

MOORHEAD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Building



*a Bright Future*

[www.moorhead.k12.mn.us](http://www.moorhead.k12.mn.us)

# Our Plan *for the Future*

## Highlights of the Master Facilities Plan

- Change the district's grade configuration from K-4/5, 5-6, 7-8, 9-12 to K-5, 6-8, 9-12 to reduce the transitions for students and allow for comprehensive curriculum development.
- Build a new grades 6-8 middle school. Implement the middle school model for grades 6-8 to support the needs of preadolescents.
- Convert Robert Asp and Moorhead Junior High to K-5 elementary schools.
- Build a new K-5 elementary school.
- Provide equity in programs and services for K-5 students.
- Renovate Moorhead High School by adding a ninth grade center, cafeteria/commons and fieldhouse.
- Create a ninth grade center, similar in concept to the middle school.
- Create smaller learning communities at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- Provide opportunities for interdepartmental learning at the middle school and high school levels.
- Convert Probstfield Elementary School into a district education center for Early Childhood Family Education, Early Intervention Services, HeadStart, Adult Basic Education, Community Education and district offices.

Since 2000, the Moorhead Area Public Schools has been developing a long-range, comprehensive plan for addressing challenges facing the district. Major challenges include continued student enrollment decline, rising operational costs, inadequate state and federal funding, educational reform and enhancement, and an aging infrastructure.

The Master Facilities Plan, which was developed based on recommendations from five community task forces, is providing the district with direction for the future. This vision for the future of the school district will enhance education for preschool, school-aged and adult learners in the school district.

## Additions, renovations planned for high school *Foundation work for ninth grade center began in April*



Additions at Moorhead High School include a ninth grade center (right) and a commons/cafe-teria. The ninth grade center will create smaller learning communities for ninth-graders and ease the transition to high school. The commons will allow enhancements to the food service program.



Between the high school and the Sports Center, a fieldhouse addition will provide space for physical education classes and create an events entry.

# Under Construction

## District's new middle school takes shape with structural steel rising from the horizon

Structural steel, masonry and precast concrete are being erected for the district's new middle school. Foundation work continues for the gymnasium.

Construction of the grades 6-8 school at 3601 12th Ave. S. began in October 2002. Approximately 40 students, teachers, School Board members, administrators, and other community representatives turned the first shovelfuls of earth to break ground for the new school on Oct. 9.

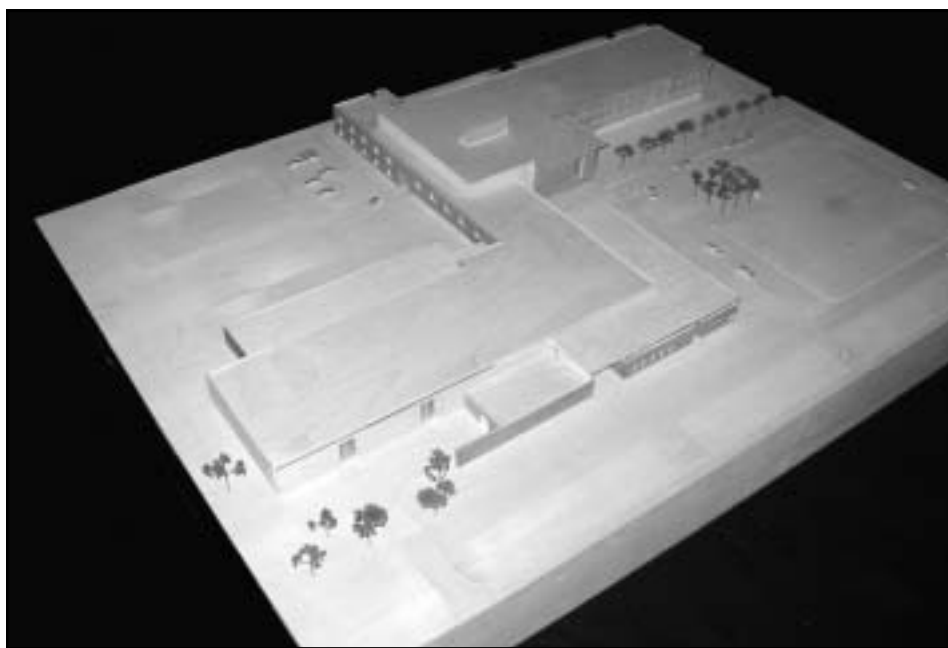
The students attending the groundbreaking of the middle school were representatives of the current fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade classes. These students will be sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders when the middle school opens in the fall of 2004.

In April 2003, more than \$15.6 million in contracts were awarded for the mechanical, electrical and general construction of the school.

The middle school model will be implemented at the school by creating teams of teachers working with students in nine different "houses."

To implement the middle school model, the Middle School Implementation Team has been studying research to determine the classes that will be offered at the new school and is looking at schedule options to see how the classes will fit within the school day.

Work is also being done to establish the teams of teachers so that the teams will be able to work together during the 2003-04 school year.



The school district's new grades 6-8 middle school is under construction at 3601 12th Ave. S. The school is scheduled to open for the 2004-05 school year.



Dr. Larry P. Nybladh, superintendent, speaks at the Oct. 9, 2002 middle school groundbreaking ceremony.



The model shows how the south-facing side of the new middle school's three-story academic wing will look.



Concrete was poured in December for the foundation walls of the three-story academic wing.



Interior corridors are being constructed from burnished block.

# Learning *Communities*

## Recommendations for School Names

A fourteen-member School Naming Task Force has worked for three months researching possible names for each school facility.

The recommendations for the school names were presented to the School Board May 12. The board is expected to take action on the names May 27.

The task force makes the following recommendations.

### **Elementary School in Current Robert Asp Facility:**

*Robert Asp Elementary School*

### **Elementary School in Current Junior High Facility:**

*Ellen Hopkins Elementary School*

### **New Elementary School:**

*S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School*

### **New Middle School:**

*Horizon Middle School*

### **High School:**

*Moorhead High School*

### **Area Learning Center:**

*Red River Area Learning Center*

### **District Education Center in Current Probstfield Facility:**

*Probstfield Center for Education*

The School Naming Task Force report is available on the district Web site at [www.moorhead.k12.mn.us](http://www.moorhead.k12.mn.us).

## Smaller learning communities central to design of three elementary schools

By creating smaller learning communities at every level — elementary, middle school and high school — Moorhead Area Public Schools will enhance the personalized environment for its students and provide opportunities for teachers to work together as a team.

The enhanced programs will be implemented in the fall of 2004 when the two new schools and major renovations of four other schools are scheduled to be completed.

A new K-5 elementary school will be built at 14th Street and 40th Avenue South. The current Robert Asp School and Moorhead Junior High School will be converted to K-5 elementary schools.

All three elementary schools will have smaller learning communities to provide a welcoming environment for students.

Classrooms for grades K-1 will be grouped together, while classrooms for

grades 2-3 will be near each other. Fourth and fifth-grade students will have classrooms on the second floor of each of the schools.

All three elementary schools will have additional off-street parking with parent pick-up and drop-off areas separate from the bus pick-up and drop-off.

The Elementary Transition Team has been working on recommendations related to the transition process. The team has focused on teacher placement/assignment, educational programs and services, and the process for moving.

One of the goals of the elementary enhancements is to create equity in programs and services for students. Students at all three schools will have similar programs available to them at their schools. Currently some students must be transported to programs at other buildings.



The school district's new K-5 elementary school will be constructed at 14th Street and 40th Avenue South. Site work is underway for the new school.

Updates on the construction efforts will be available on the district Web site at [www.moorhead.k12.mn.us](http://www.moorhead.k12.mn.us) as work progresses.

# Lifelong Learning

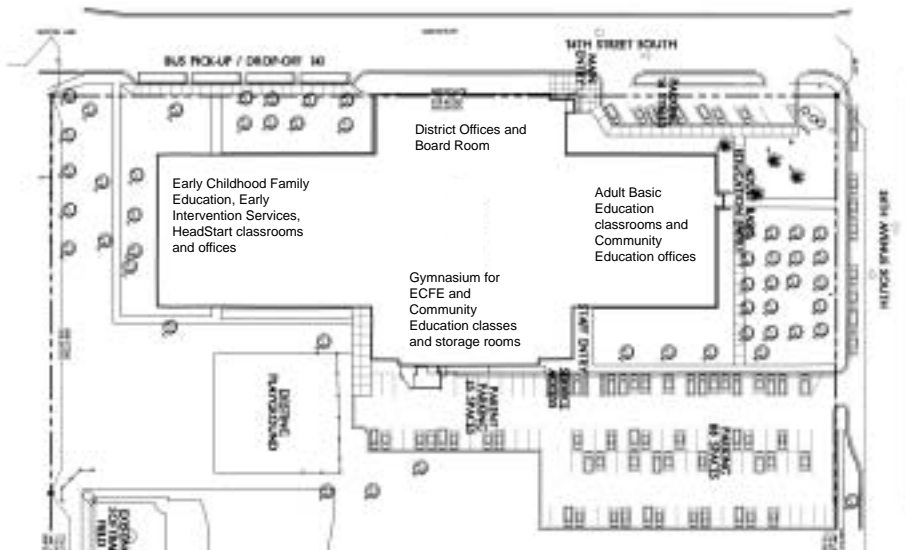
## District education center will be home to programs for young children and adults

Probstfield Elementary School will be converted into a district education center for Early Childhood Family Education, Adult Basic Education, HeadStart, Early Intervention Services and Community Education and district offices.

The design development phase for the conversion of Probstfield is still being completed. This phase involves

refining the building designs based on committee feedback. Planning of the structural, mechanical and electrical systems is done during this phase, and the major building materials are selected.

The conversion of Probstfield will be the final construction project. The renovation is expected to be completed by September 2004.



The current Probstfield Elementary School will be converted to a district education center for Early Childhood Family Education, Adult Basic Education, Community Education and district offices.

## Construction projects currently under budget

With major contracts awarded for five of the construction projects, the projects are about \$1.1 million under budget, according to information presented to the Moorhead School Board April 28 by a representative

from Kraus-Anderson Construction Management Company.

The district is considering possible alternates, including upgrading floor and wall finishes.

## Examples of Excellence

### Moorhead students continue to excel

#### Moorhead High School to represent best of American high school theatre

The Moorhead High School Theatre Department's cast and crew of "Working" has been selected to represent the best of American high school theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. The Fringe Festival is the world's largest performing arts festival, attracting theatrical artists and audiences from across the globe to Edinburgh, Scotland.

#### Moorhead ACT scores above average

Moorhead students in the class of 2002 averaged 22.8 on the ACT. The average score of students in Minnesota was 22.1 and the national average was 20.8 out of 36 points. In 2001-02, 60.6 percent of the Moorhead students took the ACT.

#### Junior High team first in state in Knowledge Master Open

The Moorhead Junior High School Knowledge Master Team placed first in Minnesota and eighth in the nation in the Fall Knowledge Master Open held Dec. 4. Forty-one teams from Minnesota participated in the competition, and 851 middle school teams participated nationwide.

#### Moorhead High automotive program launches AYES partnership

The Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES) launch at Moorhead High School on Oct. 22, 2002, resulted in signed articulation agreements between the Moorhead School District and two local colleges. Students enrolled in high school automotive technology courses now have opportunities to earn college credits while still in high school. Last year, the Moorhead High automotive technology program earned National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) certification.



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Mark Weston, *Assistant Superintendent of Business Services*

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