



NEWS RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

the broad prize
for urban education



2014
winner

July 1, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Orange schools humming with summer construction activity

Although schools are quiet over the summer, this is the busiest season for school improvement and construction projects in Orange County Public Schools.

Currently, 17 projects are underway to rebuild, replace or upgrade systems such as roofs, fire alarms, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), chillers, exterior walls and windows or lighting. Crews are also upgrading door locks inside schools. The projects touch a total of 11 schools. Work is expected to be complete on four of the schools by the beginning of the 2015-16 school year – Freedom, Glenridge and Howard middle schools as well as Winter Park High School. There is also work going on at Metrowest and Ridgewood Park elementaries, Chain of Lakes, Conway, Hunter’s Creek and Legacy middle schools and Apopka High.

The projects, which cost a total of \$7.6 million, are being funded by the half-penny sales tax approved by voters in 2002 and renewed in 2014.

In addition, the district plans to open seven elementaries this fall that are either new, replacements or comprehensive renovations. Two new elementary schools will open to relieve other overcrowded schools – Independence Elementary in Horizon West and Eagle Creek Elementary in the Lake Nona/Eagle Creek area.

Five existing schools are being replaced or renovated: Apopka, Clay Springs and Lovell elementaries in Apopka, as well as Lake Weston Elementary in Orlando and Lake Whitney in Winter Garden.

Those seven projects, which cost about \$110 million to construct, are funded through the sales tax and impact fees.

PLEASE NOTE: Orange County Public Schools will be closed on July 2 and 3.

(For more information, please contact Lauren Roth in Facilities Communications at 407.317.3700 ext. 2023774.)

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