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NEW CONSTRUCTION, NEW SCHOOL YEAR

'Transformative' fall for district



Robert Herron, Shelton School District director of facilities and maintenance, stands in front of the new Mountain View Elementary School. *Journal photos by Gordon Weeks*

Changes: New buildings, grade shifts, curriculum

By Gordon Weeks
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On Monday morning, about 4,190 students will walk through the doors of a transformed Shelton School District, which sports new and upgraded buildings, a changed grade configuration and a new curriculum.

The most prominent visual changes are the new two-story, 54,995-square-foot Mountain View Elementary School, and the three-story, 47,254-square-foot addition at Shelton High School. Both come courtesy of a \$64.7 million building bond passed by district voters by a slim margin on Valentine's Day 2017. All seven school buildings received upgrades and improvements.

On Friday, Mountain View Elementary School Principal Mary Johnson walked the well-lit corridors and the 25 classrooms in the new building. She and her staff are leaving behind an aging building a block

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Mountain View Elementary Principal Mary Johnson stands in the hallway that leads to the classrooms of the first and second-grade students, who start school Monday in the new building.

New elementary school debuts for school board

By Gordon Weeks
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The Shelton School Board's regular meeting agenda Tuesday evening featured an overview of the new freshman academy, a discussion of the maternity leave policy and a report on the plan to increase graduation rates, but the real attraction was the meeting site.

The gym/cafeteria at the new Mountain View Elementary School made its public debut. And judging from the smiles and upward gazes, the spacious room with a deep stage and mountain range murals is a hit.

"Throughout the meeting, I might say 'Oooh!' inadvertently," School Board President Sandy Tarzwell told the audience of about 50 people.

The changes greeting the students Monday are "transformative" and will take the district "to the next level," said Superintendent Alex Apostle.

"I'm very happy with everything that has

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NEW CONSTRUCTION, NEW SCHOOL YEAR

What's new in Shelton schools?



Last month, a crew paves the reconfigured parking lot in front of Shelton High School. Journal photos by Gordon Weeks



SHELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Grades nine through 12
 3737 North Shelton Springs Road
 360-426-4471
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Principal: Jennifer Deyette
New this year: A three-story, 47,254-square-foot building, a 7,049-square-foot auxiliary gym, technology and safety upgrades, windows replaced in all buildings (except buildings 500 and 600), new parking lot and lighting, new roof on building 100

New: Numerous upgrades at all seven district schools

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away, where broom closets were used for offices, students received physical therapy in the hallways and many students spent their days in portables.

"I can't wait until the first day of school and kids walk in and say, 'This is ours?'" Johnson said.

The new building is "so welcoming, so calm, so bright," she said. Everyone is welcome to an open house from 5:30 to 7 tonight to the school at 534 E. K St.

Shelton High School Principal Jennifer Deyette calls the new three-story building that greets visitors "incredible." She notes the school colors splashed on the carpet and walls, the new furniture, "the touches of being a Highclimber and from this community throughout the building."

"The natural light in each room is amazing," she said.

The school will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 7 p.m. Sept. 26.

All the planning and construction coincides with the district changing its grade configuration. The fifth-grade students have been moved from the district's three elementary schools — Evergreen, Mountain View and Bordeaux — to Olympic Middle School, easing the congestion at the elementaries. The seventh-graders have been moved from the middle school to Oakland Bay Junior High School, and the ninth-grade students have been moved to Shelton High School.

The alterations change "every aspect of the student experience," said Robert Herron, the district's director of facilities and maintenance.

"This is transformative for Shelton in every way," he said.

Next week's school openings culminate three years of planning.

"It's been the busiest summer of my career — of all our careers," Herron said. He used a schedule with 1,000 line items.

A historic snowfall and a labor strike cost the project 11 weeks of delays, Herron said. But the district paid workers overtime in the evenings and on weekends and got back on schedule, he said.

"We have made up all that time so we can open on Sept. 16," he said.

On Friday evening, Herron offered a visitor a tour of the new Mountain View building and the three-story building at the high school. He pointed out that both schools received new parking lots with better traffic flow for buses and visitors.

Herron pointed out the cedar work on the outside of the new high school building, which has 19 classrooms, eight science labs, a culinary arts space, two art rooms and a room for photography and the yearbook staff.

"It's a thoroughly modern building that still doesn't look out of date with the older buildings," Herron said.

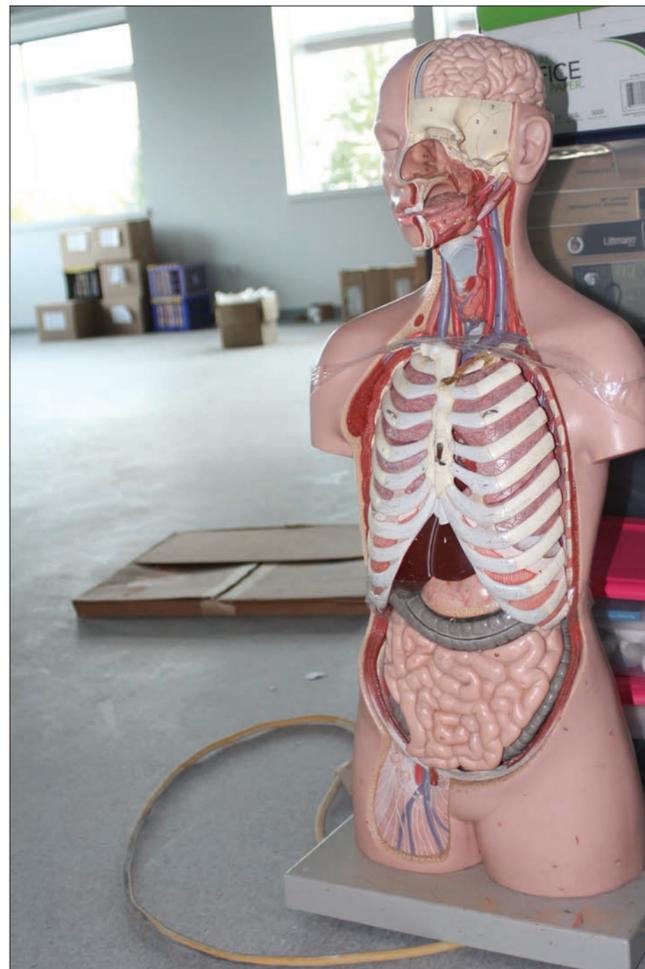
The high school campus is a collection of buildings that resembles a community college compound. With the new building, "for the first time, Shelton High School has a front door," Herron said.

The new building is just shy of 50 feet high, which might make it the tallest structure in Shelton, Herron said. The flagpole next to it soars to 80 feet, he pointed out.

Visitors who walk into Mountain View Elementary School will find themselves in a well-lit, two-story entryway. The new school has double the number of bathrooms as the old building, Herron said.

The gym has partitions that allow recess and lunch to occur at the same time. The deep stage can host shows inside and outside, with the walls sliding open.

All the clocks and public address machines are connected and can be changed simultaneously. "It's pretty state-of-the-art," Herron said.



Educational supplies await students in one of the science classrooms in the new, three-story building at Shelton High School.



BORDEAUX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten through fourth grade
 350 E. University Ave.
 360-426-3253
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Principal: Hannah Hoff
Open house: 4 to 6 p.m. tonight
New this school year: security entry vestibule, covered walkways, boilers replaced.



EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten through fourth grade
 900 W. Franklin St.
 360-426-8281
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Principal: Kent Nixon
Open house: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. tonight
New this year: security entry vestibule, covered walkways, an additional portable, upgrades to existing portables.



MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kindergarten through fourth grade
 534 E. K St.
 360-426-8564
Office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Principal: Mary Johnson
Open house: 5:30 to 7 p.m. tonight
New this school year: the entire two-story, 54,995-square-foot building with 25 classrooms; technology and safety upgrades; covered play structure, new furniture.



OLYMPIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades five and six
 800 E. K St.
 360-462-6671
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Principal: Carey Lee
New this year: roof replaced, technology and safety upgrades.



OAKLAND BAY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Grades seven and eight
 3301 North Shelton Springs Road
 360-426-7991
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Principal: Eric Barkman
New this school year: exterior painted, window mold removal, technology and safety upgrades, security vestibule, cooling tower.



CHOICE HIGH SCHOOL

Grades kindergarten through the 12th grade
 807 West Pine St.
 360-426-7664
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Principal: Stacey Anderson
Open house: 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 18
New this year: security entry vestibule, new roof, cooling tower.

Debut: Students already posing in front of new buildings

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been done," he said.

Project manager Jeff Feeney said the elevator in the new

three-story building at Shelton High School on Monday passed inspection.

"We're tweaking the last things ... so it's going well," he said.

Feeney said the public got a bargain with the \$18 million spent on replacing Mountain View.

"You got quality in these buildings ... You made good,

wise decisions on where to spend the money," he said.

School board member Keri Davidson said the new Mountain View Elementary "looks

amazing." She noted that Shelton High School students have been posing photos online of themselves posing in front of the new building on campus.