

News and issues affecting our community



NOW Photos by Charles Auer

Skylights create dramatic lighting in the main corridor of the new Oak Creek East Middle School. The 690-foot-long hallway forms a spine, connecting elements of the school.

## a HALLmark

New school impresses students and staff who are used to much more cramped conditions

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After months of construction and weeks of preparation, Oak Creek East Middle School finally came alive Sept. 2 as the hustle and bustle of more than 800 students packed the school's shiny, new 680-foot main corridor.

The expansive hallway is just one of the major adjustments some students face from the comparatively cramped and outdated building that housed their classes last year.

Overall, the building promises to offer a much more pleasant educational experience for students and teachers, with classrooms and gathering areas equipped with more space and better learning tools, Principal Peter DeRubeis said.

"The lighting is better, the corridors are wider, everything is laid out in a much easier, more accessible pattern," he said. "You name it, I think it's just better."

Particularly impressive is the school's cutting-edge

### AT A GLANCE

**WHAT:** East Middle School open house

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 6

**WHERE:** East Middle School, 9330 S. Shepard Ave.

**DETAILS:** A dedication ceremony will be held, followed by tours of the school. Light refreshments will be served.

**INFO:** visit oakcreek.k12.wi.us, or call (414) 768-6260

technology. Each classroom is equipped with a computer that will enable teachers to utilize Web information and other interactive lesson plans on a projector screen, DeRubeis said.

Additionally, the school has six computer labs with about 30 computers each, including a separate computer lab for each grade level's wing, labs devoted to Project Lead the Way and Family and

Consumer Education classes, and reading resource labs, he said.

This is the first year PLTW classes are being offered at East Middle School, which

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The new gymnasium features a full-size basketball court that can be turned into two courts for physical education classes.

