

## **OHS new additions open for tours on August 8**

Sunday, August 8, is the grand opening of the Owensboro High School fine arts and gym additions, which are scheduled for completion before the next school year begins. The public is invited to an Open House from 2 to 4 p.m. that afternoon.

“We hope that the community will come to see for themselves how fantastic our new facilities are. The additions feature the latest technology as well as much needed space. Our students and staff are so excited to have this beautiful addition and we want to share it with the community,” said OHS Principal Anita Burnette. OHS Student Ambassadors will provide tours.

The \$23 million expansion to the high school has added a 14,000-sq. ft. fine arts wing that includes a band and orchestra room, instrument and music storage areas, a chorus room large enough to accommodate chorus/dance rehearsals, and Wenger practice rooms. High quality recording technology allows students to practice and immediately play back their individual or group performances. A black box theatre, new dressing rooms and a scenery construction shop have been added adjacent to the school’s auditorium, which has also undergone remodeling and technological upgrades. The fine arts wing has been in use for several months.

The 2,500-seat gym is two levels with a walking track and exercise room on the second level. The gym will become the home court for OHS volleyball and girls’ and boys’ basketball teams and will provide a large enough facility to house the school’s approximately 1,100 students in one location for school events.

The gym is adjacent to the school cafeteria making it possible for gym concession counters to double as part of the cafeteria serving area during the school day. The gym will include additional classrooms and athletic offices.

“With the opening of the fine arts and gym additions, we have given our students the space and resources that they need to take already outstanding programs to the next level,” said Dr. Larry Vick, Owensboro Public Schools’ Superintendent. “The expansion represents a significant commitment of resources, but it is one that will serve Owensboro students for years to come,” said Dr. Vick.

Before beginning construction in June 2008, district staff and school board members spent more than two years gathering input from teaching staff and visiting other schools to determine the best design and equipment that they could provide for OHS students. Ground was broken for the project on May 15, 2008. The architectural firm of Sherman-Carter-Barnhart of Lexington, KY, and A&K Construction, Inc., of Paducah, KY, are the designers and builders.