

# District Breaks Ground on Olathe West High School

Aug. 8, 2014 ~ After months of planning, the district has officially broken ground on its fifth high school, located near Santa Fe Street and Hedge Lane in Olathe. The school, opening in August 2017, will be named Olathe West High School. The Board of Education approved Olathe West as the official name at its Thursday, Aug. 7 meeting.

Constructed for 2,000 students, the three-story 375,000-square-foot school will focus on the use of technology, open modular learning spaces, efficiency and collaboration among students. Official construction is expected to begin in a matter of days.

The Olathe Board of Education, city, county and state leaders, and members of the community gathered for the ceremonial groundbreaking on Aug. 7. Speakers included Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, Superintendent Marlin Berry, Board of Education President LeEtta Felter and Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland.

"This is an exciting time for our district and for our students," Superintendent Berry said. "I am grateful to the Board of Education for its willingness to take care of the needs of our growing district and I am grateful to the community for supporting this initiative so wholeheartedly. Opening a new high school doesn't happen often, but this is a great time for celebration of the district, its students and community."

The newest high school will feature a centrally located learning commons that will provide student gathering and education collaboration spaces that connect to the entire building. The school is designed with four wings, or learning communities, where students will attend classes. The high school will also include a media center, performing arts center, gymnasiums and practice fields for athletics.

McCownGordon, construction manager of the project, is collaborating with Hollis+Miller Architects and SHW Group for the project.

For more information about Olathe West High School, visit [www.olatheschools.com/olathewest](http://www.olatheschools.com/olathewest).



Superintendent Marlin Berry makes his remarks at the groundbreaking of Olathe West High School.



Board of Education President LeEtta Felter speaks during the ceremonial groundbreaking of the district's fifth high school, Olathe West, which will open in 2017.



The official groundbreaking of Olathe West High School occurred on August 7.



Board of Education members celebrate the groundbreaking of Olathe West High School.



Ceremonial shovels at the groundbreaking of Olathe West High School.

Photos by Ann Kohn