high school is cleaned up, the time is right to repave the entire **back parking area** behind the middle school. This area is frequently used for overflow parking for events held at the high school, but the top coat is currently crumbling and nearly gravel in several areas. In addition, the area is congested when the busses arrive after school. Creating a bus lane will make that area safer for students and other drivers at the end of the school day.

## Why now?

**Fiscal responsibility:** To this point, all four phases have been completed with a **\$0 increase** in property taxes. The administration and school board have worked hard to make sure tax dollars are used well as we update our facilities.

**Benefit to the community:** The areas of the high school that need to be finished are the spaces that showcase Nevada High School to the community and state. With the new auditorium, traffic in and out of the high school will only increase. Completing a defined entrance to the building that is welcoming and open will allow visitors to NHS to experience the best of what we have to offer.

**Increased enrollment:** This year, certified enrollment is up over 30 students, the second year of increased enrollment. Future generations of students in Nevada will benefit from the community's commitment to education and facilities.

**Going green and saving money:** The high school's boiler system is inefficient, and old windows let in the heat and cold. Continuing the geothermal heating and cooling into the rest of the building will not only help the environment but also save money when it comes to energy costs. Since the elementary has gone geothermal, there has been very minimal change in energy expenses despite the fact that that the remodel/addition project nearly doubled the usable square footage and cooling was added so the system runs year-round. We expect a similar result once the entire high school is running on geothermal.

Ultimately, we need to **finish what we started** at the high school.

## What will it cost?

\$6.4 million bond issue

<u>Net taxable valuation</u>	<u>Cost per year</u>	<u>Cost per day</u>
\$100,000	\$37.92	10 cents
\$150,000	\$56.89	16 cents
\$200,000	\$75.86	21 cents
\$250,000	\$94.82	26 cents
\$300,000	\$113.79	31 cents

## When can I view what needs to be finished?

There will be two open houses for the community to see what has been done and what yet needs to be finished.

Sunday, January 22 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Sunday, January 29 from 2:00-4:00 pm

## When is the vote?

Tuesday, February 7

7:00am to 8:00pm

Gates Hall. The measure must earn 60% “yes” votes to pass.

## Who can vote?

Any resident of the Nevada Community School District is eligible to vote. Voters must be registered by Friday, January 27 at 5:00 pm.

## Who can I call if I have questions?

Jim Walker, Superintendent	382-2783	<a href="mailto:jwalker@nevada.k12.ia.us">jwalker@nevada.k12.ia.us</a>
Justin Gross, Principal	382-3521	<a href="mailto:jgross@nevada.k12.ia.us">jgross@nevada.k12.ia.us</a>
Marty Chitty, Board President	382-2764	<a href="mailto:mchitty@nevada.k12.ia.us">mchitty@nevada.k12.ia.us</a>
Mike Bates, Board Vice President	480-4287	<a href="mailto:mbates@nevada.k12.ia.us">mbates@nevada.k12.ia.us</a>
Tom Maier, Board Member	382-1361	<a href="mailto:tom.maier@gmail.com">tom.maier@gmail.com</a>
Dave Sutherland, Board Member	450-0142	<a href="mailto:dave.j.sutherland@gmail.com">dave.j.sutherland@gmail.com</a>
Laura West, Board Member	520-0675	<a href="mailto:lwest@nevada.k12.ia.us">lwest@nevada.k12.ia.us</a>