

ALL THINGS NEW

"I wish I could stay in the bathrooms all day long!" What a telling comment made by one of our seniors when I asked her how she liked the work that had been done over the summer.

I hope that you have the opportunity very soon to come by the school and take a look at the renovations and upgrades to our school campus. You'll notice them when you enter, a freshly painted and repaired walkway and front doors opening into a bright lobby showcasing memorabilia from St. Matthew and St. Frederick's early days. The lobby restrooms have also undergone renovations, including new stalls and mirrors.

We are delighted to have a "new" conference room with storage cabinets, a refrigerator, and a new table and chairs to welcome visitors and parents for meetings. We are grateful to Jeff Johnson for the donation of the conference room furniture.

The commons area is amazing—gone are the old, deteriorating picnic tables and benches, which have been replaced with plastic-coated metal benches and tables. New plantings have been added, and the brick façade adjoining the teachers lounge has been demolished, giving way to sunlight to the faculty work area. The work in the commons area was donated by the Classes of 2007 and 2008 and by Tom and Sharon Scott and Jeff and Nelly El Scott and Elkins families.

You'll also see the layout of our St. Matthew Prayer Garden in the commons area. The statue of St. Matthew is due to arrive from Italy in the next few weeks, and its installation will be followed by a dedication ceremony honoring our connections with the St. Matthew Parish community.

Also, many of our classrooms boast new paint jobs, two of which are designated as 21st century classrooms. The main hall restrooms for our students have been repainted and renovated as well.

Still to come are the addition of security lighting in the commons area joining the installation of Nightwatchman lights in the parking area adjacent to 33rd street and new signage directing visitors around the campus.

The cafeteria is set to open this coming Tuesday—gleaming appliances, floors, and storage areas abound in that area as well

As you can tell, we are thrilled to see the many changes to our campus and we can't wait to share them with you. I am grateful to School Council president Evelyn Johnson who has overseen the renovations, and the many volunteers and donors who have given new life to the grounds, including Garrett Whipple, Christopher Noren, Drew & Abigail Johnson, Doll Vines, Bob, JT, and Jake Brown, Jesse LaPietra, Hut Howell, Jon Guice, Archie and Chris Brown, Tommy Fields, and Susan Stephens, and a special thanks to staff members Adriane Hebert, Mike Cooper, Liz Craft, Dennis Baum, Ruthie Brown, and Odell Brown, for all of their efforts as well.