



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

Lancaster Elementary students thankful for a new school

Tigers return to new classrooms, technology following Thanksgiving break

November 21, 2012 -- The Lancaster Tigers return to a brand new, 21st century school following their Thanksgiving holiday break. Lancaster Elementary School underwent a comprehensive renovation resulting in new classrooms, administration suite, media center, art and music labs, computer lab and cafeteria. Students will enjoy the latest classroom technology with computers, digital projectors and interactive whiteboards.

Taxpayers will enjoy more than \$500,000 in savings thanks to an efficient design that has Lancaster and adjacent Walker Middle School sharing the same kitchen, central energy plant and storm water system. The kitchen facility is at the center of the two campuses with Lancaster's cafeteria connected to the west side and Walker's on the east.

Lancaster ES is designed for 836 students attending pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The school, located in south Orange County, originally opened in the 1961 – 1962 school year. The comprehensive renovation is funded by the voter-approved half penny sales tax.

“Our children will benefit from this 21st century school, especially the classroom technology,” said Lancaster Principal Bibiana Gavillan. “We’re grateful to the community for this wonderful facility.”

While most of the Lancaster ES buildings are complete, some construction remains including a covered play area and hard court with physical education office space, storage and restrooms.

Orange County Public Schools Chief Facilities Officer John Morris explained, “We like to move students into new accommodations as quickly as possible without disruption. The holiday break provided the perfect timing. These little Tigers will return to great new classrooms.”

Students had been attending classes in 40 portables since construction started a year ago. Portable removal will begin by year's end.

Following the Winter Break in early January 2013, students will return to new classrooms at Rock Springs ES, Westridge MS, and Winegard ES. Kindergarteners and first graders at Zellwood ES will also return to a newly renovated classroom building. All these schools offer 21st century classroom technology.

For more information contact Kathy Putnam in Facilities 407.317.3774

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