Construction has begun in southeast Orange County on the new Cypress Creek/Oak Ridge Relief High School. The new prototype high school is scheduled to open in August 2009.

The School Board of Orange County approved an $80 million budget for the project. The construction site is located at the intersection of Narcoossee and Tyson Roads. Doster/Breen is the construction management team overseeing the project for Orange County Public Schools.

“This will be an excellent facility to support the educational needs of this growing area in southeast Orange County,” said School Board Member Daryl Flynn (District 2).

When completed the new high school will have a student capacity of 2,776 and feature the latest in high technology throughout the campus. The educational complex will be composed of multiple buildings which will form a courtyard in the middle of the school.

“Each new public school we build is an investment in our community and an appealing asset to prospective residents of Orange County,” said Superintendent Ronald Blocker.

Classrooms will be housed in a series of two-story buildings. Each classroom will be equipped with up to six computer stations for students and advanced technology systems to enhance audio and video presentations by teachers.

The process of building the school has incorporated intense value engineering by Facilities Services staff and associated architects and contractors to optimize value without sacrificing quality. Replacing a non-reflective roof with a reflective surface is one of the value engineering initiatives. The reflective roofs save energy, are less expensive to install and qualify for utility company rebates.

“Our mission is to build new schools that provide safe learning conditions while at the same time being good stewards of the public’s tax dollars and the environment,” said Chief Facilities Officer Bob Proie.