

## Progress 3: Students enter new Clinton Middle School

By Amy Kent Assistant Editor | Posted: Friday, September 18, 2015 9:44 am

CLINTON — There is no doubt Clinton School District staff, faculty and stakeholders elicit plenty of pride when reflecting on district accomplishments. Part of that comes from the high-quality education facilities the community houses.

For the past two years Clinton High School has received a bronze honor in the U.S. News and World Report as one of the nation's top high schools. The goal for the future, is for Clinton Middle School to reach that level of recognition.

Since opening for their first day on Dec. 4, 2014, students, staff and faculty have marveled at the school's impressive architecture and innovation.

The 2015-2016 school year is the first full year of education to take place at the new facility, and district administrators and teachers couldn't be more excited for the year to come.

"As we begin the 2015-2016 school year, students will benefit from the growth provided from being at CMS during the spring of 2015," CMS Principal Dan Boyd said. "The CMS leadership team revisited routines, procedures and expectations as we realized adjustments that could be made to improve our school. We're looking forward to implementing those things and we anticipate great things for our students at Clinton Middle School."

Though beginning classes in the middle of the school year last year presented some challenges to the district, Superintendent Deb Olson said it did offer valuable learning opportunities for school officials and went "extremely well."

It was the culmination of nearly 19-months of construction, \$21 million generated by the 1-cent sales tax and a 20-year action plan to upgrade the district's facilities.

What the completion represents to Olson, is an affirmation of the district's goals to match its image and exterior success to the success happening within the classrooms.

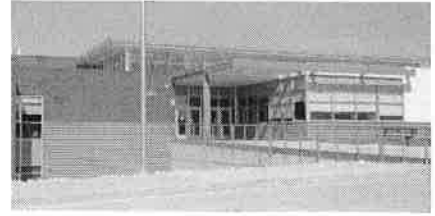
"This facility, like the other school facilities show to people outside of Clinton the emphasis that our community places on the education of our children," Olson said. "Clinton is a great place to raise families and educate children."

That sentiment is shared by many, but Boyd feels the students at CMS are the true beneficiaries and have taken on a sense of pride for their new school, unmatched by many.

When the new school opened in 2014, Lyons Middle School and Washington Middle School students were anxious to combine classroom space for the first time ever, but went into with open minds said Boyd.

Now, nearly a year later, it's like CMS has always been their home.

"Staff and students have benefited from our move to the middle school since December 2014," Boyd said. "(But) they truly believe now that 'we are CMS.' Our sixth graders have only known CMS as their middle school, but the seventh and eighth graders have embraced the mindset that is Clinton Middle School."



Middle School