

## Dover High School groundbreaking goes off regardless of gray skies

By Sarika Jagtiani, Staff Writer

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Dover, Del. —

Amidst Tuesday morning's soggy grass and gray skies, elected officials, community members, Capital School District staff and administrators and, of course, students, packed a tent shoulder-to-shoulder to witness the groundbreaking on the new Dover High School on Route 8.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Thomas — who happily pointed out the Dover High graduates in the crowd — said a community member recently said of the school, “This is done about every 50 years, what a day.”

“And I agree, what a day,” Thomas said.

Thomas credited everyone in attendance and may not present for their continued support.

“You can't advance things like this without a large group of people,” he said.

Rep. Darryl Scott, a former Capital School Board member and father of a Capital student, thanked everyone, emphasizing the community's role in the process.

“In a time in our state and in our nation's history when the economy is very tough, our community, many of you in this room, made a decision to continue to invest in education and in our children's future, and I want to thank you very much for making that investment,” Scott said.

Students should be walking through the new school's doors as of 2014 if all goes according to plan, said Carl Krienen, AHBA Architects principal. For the next six to eight months, there will be a lot of earth moving and foundation work. By next winter, passers by will see the structure starting to rise up and take shape.

Central Middle School eighth-grader Allen Wilson is thrilled that he'll spend part of his high school years in the new facility.

“I think the school is great, it's humongous,” he said.

The avid reader and history buff is particularly excited about an expanded library.

“The library looks truly huge,” he said.

Fellow CMS eighth-grader Emily Calanza is looking forward to having more educational opportunities as well, and hopes for an expanded teaching curriculum in the new school.

Current Dover High seniors Jazmin Salaberrios and Elizabeth Rivera are envious that their younger Capital counterparts will have expanded arts facilities. The seniors, who sang the “Star Spangled Banner” during the ceremony, said the current facilities are cramped.

“Right now it gets cluttered because band and chorus share a room,” Salaberrios said.

Rivera said the new space will not only be great for students involved in the arts, but will hopefully boost attendance at school performances.

“I'd be more inclined to come back and go if it's in a nice facility,” she said.

Sen. Brian Bushweller thanked everyone for supporting this project for the kids and the community. He described it as a symbol of what Dover is and can be.

“They've really did a wonderful thing for the greater Dover area. They created a shining star, a western gateway, a symbol of the fact that Dover and the Capital School District always looks to the future, embraces the future and welcomes the future.”

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Sarika Jagtiani photo

Rain didn't dampen spirits at the Tuesday morning groundbreaking for the new Dover High School. Digging in are (from left) Superintendent Dr. Michael Thomas, and school board members Kiran Clements, Phillip Martino Jr., Raymond Paylor, Kay Dietz-Sass and Thomas Keitel.



Sarika Jagtiani photos

Gold shovels and white hard hats stood at attention at Tuesday morning's groundbreaking, waiting for the Capital School District board members to dig into the ground at the new Dover High School.



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Former Dover City Councilman Ken Hogan takes a look at plans for the new Dover High School at the groundbreaking Tuesday morning.