

# LEARNING CENTER OPENS DOORS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### • K-1 SCHOOL PART OF DISTRICT'S 21ST CENTURY LEARNING PLAN

The Huron School District has been working on "21st Century Learning Centers" to meet the district commitment to "reconfigured" grade-level elementary schools.

Last year the Huron School District broke ground on the \$7.5 million addition to Buchanan, part of a \$22 million bond approved by the voters to renovate and construct the three elementary learning centers.

The new Buchanan K-1 Center opened this year, with the school previously serving as the Kindergarten Center for the previous three years.



Renovation of the existing building took place in a short time frame, which was a major undertaking to be completed in just three months. Each room received a makeover with brand new windows, carpets, ceilings, lights and cabinetry - all matching the standard of the new additions to the building.

This September, Buchanan opened its doors as a Kindergarten/1st grade Center, which also houses the special education pre-school program. Buchanan serves 210 Kindergartners and 220 1st graders, with nine teachers at each level.

"We have Title, Special Education, and English Second Language support services as well," Buchanan Elementary Principal Peggy Heinz said.

The facility has a full-size gym with six basketball hoops and a divider curtain allowing two activities when necessary. Each grade level has a computer lab and lockers that are color coordinated by grade-level, to help students know where they

are at in the building.

With the additional space, Buchanan is now capable of housing additional support staff, such as two school psychologists, and a deaf educator.

Heinz said with the additional space the school has a designated room for the Boost-Up program and large commons area that can be used for many activities, including breakfast, lunch, assemblies, collaborative team teaching, and faculty meetings.

"The physical education schedule is no longer dictated by



the lunch schedule," Heinz said. "A beautiful conference room, occupational therapy/physical therapy room, large student bathrooms and teachers lounge rounds out the state-of-the-art facility."

The school also has separate bus and parent drop-off areas and two large parking areas for staff and parents, said Heinz.

Buchanan also features a state-of-the-art security system with multiple cameras around the building including keyless entry for all staff and a secure main entrance, which requires all visitors to earn clearance before entering the school.

"We receive comments from parents daily on the beautiful Buchanan facility," Heinz said.

"The entire staff at Buchanan feels very fortunate and grateful to live in a community who supports education. Buchanan has 50 plus staff members that call the school their home."