



Urbana School District 116

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

News Release

Contact Name: Mark Schultz
217-384-3650
mschultz@usd116.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students and Teachers Return to Clean, Refurbished School Buildings *Nearly All Classrooms Are Air-Conditioned*

While the summer months may not see much student activity at school buildings, the months of June, July, and August have been hectic ones for Urbana School District #116 building and grounds staff. Director of Facilities Services Ota Dossett says his staff and contractors did around 1.4 million dollars worth of cleaning, repairing, inspecting, and refurbishing work to District 116 buildings.

However, Dossett says it's all in a day's work. "The Urbana School Board has been upgrading the facilities constantly over the last ten years. This is a continuation of the Board's long-term vision to offer quality environments to facilitate the educating of Urbana children," Dossett explains.

While the August heat is gripping the region, most District 116 classrooms are nice and cool. Dossett says all elementary buildings have an air conditioner unit in each classroom, the middle school is air-conditioned, and all but the 1914 wing of the high school is air-conditioned.

Some of the most dramatic changes this summer have taken place at Prairie and Thomas Paine Elementary Schools. Workers removed asbestos-containing floor tile in the classrooms and also took the time to refurbish classrooms. "To accomplish this requires us to empty every room and presents a perfect opportunity to paint and upgrade the space while all the furnishings are removed," Dossett says.

Urbana School District #116 Superintendent Doctor Preston Williams says this summer's cleaning and refurbishing projects represented a great start, but only a start. He says the public "will see that the Board of Education is committed to upgrading our facilities." Williams continued, "It's very important that our community and parents feel good about the school where they send their child. We want our facilities clean, but we also want the buildings to be in optimal condition. We want parents and students to take pride in the school they are attending."

For more information about the summer cleaning projects at the Urbana School District, please contact Mark Schultz at 384-3650.

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Urbana School District • 205 North Race St. • P.O. Box 3039 • Urbana, IL 61803-3039