

## Mt. Vernon High School Construction/Renovation Update

The season has turned from fall to winter. The weather certainly reflects the time of year in Indiana! Construction at Mt. Vernon knows no season and continues to heat up. I would like to bring all of you an update on some specifics regarding construction progress.

The south addition is now in the process of putting up drywall. We are now able to more than visualize classrooms, hallways, locker areas, and departmental offices. We anticipate being able to start the 2009-2010 school year in the new addition. Standing in the auditorium lobby, you can see the new cafeteria taking shape. Next to the cafeteria is the new band and choir area. Both the cafeteria and music areas are enclosed allowing workers to proceed during the winter months. Incidentally, the new cafeteria will have a capacity of 648. As a comparison, the current cafeteria seats on 310! We anticipate being able to move into these areas sometime late this year. The north end of the building has taken on a very different look. The expansion of the north end can be seen by way of the steel that is currently in place. Unfortunately, cement does not do well in such cold temperatures so additional progress probably won't be seen until early spring.

Parking has become a very frustrating day-to-day activity. Arriving early is encouraged, if not, a brisk walk from the north parking lot will be the result. Conducting school while all around is changing can be challenging. I must say with great pride that the students and staff of Mt. Vernon have shown their very best by demonstrating great patience and concentration during very difficult times. There is no better place to be than Mt. Vernon. In the future, we will have a building that all of us can take pride in and elevate learning opportunities to an even higher level.

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