

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Besides noticing a spit and polish look to the interior of the buildings, other projects have taken place at each of the three Perkins County Schools sites prior to beginning day on Aug. 16.

Classes begin at 8 a.m. and dismiss at 1:30 p.m. Monday at all three buildings, however, from then on there is a slight variation in school hours.

Projects

An improvement at the elementary in Grant will have faculty, staff and students smiling when the term begins amid the high heat and humidity.

A new boiler and air conditioning have been installed in the elementary building by Siemens of Kearney. Ken's Electric of Grant upgraded lighting in the elementary building.

Superintendent Tobin Buchanan, who is anxious for the 2010-11 school year to get underway, said installation of the new heating-ventilation-air conditioning equipment in the elementary at a cost of \$475,000 was the least expensive of the three buildings because there was already some existing equipment to hook on to.

"The building was more ready," said Buchanan, explaining it made sense to begin there.

At the middle school in Madrid, a landscaping project by the high school FFA students makes

the west entrance to the school more appealing and inviting.

Concrete work and tuck pointing at the high school took place over the summer.

Sidewalk and curb work by DC Concrete, along with replacement of old mortar on the west and south of the school by Kirkpatrick Masonry at a cost of \$35,000 enhances the look of the old portion of the building.

Buchanan said administration and the board are planning future facility upgrades while working on the new budget.

“We’ll no longer be a prisoner to the state aid formula,” said Buchanan. “We’re anticipating little to no state aid.”

Teacher Negotiations

The board has negotiated with the teachers for a base increase two-year agreement.

Usually done as one year agreements, the Perkins County Schools base pay went from \$29,100 to \$29,850 for the 2010-11 school year. Then base pay will increase \$750 for the second year of the contract during the 2011-12 school term, with the district paying any increased insurance premiums.

Breakfast Program

A new program for the 2010-11 school year will be instituted at the elementary and middle schools in September when breakfast will be served.

At a cost of \$1.50 students can have a full menu breakfast at the elementary and middle school sites. High schoolers will again get an a la carte offering of breakfast snacks.

Hours/Prices

- *School Hours:* Monday-Thursday: K-5 goes from 8:05 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; 6-8 goes 8:05-3:15; and 9-12 goes from 8 a.m. to 3:32 p.m. On Fridays all grades will dismiss one hour earlier.

- *Lunch Prices:* K-5 \$2, 6-12 \$2.50, adults \$3, extra milk .25. No charge for seconds.

- *Activity Passes:* Adults \$50, senior citizens \$25, K-12 students \$25, family \$130 (two adults and any K-12 students in home).