

Ockley Green opens

Ockley Green will become Portland's 12th middle school when it reopens this fall with a new, broadened program for North Portland students. Delays in remodeling, however, will cause classes to open initially at the Washington-Monroe high school building.

Don Starr, Ockley Green principal, said the delays will put the school into the Washington-Monroe building for four to eight weeks. (The high school was closed by the school board in July and its students transferred to neighboring high schools.)

The inner-North Portland school, which has served kindergarten through eighth grade students since 1890, now will serve sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Applegate, Beach, Chief Joseph and Kenton primary schools (Prior to 1910, the school was known as Albina-Multnomah School.)

The 1926-vintage building has been renovated with funds from the 1976 special levy for major maintenance and renovation. That eight-year serial levy has funded the remodeling of several schools.

Starr said the temporary facilities at Washington-Monroe will allow the new middle school to open with the same classes and same schedules as will be used in the Ockley Green building. He anticipates a smooth transition back to Ockley Green.

Until the move to the permanent building, students will receive bus transportation to Washington-Monroe from their neighborhood primary schools. After the move, those students meeting the school district's transportation criteria will continue to receive bus transportation.

Letters have been sent to Ockley Green parents explaining the temporary location and transportation.

Starr reported a full range of classes will be available for the Ockley Green Middle School students. Twenty computer terminals will be installed in the school. Computerized programs for remedial reading and math will be available, along with advanced classes in computer use and application.

The school will offer advanced placement in algebra, French, Spanish and typing, allowing middle school students to earn high school credit. A cooperative program with Jefferson High School, to which Ockley Green students graduate, will provide dance, drama and television production instruction.

In addition, Ockley Green will have a full music program, offering strings, instrumental and vocal music. Wood shops, home economics, art and science also are offered.

The physical education and athletic program will be affiliated with the Portland Park Bureau's middle school league for boys and girls.

Starr said more than 700 students are expected to enroll at Ockley Green. The student body will be approximately 28 per cent minority. Approximately 30 Southeast Asian students will take part in the English as A Second Language (ESL) program. Ockley Green will have a full-time ESL teacher and a community agent. More than 40 teachers will be assigned to the school. Staffing, however, will not be completed until a full count of the students can be made.

Starr and staff from the Area I administrative office worked extensively with parents from the Ockley Green community to plan new school boundaries and develop a curriculum reflecting the concerns of the parents and the needs of the students. Principals and parents from advisory committees at the primary feeder schools have met at the Washington-Monroe building to receive a first-hand briefing on the transition and the new program.

Ockley Green is also a community school, offering a wide-ranging program of recreational and educational programs to adults and students in the area. While renovation has been occurring at Ockley Green, the community school program has been held at Beach Elementary School. The program will continue at Beach for the fall term. For the winter term, which begins in January, the community school program will move back home to Ockley Green. Katie Bretsch is community school coordinator.

Renovation has changed the school's address to 6031 N. Montana Ave. The front door is now on the east side of the school.



HURRAY!!! It's time for school to start.

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