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Springs Mills High to open in 2013-2014

July 31, 2012

By Michelle Horst - Journal staff writer (mhorst@journal-news.net) , journal-news.net

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SPRING MILLS - One year ago, ground was broken for the building that would later officially be named Spring Mills High School. Now the walls are up, the roof is on and the first coat of paint has freshly dried.

The building is two stories and 280,000 square feet.

Initially, it was modeled after Musselman High School, but after administrators made trips to surrounding counties, the school was redesigned. Berkeley County Schools Superintendent Manny Arvon said that the new schools are modeled after designs like those by Thomas Jefferson, and the buildings would fit well in cities such as Charlottesville.

Article Photos



Journal photo by Michelle Horst

"This is the biggest school that has been built with the School Building Authority in Charleston, and this is the largest high school built in the state," Arvon said, adding that the two main hallways on the first floor stretch the length of two football fields.

"The two main hallways split students up; it's better for students changing classes and it's better for control," said Don Zepp, construction manager.

The cost of the new school was approximately \$50 million, with \$28 million from bonds and the remaining amount funded by the School Building Authority.

"Everything is going on here - caulking work on the exterior windows, duct work, piping and installing glass inside the building," Zepp said.

The project is on track to open for the 2013-14 school year for approximately 900 students in grades nine-11, and 1,200 students

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in grades nine-12 for the 2014-15 school year. The student capacity is 1,500.

The entire school is designed for wireless technology; however, Arvon said that all the exact technology has not been picked out because he wants to wait as long as possible to be able to have the latest versions and systems. In the media center and computer labs, it is planned that iPads will be available for students to check out.

"We will have wireless through the whole school, and we will have smart boards in all the classrooms. The smart boards will also be TVs, and everything will be 81-inch," Arvon said. "Technology programs will be picked out later in the year, but the school board has meet with companies including representatives from Apple," he said.

"Our desire is to have a 21st-century school and classroom, because we have 21st-century students," said Marc Arvon, brother to the superintendent and Spring Mills High School's first principal.

The new school will also have a band room; dance room; fitness center for staff and students; softball, baseball and soccer fields; tennis courts; and an eight-lane track and football stadium, among many other features.

- Staff writer Michelle Horst can be reached at 304-263-8931, ext. 138.

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