

NEW BUILDING FOR A NEW YEAR

Discussions that began nearly ten years ago became a reality in 2014 for Stanley County Elementary School in Fort Pierre.

On Monday, January 6, 2014, students and staff began the new year in a new 36,600 square foot building, which placed all students in junior kindergarten through fifth grade under one roof.

The \$4.4 million building project, which took fourteen months to complete, has provided students with a safe, modern and inviting structure in which to learn. The new elementary building contains eighteen classrooms, a gymnasium, and a full kitchen.

Prior to this project junior kindergarten through 2nd grade students and the cafeteria were housed in one building with grades 3-5 and the physical education and music classes housed in a second building, Parkview Auditorium, which was located a block away.

Parkview Auditorium was built in the late 1950's and continues to be used for its gymnasium and business offices.

The building that housed junior kindergarten through 2nd grade was constructed in 1956 as a short-term structure to provide a school for the influx of students who arrived in Fort Pierre due to the Oahe Dam construction, had long exceeded its lifespan. The old building was demolished last spring to make room for a parking lot and playground area.

"I didn't realize how bad the old building was until we moved in here," 1st Grade Teacher Maria Scott, a 28-year veteran of the district, said.

While the new building was a must, moving in over 2013's Christmas break was an ambitious undertaking. Moving began December 19, 2013, but a major snow storm added to the challenge



for volunteers and staff.

Fortunately, nicer weather followed the following day and the move was completed.

While the actual moving of furniture, materials, and supplies took only two days, staff spent many days over the break unpacking and putting classrooms together in order to welcome students back to class.

"Considering how big of a project it was and less than ideal weather, it really went smoothly," 1st Grade Teacher Leah Peterson said about the move.

Staff and students waited a long time for a new building, which put all elementary grade levels in one location and are very grateful to now be spending their first full school year in it in 2014-15.

"The opportunity to collaborate with all the grades has increased on every level due to the now ease of access," Speech Therapist Jeri Wilcox said of the new building.

• *STATE OF THE ART KITCHEN ADDED*

With the move into the new Stanley County Elementary School, there are some fantastic changes that have taken place at the Stanley County Schools Food Service.

The district now has a state of the art kitchen.



The new construction brought new kitchen equipment and allows our kitchen staff to cook foods in a variety of healthy ways. A new convection oven, coupled with a more efficient kitchen,

provide opportunities for our kitchen staff to offer the students a greater variety of menu choices.

Students have a choice of a hot entrée every day, the option of yogurt or cheese stick and a full fruit and vegetable bar.

Our new food service manager, Nicole Prince, has implemented these changes since coming aboard in June.

The fruit and vegetable bar is all-you-can-eat and is filled with a large variety of delicious fresh fruit and vegetable options. More of the school menu features homemade items, fresh breads, and new choices for students.

The addition of the all-you-can-eat fruit and vegetable bar insures that none of our students leave the cafeteria hungry.