



AUBURN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Brittaney Meyer
Superintendent

We stand together to place each child at the heart of every decision

July 25, 2024

Dear AUSD Parents, Staff and Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and enjoying your summer together. If we have not yet met, I am Brittaney Meyer, your new Superintendent. I have enjoyed my first few weeks in AUSD and have learned so much about our district already. One of my biggest areas of learning has been around summer projects, many of which are being done in preparation for the TK-8 transition. The purpose of this letter is to update you on our current progress on summer projects (pages 2) and provide answers to frequently asked questions (pages 3-4). Each of these topics will be covered in a separate and attached document following this letter.

Our staff have been working tirelessly to prepare our school sites for students. While I will forewarn you that there have been delays in some of our work, there is also a great deal that has been done and/or will be completed very soon. Please be assured that we have plans in place for student use of facilities during construction. Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility.

In order to keep the community updated on our summer progress you can expect one additional communication from me on the TK-8 transition the week of August 5th. Following this final TK-8 Transition update in August, all further communication about site projects will be sent directly to the community at impacted sites so as to streamline our communication methods. However, should you have outstanding questions that cannot be answered at the site level, please contact our district office and we will connect you with the correct individual.

As always, thank you for your partnership. We are all looking forward to the return of students, staff, and families to school sites and I, personally, look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming year.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brittaney Meyer".

Brittaney Meyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Summer Projects Update by Site

All Sites

- Round one of furniture and supply moves complete. Staff is currently working on inventory to make sure all classrooms have what they need. A second round of moves to rectify any identified issues will be completed prior to teachers returning.
- Deep clean of classrooms, common rooms, and gym floor maintenance is in progress and will be complete by the start of school.
- Bottle filler installation is almost complete.
- Portable building HVAC units have been delayed in shipping and will be installed after the start of school. Our maintenance and operations (M&O) team will be coordinating with principals to limit disruptions to school up to and including exclusively working after school hours.

Auburn Elementary

- Existing shade structure painting complete. Shade cloth install scheduled week of 7/29/24.
- Table tops for pocket tables in the cafeteria have been replaced. Bench replacements on order.
- New shade structure (metal) and TK/K playground upgrades in process. Division of State Architect (DSA) approval received. Playground equipment continues to indicate an on time delivery the first week of August. Current plans from construction indicate a mobilization date of 8/1/24. While we hope to complete installation prior to the start of school it is possible this project will be completed within the month of August but shortly after school begins.

EV Cain School

- Roofing projects complete.
- Replacement of all rooftop HVAC units complete.
- Hallway painting complete.
- TK/K wing bathroom conversion, TK/K playground installation, and existing playground revisions are in progress. Submission for approval to start work was provided to DSA in May 2024. Since this time, AUSD, in conjunction with our architect and construction firms, have responded to all required items by DSA and are awaiting final approval. At this time, it is anticipated that the EV Cain projects will be delayed with an anticipated completion date in early fall. For additional information on this please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section below.

Skyridge Elementary

- Existing shade structure painting and shade cloth install complete.
- New shade structure (metal) and playground revisions in process. DSA approval received. Playground equipment continues to indicate an on time delivery the first week of August. Current plans from construction indicate a mobilization date of 8/1/24. While we hope to complete installation prior to the start of school it is possible this project will be completed within the month of August but shortly after school begins.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

I see no construction being done at any sites at this time. Does this mean AUSD has put off addressing site work until the last minute?

No. Directly following Board approval, AUSD staff, in conjunction with our architect and construction firms, began work on these projects. There are a number of initial steps that must be completed prior to construction including, but not limited to, drafting of plans and submission to the Division of State Architecture (DSA). Auburn Elementary and Skyridge projects have already been approved and work will begin as soon as supplies are received (see above for timeline). The EV Cain project is not yet approved by DSA.

Where are we in the process for EV Cain right now?

DSA responded to our initial request for EV Cain with comments and AUSD provided further information as requested by DSA. While this is common in construction projects it does take time. Given anticipated response timelines from DSA we expect final approvals no earlier than mid-September with construction to directly follow.

Why were Auburn Elementary and Skyridge projects approved and EV Cain was not?

Auburn Elementary and Skyridge projects included shade structure and playground construction. Due to the nature of these exterior projects, a shorter approval process could be used. EV Cain's project included interior work and, because of this, had to go through a full approval process.

Will DSA approve part of the project to begin (like the playground) and then approve the remainder (bathroom conversions) later on?

No. When projects are submitted for a site DSA packages them all together. DSA provides feedback and approvals for the project as a whole. There is no way to separate out the work, therefore, we must wait for the full EV Cain project to be approved before we begin any work at the site.

Can you do prep work on the site while you wait for DSA approval such as playground prep work or bathroom demolition?

No. These steps are dependent on DSA approval.

Where will TK/K students play while we wait for the playground installation?

Principal Mabery has plans to use the small gym for TK/K recess until the playground is complete. Age appropriate equipment and games will be available for student use. As an upside, the gym has air conditioning and will provide a cool place to play at the start of the school year. Auburn Elementary and Skyridge will work on similar plans to address TK/K play space should they experience a delay at these sites.

What bathroom will the EV Cain TK/K students use?

The current TK/K bathroom is in working order, construction is being done to install a small toilet and lower sink in each restroom. Prior to construction, TK/K students can use the bathroom in their wing. During construction, TK/K students can use nearby restrooms.

What about site disruptions during the construction process?

Staff are collaborating on a plan to minimize disruptions at present. Once we have a timeline we will work with Principals and communicate with the school site community to outline next steps. While there will inevitably be some disruption our goal is to minimize this as much as possible and would like to thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.