

## A Journey to the New Dover High School

Building a new high school with our students and community has been challenging, rewarding, and exciting. The anticipation of moving in the next six weeks is capturing the attention of our students, staff, and community. Our new building will provide educational opportunities not possible in the current facility. We are eager to make the move.

The children of our community will be forever grateful to Dover citizens who believed in this vision, as well as the many private donations that have enhanced our learning areas and made our building extraordinary. In addition to our taxpayers' generosity, to date, we have received over \$2.5 million from community members and local foundations. Visitors will see the impact of these donations in every aspect of the building.

Preserving key elements of our current building has been a priority throughout the process. At the community meeting post-levy in November 2016, community members contributed their ideas as to items to be saved from DHS. District staff have worked with architects to incorporate these elements into the new building to carry part of our history and tradition with us into the future. From the glass transoms in the current DHS lobby to the stone circular piece from the 1915 wing, these unique features add to the character of the new building.

As we plan for moving day, we also look to say goodbye and honor a building that has served our community and students for more than a century. High school staff members are leading the transition and working to give each milestone its proper celebration. On February 15, from 11-4, the current building will be open for guests to visit, reminisce, and enjoy a variety of student performances throughout the day. We hope that families and friends who represent many generations will enjoy sharing stories and memories from their time at Dover High School.

In constant effort to be good stewards of district funds, our staff is working to save usable furniture and other items from DHS to be used in other buildings. Current building code and Ohio Facilities Construction Commission guidelines dictate what can be moved into the new building, but our K-8 staff has created a "wish list" for their buildings. It will be worth the time and effort to see the high school library furniture and science tables being used with our middle school students. Markerboards will be used to replace chalkboards that are still in some of our elementary classrooms. If we can use an item in another school, we are making the effort to get it there.

Another task of great interest is the auction of items and features of the current building. The district is working with Wallick Auctioneers to prepare an auction for community members in April. We frequently receive questions regarding the auction and will provide more information as available.

The building of our new high school was truly a collaborative effort. From the input of our Facilities Task Force, to the staff, community and students that helped design the new school, to the financial support from our taxpayers and private donations - this is our community's school! It's humbling to be part of an endeavor that will impact Dover for generations to come.