

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a long time since we've provided an update. Many of the items that are listed here have been adjusted several times since our last update so I felt it prudent to wait until items were solidified a little more.

1. Lockers – They will be on site today. The initial date for delivery and installation was September 23rd but they were delayed. We received confirmation yesterday that the lockers would arrive at the school today and that they would be built on site and then installed during the evenings. Once we get a large group of lockers available, we will begin to distribute them starting with Grade 12 students first.
2. CTS Classrooms – All our CTS rooms are “functional.” What this means is that the space has been vacated by the contractor and all remaining work will happen in those areas in the evening to get it complete. This work will require at least three more weeks. In the meantime, students can work in those areas and do project work although we have had to adapt the work space to allow those things to take place. The teachers have been working hard to modify the projects so that we can meet all the outcomes that are necessary in the programs. It is important to note that CTS courses are actually made up of independent modules with each expecting to take 25 hours to complete. While it is expected to take the 25 hours, some can be completed in much less time than that. Additionally, many of our CTS classes completed more than 5 credits in the semester meaning that we have exceeded the number of outcomes that Alberta Education would suggest we complete.
3. Bus Loop – The bus loop has been paved and it will be operational once the lines are painted. It is expected that the loop will be ready for Tuesday, October 11th. This is considering the weather and ability to paint the lines. We will provide a further update specific to parking, what entrances to use and where to drop off students for those that drive. The bus loop will only accommodate bus drivers once it is open.
4. Safety Issues – As of today, the school has undergone numerous air quality sample testing, fungal testing in areas as well as a visit from Occupational Health and Safety and Alberta Health Services. All of our testing has come back indicating that there are no concerns at the school level in regards to safety of our students. Air quality and fungal report information questions can be directed to Larry Loven at lloven@echoglen.ca . A copy of the Occupational Health and Safety report is available and is posted at the office in the school. A report by Alberta Health Services is being delivered to the school. The school did pass the inspection. It is important to note however that the school still is undergoing a modernization so there will be times that noise, dust and odors will occur in various parts of the building. However, students and staff have been told to let administration know about any concerns and we will address it with the contractor immediately.
5. Temperature Levels in the School – There are areas of the school that are currently under serviced which mean that some classrooms are a little colder than expected. A new gas line is being installed once some work on the roof is completed. This work on the roof is taking place at the moment and should be done before the end of next week at the latest. Work on the remaining areas of the roof will continue once the gas line is installed.

6. In other areas, the temperature is too warm. The contractor is working on regulating the heat to make it appropriate to the area.
7. Asbestos Abatement – As of today, it is estimated that approximately 98% of the abatement has occurred. Any abatement that has taken place or will take place must be done in accordance with Alberta’s regulation on hazardous waste. In practice, abatement takes place in a controlled environment meaning that students will not have access to those areas. Workers who work in a controlled area are not allowed out of the area unless that have been uncontaminated prior to exiting the space. This ensures that no asbestos fibers are leaking into any occupied spaces. Through the use of an independent contractor who is hired by Alberta Infrastructure, air quality is sampled in all areas that are being abated as well as outside the area to ensure that the contractor responsible for the abatement are following the correct procedures. At no time are students exposed to areas that are being abated.
8. Workers in Student Occupied Spaces – The school has asked that workers working in areas that students are required to be in is kept at a minimum. At times, there are workers who will be walking through hallways or inspecting areas in hallways or classrooms. Again, this is an active modernization so they need to look at areas or complete/adjust work in areas where students may be. An example of this is hallways. Our contractor is following safe working procedures as are used in hospitals and shopping centers where large amounts of people are located. The majority of the work that will take place will occur in the evenings and weekends. The contractor’s employees will be wearing their personal protective equipment as they walk through the school since that is their “uniform.”
9. Water Leaks – There are numerous water leaks in the school due to the work happening on the roof. As you can imagine, the roof cannot be done over the span of a few days. As we discover leaks, we report them to the contractor who addresses the issue in ways that they best can deal with. In some cases, we temporarily locate pails to capture the water while the roofers temporarily repair the area. In other cases, longer term solutions are sought to address the issue. Any leaks that are reported to school staff are provided to our contractor and they are addressed immediately.

I hope that the above information can assure you progress is being made in a controlled and safe manner. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at john.baldassarre@sturgeon.ab.ca.

As a matter of proper process, I do inform Alberta Infrastructure, Project Managers, of any additional issues brought to my attention so that they can respond accordingly.

Thanks,

John Baldassarre

Principal