



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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After eight months of construction, Brightwood's brand new six-room classroom building opened its doors on December 6, 2010. The building is used for fifth and sixth graders who are now well settled in to their new surrounding. And students and teachers alike are still sharing enthusiastic praise for Brightwood's latest addition. A lot of it, in fact.

"I love it," beamed sixth grader Kimberly Phung. "There are many windows which give the rooms beautiful sunlight, and we have a lot of storage and space. Plus, the playground is right outside so that's always nice," she laughed.

The building was constructed on time and within budget by the Nazerian Group, who maintained a clear focus not only on finishing the project on schedule but ensuring student safety. The Nazerian Group has been active in the Alhambra School District for the past 10 years. The Nazerians stress teamwork and continue to be a part of other ongoing projects within the district including work at Century High School.

Like all new buildings throughout the district, the structure's placement and layout were designed with careful attention to the campus' already existing shape and character. Though near to the black top play area, there is still ample room separating the two and no children ever got close to area during its fenced-off construction phase. Color wise the building fits seamlessly in with the other existing structures with light blue walls and a deeper blue roof. And to take advantage of the natural light available where the building is located, every room is outfitted with several windows. The advantages of added sunlight are not limited to the positive atmosphere it helps create.

"Even during powerpoint presentations when we turn the lights off there is plenty of sunlight that creates an excellent balance in the room. Students can easily see presentations on the screen, but they're not sitting completely in the dark either," sixth grade science teacher Stacy Randolph shared.

The windows are also operable which allows for natural ventilation. Still, for the especially hot months every classroom is outfitted with an individual air conditioning unit.

Inside the classrooms, teachers are outfitted with state-of-the-art technological tools to assist them in creating lively lesson plans and presentations for their students. Every classroom features an overhead projector, automatic screen, and an Extron Pole Vault system connected to the teacher's desks. These systems offer centralized A/V switching and control and are connected to stereos which allow enhanced sound for video presentations. They are supported for future technologies and are energy efficient as they are equipped with automatic power saving and standby modes. Classrooms also feature ample counter space, storage areas, and sinks with running water,

"The overhead projector that's attached to the ceiling is incredible. The automatic screen makes the students feel like they're in a movie theater. They applauded the first time it came down," Ms. Randolph also shared.

The speakers are one of the many things that catch sixth graders Angel Haro and Liam Cervantes' attention.

"I really like the speakers that these rooms have," Angel said.

Liam added, "It makes it a lot of fun to watch videos and hear everything really clearly."

Certainly, everyone is extremely pleased with the new building. In fact, the students share a sense of ownership over it.

"The students are just as eager to keep them clean. Every Friday we sanitize and dust the rooms," Ms. Randolph added.

For a group of fifth and sixth grade students, there is perhaps no greater praise than that.

