

Platte Valley RE-7 School District Improvements

Education is important. In fact, Benjamin Franklin said that an investment in education yields the best dividends. That is something the community of Platte Valley RE-7 knows a little bit about.

In the fall of 2014 the community banded together to approve a bond for \$16.525 million. This money was needed to maintain and improve the facilities of RE-7 which will provide the best education possible for the students in the community.

As the 2016-2017 school year kicks off many projects have been completed. Several are visible by simply driving by, while others will need to be pointed out specifically. Either way each project benefits the students and community.

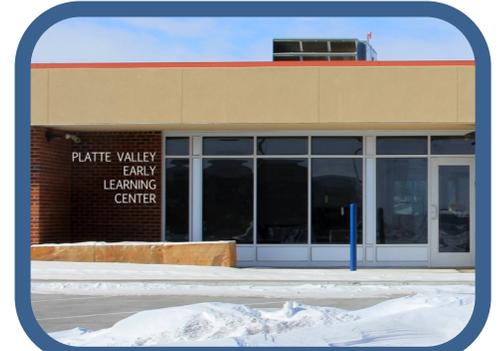
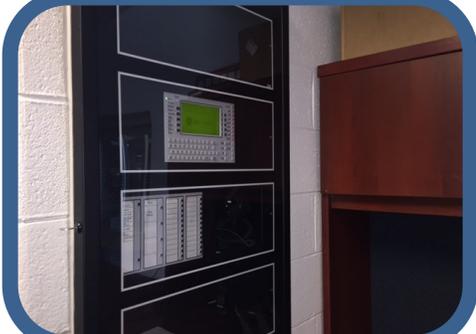
One of the biggest improvements to the district was the addition of the preschool to the elementary school. Opened in January 2016, this addition helps make the transition to kindergarten easier on the little ones. Another benefit is that it makes mornings easier on parents who have children in multiple schools, since the preschool, elementary school and middle school are all now in the same parking lot.

The elementary school updated the library as well as moving it to the front of the building. This gave the school the ability to create a presentation room where the library had been previously. A new coat of paint and white boards were added to make the space more functional. A combination cooler freezer used to be the main food storage for the elementary school, but now they have separated the two into individual units.

The middle school/ elementary school combination parking lot received a seal coat and new stripes. Now the parking spaces and the pickup lanes are more clearly delineated for safer travels. A new fire alarm panel was added to the middle school. This update gives better functionality and updates an older version.

The 52 year old kitchen also received much needed updates including a new layout, plumbing and dishwasher. Several windows have been replaced in the middle school. This will improve energy efficiency and lower heating and cooling costs. The field house has also received some attention. The concession stand has been upgraded to make it more efficient to both buy and sell food during events.

Over the summer the high school received a new parking lot. This upgrade was planned, but a happy surprise came about from the change. The





district was able to recycle the asphalt to give the softball field and several other driving surfaces new gravel. Though that's not the only new sports addition. The athletic facilities received some of the most notable upgrades with new press boxes for the baseball and softball fields, concessions stands, bathrooms and bleachers.

In the high school gymnasium new circulation fans were installed to help cool things off during games and events. Another temperature related upgrade is happening in the boiler room. Inefficient valves are being replaced with brand new ones. This update will help isolate each individual unit so that energy is not wasted in overflow heating.

In the technology division students will be able to choose if they wish to stand or sit at their desks in the fall. New convertible desks that allow users to stand and work were installed. On those desks pupils will have new monitors for the computers to work with as well. Throughout the high school tools such as projectors, screens and sound systems are being replaced.

Across the district internet is getting faster. The technology department is replacing old fiber cable with new Cat 6 A cable that has a 25 year warranty, should provide longevity and room for growth. Plus all of this new internet will be Wi-Fi capable, which means less cables throughout the district.

The district was able to replace two busses with this bond measure. School busses have an 18 year lifespan and are designed to be replaced around the 200,000 mile marker. The district regularly budgets for student transportation, so the buses can stay in good repair, but through this funding they were able to replace a few that needed to be retired.

All of these new updates sound very expensive, but the district has been very meticulous in its spending. Not only did they recycle the asphalt from the high school into other improvements, but they also were able to keep and move the marching band director stand to the new practice field. They have also made wise monetary decisions in their purchase of the internet cable. The price difference between replacing the old cable with the same material and the new faster speed cable was minimal, but the new cable will be able to better keep up with future growth.

These changes, which give the students the best educational advantage, would not be possible without the community. Thank you to all of the citizens. Everyone at Platte Valley School District RE-7 is grateful for your support. Together we make the students, school and community great.

