

# NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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## **Mayor John E. McCormac & Woodbridge Township School District Facilities Improvement Project Welcome Oak Tree Road School #29**

### **Oak Tree Road School #29 Joins Woodbridge Township School District's Three High Schools, Five Middle Schools and 16 Elementary Schools**

**(Woodbridge Township)** - Mayor John E. McCormac and the Woodbridge Township School District Facilities Improvement Project today welcomed teachers and professional staff, students and parents, to Oak Tree Road School #29 – the first fully renovated Woodbridge Township School District building to open in nearly 50 years. Oak Tree Road School #29 opened its doors on Wednesday to 520 First through Fifth Grade students.

"Today's ceremonial Ribbon-Cutting represents a significant commitment by the Township Administration, the Woodbridge Township School Board and District Administration, the Municipal Council, educators, teachers, professional staff, parents, students and residents to improve the future of education for all students in Woodbridge," said Mayor McCormac. "We are proud to be able to work together to make our schools 'the best they can be' – not only in appearance, but in the quality of education received by each and every student."

Joining Mayor McCormac to announce the Grand Opening of Oak Tree Road School #29 were Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; Dr. Lamont Repollet, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Education; Abdulsaleem Hasan, Deputy Commissioner and Carolyn Marano, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Education; Dr. Robert Zega, Superintendent, Woodbridge Township School District Administration; Kyle Anderson, Executive Middlesex County Superintendent; Jonathan Triebwasser, President, Woodbridge Township Board of Education and members of the Board of Education; Debbie Meehan, President, Woodbridge Township Municipal Council and members of the Municipal Council and Principal Jill Osborne, Oak Tree Road School #29.

Mayor McCormac and Dr. Zega noted that the \$8 million renovation project got underway in 2017 after voters overwhelmingly approved a Referendum that established district-wide, full-day Kindergarten, new school construction and upgrades to existing school facilities and buildings. The 85,000 square foot Oak Tree Road School #29 is centered around an open community space on the ground floor with flexible learning environments for a variety of learning styles. Oak Tree Road School #29 features 19 Elementary education classrooms designed to support collaborative teaching and learning. The desks can be arranged in traditional style when necessary, or can be placed together so students can interact and share in small groups. Four new ADA-designed Kindergarten classrooms, three small Group Instruction classrooms and instructional space(s), art room and vocal music room, a multi-purpose gymnasium with new bleachers and a fully-renovated cafeteria with warming kitchen compliment the educational experience. Additionally, the new design includes administrative offices, teacher workrooms and parent/teacher conference rooms.

State-of-the-art Information Technology upgrade(s) have been installed throughout the building to include high-level security system(s), digital learning systems for students and teachers, wifi, fiber-optic(s) and voice systems, flat panel screens, oversized whiteboards and instructional technology transform the classrooms to captivate and enhance the students' learning experience. Structural renovations and modern upgrades to Oak Tree Road School #29 include energy-efficient building management systems - full building sprinkler system, air conditioning, heating and hot water systems and emergency generator; new elevator and vestibule addition.

"Our goal is to empower students who are life-long learners and it starts in an environment that fits their learning style," said Dr. Robert Zega, Superintendent of Woodbridge Schools. "By providing an environment that is engaging, interactive and new, our teachers can play to the strengths of students' learning style."

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