



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

Westridge Middle School students begin 2013 in a new school *Warriors return to new classrooms, technology following holiday break*

Jan. 7, 2013 -- The Westridge Warriors return to a brand new, 21st century school following their holiday break. Orange County taxpayers gifted Westridge with a comprehensive renovation when they approved the 2002 half-penny sales tax referendum. The campus includes new classrooms, administration suite, media center, art lab, music performance and practice spaces, dance studio, computer labs, and cafeteria. The school's gymnasium was also renovated as part of the project. Students will enjoy the latest classroom technology with computers, digital projectors and interactive whiteboards.

“Our children will benefit from this 21st century school, especially the classroom technology,” said Orange County School Board member Kat Gordon, whose district contains Westridge Middle School. “We’re grateful to the community for this wonderful facility.”

Westridge Middle is designed for 1,261 students attending sixth through eighth grade. The original campus, located in south Orange County, opened in the 1973 – 1974 school year. The new campus is located on a parcel of land just east of the old campus on West Oak Ridge Road. The original campus will be used as a swing school for Shingle Creek Elementary students as their facility is renovated during the 2013-2014 school year. Once that is complete, the old Westridge campus will be demolished and a softball field, track replacement, two tennis courts, and four basketball courts will be built on that site.

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. The Warriors return to great new classrooms.”

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Westridge students had been attending classes in the original school building for the first part of their school year.

“This is an exciting way for our students to kick off 2013,” remarked Westridge principal Dr. Chris Camacho. “The new school is beautiful and packed with features that will enhance the learning experience.”

Students also return to a new replacement school at Rock Springs Elementary School and a new classroom building at Winegard Elementary School. Kindergarteners and first graders at Zellwood Elementary 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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