

BACK TO SCHOOL

Construction gives facelift to campuses



Staff / Nathan Self

Mount Vernon Presbyterian School Head of School J. Brett Jacobsen, Ph.D., inspects the Glenn Campus' new middle school being built by **Winter Construction** for an Aug. 24 opening.

By Noreen Lewis Cochran and Laura Braddick

nside@neighbornewspapers.com

While students attended summer camps, traveled with their families or caught up on their reading, contractors were busy improving local public and private schools.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian School in Sandy Springs will open a new middle school on its Glenn Campus, built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Development standards set by the Washington-based U.S. Green Building Council, spokeswoman Stephanie Nguyen said.

"The new eco-friendly, LEED-certified building will house approximately 150 students from the seventh and eighth grade only," she said. "Construction began when school let out in mid-May and is scheduled to be ready for students as they come back on Aug. 24."

Head of School J. Brett Jacobsen, Ph.D., said Midtown-based **Winter Construction** and Buckhead-based Collins Cooper Carusi Architects, the same team that built

the school's LEED-certified upper school last year, have succeeded again.

"All permanent buildings which will be part of the Glenn Campus will be LEED-certified," he said. "This creates a campus both environmentally responsible and energy efficient, ultimately saving the school a tremendous amount of money."

The Epstein School in Sandy Springs made room in its Goldstein Media Center for a preschool reading nook, according to its spokeswoman, Coleen Lou, a feature that coincides with the preschool program's expansion to include 18-month-olds.

Students at North Springs Charter High School in Sandy Springs will discover their building upgraded with a \$4 million heating and cooling system installed by the Vinings branch of Birmingham, Ala.-based Doster Construction Co.

"The new system will be a blessing during the dog days of late summer and during the winter months, too, when the building was alternately too hot or too cold," Principal Lisa Stueve said in a statement.

North Atlanta High School in Buckhead received new flooring, furniture, lockers and bleachers this summer during the second portion of a comprehensive three-phase, \$29 million renovation project that began in spring 2009.

The improvements also included a new media center, outdoor courtyard, renovated locker rooms and an artificial turf playing field.

According to a press release from Atlanta Public Schools spokesman Keith Bromery, the upgrades are designed to allow the building a smooth transition into the new Sutton Middle School.

A new high school building is planned to be constructed in Buckhead. A completion date for construction has not been set yet.

In the meantime, to ease overcrowding at Sutton, eight portable classrooms will be used this school year.

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