

Lancaster Elementary school reopens with \$18.5 million upgrade



Lancaster Elementary School receives \$18.5 million in upgrades.

By Margaret Kavanagh, Reporter

Last Updated: Monday, November 26, 2012, 10:24 AM

[Share on facebook](#)[Share on twitter](#)[Share on google](#)[Share on email](#)[More Sharing Services](#)6

VIDEO STORIES

- [Lancaster Elementary School receives mega upgrade](#) 📺

ORANGE COUNTY --

Goodbye to portable classrooms and hello to a new \$18.5 million Orange County school.

Most of the renovations at Lancaster Elementary School are done and students move in Monday.

Students at Lancaster and adjacent Walker Middle School will now be sharing the same kitchen. They will also share a central energy plant and storm water system.

It's all connected and school leaders say the efficient design will save \$500,000.

School leaders said the comprehensive renovation is funded by the voter-approved half penny sales tax.

Students started the year in 40 portables and the former building that was over 50 years old. Through the new makeover, students will have new classrooms, a media center and an art and music lab.

There are new computer labs and there's digital projectors and interactive whiteboards.

But there's still more work to be done. Some construction remains including a covered play area, the physical education office space, storage and certain restrooms.

Lancaster Elementary is designed for 836 students attending pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The school originally opened in the 1961 – 1962 school year.

“Our children will benefit from this 21st century school, especially the classroom technology,” said Lancaster Principal Bibiana Gavillan. “We’re grateful to the community for this wonderful facility.”

“We like to move students into new accommodations as quickly as possible without disruption. The holiday break provided the perfect timing. These little Tigers will return to great new classrooms,” said Orange County Public Schools Chief Facilities Officer John Morris.

Orange County School District Leaders stated in a news release:

Comprehensive replacement includes:

- Secure campus
- Two-story classroom buildings; media center; administration space; cafeteria; music, art and computer labs
- Computers, digital projectors and interactive white boards in each classroom
- Expanded parent drop-off loop
- Expanded parking area
- Covered walkways
- Covered play area (completed May 2013)

Project efficiencies:

- Half million dollar savings from shared kitchen facilities, central energy plant, and storm water system with adjacent Walker MS
- Low flow toilets
- Occupancy sensors throughout
- High reflectivity white roof
- Energy efficient windows
- Irrigation metered separately from potable water to save on sewage charges