



A first glance at Warm Springs K-8 Academy



Neda Wesley and great granddaughter Heaven Stwyer visit the new school. Stwyer will start as a first grader in September.

"I'm excited that the school will be bigger and that it will have provisions for handicapped students,"
— Neda Wesley who will have four grandchildren enrolled in the K-8 Academy in September



Teacher Ramona Kaloi gets a look around the new school.



Teacher Sara Kollen shares a smile with K-8 Academy students.



Sammy Bruised Head works for Bend Commercial Glass and her children will be attending the new school in September.

"I love it. I think the kids are extremely lucky. My kids came today and they were so excited about the gym and the field."
— Sammy Bruised Head, parent and construction project team member

Community open house welcomes all

Students, teachers, families and community members came out for a look at the new Warm Springs K-8 Academy during an open house event on April 11. Visitors of all ages gathered in the new gym and peeked through doors to take in views of the surrounding landscape through large classroom windows.

"I'm proud to be a part of this project to provide this beautiful school to our kids," said Darryl Smith, director of Human Resources and Operations for JCSD 509-J. "I can't believe we were standing here in the trees less than a year ago," he added with a gesture to the A-East wing that will house kindergarten through 2nd grade as well as Life Skills and Special Education students in the fall.

"It's going to be a drastic improvement," said Jeff Sanders, Sr. "It will be a new start and the kids can associate with it as their school." The school is scheduled to open in September of this year.

Former Warm Springs students help build new school

Relda Kalama is the mother of five sons and one daughter. Her children grew up on the Reservation and attended Warm Springs Elementary School. Today, three of her boys are working on the K-8 construction project to help create a new school for the next generation of children.

"I'm proud of them and I'm glad we are getting something good for the kids," said Kalama.

Her son, Fred Jack, has been employed by the construction project since it began.

"It was all trees when we started," said Jack who works in security for Kirby Nagelhout Construction.



Stan Speaks, Northwest regional director and John Halliday, Warm Springs Agency superintendent help celebrate the new school on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"It's going to be a nice education center for youngsters and a good place to get them started on the right track."
— John Halliday, superintendent, Warm Springs Agency



"I'm really excited about the school. The way it looks inside and how new it's going to be."
— Hazen Bruised Head, grade 4

"It's been a long haul so it's pretty exciting to see it."
— Brad Holliday, school board member

"I like the size of the classrooms and the ball windows and size of the gym."
— Paullee Greene, grade 2

"It's nice to see. I hope it will be very positive for students and the community."
— Sara Kollen, 4th grade teacher



Fred Jack and his mom Relda Kalama share a hug at the Warm Springs K-8 open house.



(From left) Tribes owner representative and construction project manager Travis Wells takes a break to visit with family members Jeff Sanders Sr, Shirley Sanders and Fred Sanders.

"This means progress for our community as we transition from a BIA school. There will be more space for growth for our children."
— Don Courtney, executive deputy director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs



Teachers Taralee Suppah and Esther Kalama scope out one of the new classrooms to see how much space they will have.

"New location, new building, new ideas, new outlook. That's what I'm hoping for and what I plan to bring to the new school. I believe in honoring our culture and embracing education."
— Esther Kalama, 1st grade teacher



Don Courtney, executive deputy director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, led visitors in prayer at the open house.



Calendar

May	
5/7	2-hour early release
5/12	School Board Meeting 6 - 9 p.m. Big Muddy School
5/21	2-hour early release
5/26	No school-Memorial Day
June	
6/4	2-hour early release
6/9	School Board Meeting 7 - 10 p.m. SSB Board Room
6/12	2-hour early release (Last day for students)