

SENTINEL SCHOOL ZONE

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Construction replaces three "open campuses" in Orange

Lauren Roth Sentinel School Zone

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Among the five renovated, replaced or new elementary schools opening this fall in Orange County, three of them are replacing schools that had the now-outdated "open campus" design that school officials have come to see as a threat to security.

Arbor Ridge K-8 had been a core building with portables for classrooms, and Brookshire Elementary in **Winter Park** required parents to cross campus, past the cafeteria, before reaching the school office. Eccleston Elementary, which was built with outdoor wings, was completely replaced.

The district is also opening two brand-new schools, Sun Blaze Elementary and Hackney Prairie, which will be the temporary home for Clarcona Elementary students while their school is under construction.

Marc Rummler, the principal at Brookshire, said the school now has a secure perimeter, and teachers can lock any classroom from the inside.

The renovation expanded the size of the kitchen, which was replaced after **Hurricane Charley** ripped off the cafeteria roof in 2004. The new design is two stories on a smaller footprint, which created a large field that students will be able to run in.

All of the classrooms also have updated technology, such as document cameras, wireless microphones and SMART Boards.

At Brookshire, which is designed for 680 students, nearly 5,000 new books were purchased for the library and the parent car loop has been fixed so parents don't have to wait across the street. The construction budget for the school was \$14.1 million.

The teachers are thrilled, Rummler said. "I don't know how many times I've heard that it's like Christmas."