



April 18, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After much anticipation, we are very excited that the CTS Modernization Project at James Fowler High School is moving forward.

The modernization will include the rebuilding of our Automotives, Autobody, Welding, Building Construction and Communication Technology on our third floor. Our Arts-Centred Learning space will be expanded. We will also see updates to the Cosmetology classroom/lab and the Learning Commons. Domestic Foods will be updated; however, there will not be construction on a new commercial kitchen for our Culinary Foods area.

Our Robotics area will have additional space for Pre-Engineering. Other work that must be completed as part of this modernization includes our wireless system, security and fire alarms, sprinklers and a new elevator.

The construction will be completed in the following phases:

PHASE	AREA UNDER CONSTRUCTION	START DATE	COMPLETED
Phase 1	Learning Commons	December 2016	August 2017
Phase 1B	Arts-Centred Learning	April 2017	January 2018
Phase 2	Construction of Heavy Shops (Welding, Building trades, Autobody, Automotive, Communication Technology); Third-floor washrooms and Wireless upgrade	March 2017	January 2018
Phase 3	Light Shops (Fashion, Domestic Food and Robotics), Cosmetology and Sprinklers	February 2018	August 2018
Phase 4	New Elevator	May 2017	August 2018

Since you were last updated in November 2016, there have been some changes to the areas of our school that will be included in the modernization. Unfortunately, our initial plans were not within the funding provided by the Government and we had to make difficult choices as to the spaces that will not be updated at this time. We are no longer able to complete the construction of several washrooms or renovate the locker/change rooms. The renovation of the Student Centre ceiling and the main entry ceiling are also on hold until additional funding becomes available. We understand that you may be disappointed that these spaces are not being updated. Our priority was to put the funding toward the learning spaces that will make the most impact on students' learning and their success.

This is a challenging project, given that construction will occur while our school is operating. Throughout construction we will work closely with the general contractor to minimize disruption to student learning. Work that is noisy and dusty will be completed after hours, on weekends or during school break periods whenever possible. Safety of students and staff is a top priority during construction and we will continually provide updates and information on any hazards that they need to be aware of and how they can be avoided. Students can anticipate safety zones built around the construction areas. Depending on where they are located they will either prevent or allow movement in hallways or entrances. In the event they prevent movement in hallways we will communicate with students regarding alternatives for access to classrooms.

We expect the modernization to be complete by September 2018 and all course options will be available to students that fall.

An update on the modernization will be given by our Area Director, Darlene Unruh and Trustee, Lynn Ferguson, at the next school council meeting on May 2. All parents are welcome to attend.

Further updates will be provided as the modernization progresses.

Kind Regards,



Keith Johnson, Principal
James Fowler High School