



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - PHOTOS ATTACHED

Godfrey-Lee Public Schools Breaks Ground on Restoration & Expansion Project

(WYOMING, MI) April 21, 2022 – Community members, administrators, and project partners of [Godfrey-Lee Public Schools](#) gathered Wednesday evening to celebrate the start of construction on a two-year restoration and expansion project at Lee Middle / High School. In addition to the shoveling ceremony, the event included a band performance and community cook-out.

BACKGROUND

The three-story building is over 100 years old. In June 2019, a structural failure caused a portion of the school's roof to collapse. Immediate safety measures were put into place, as the district and community worked to determine the best plan for rebuilding. Those discussions spurred a comprehensive master planning process. In November 2020, the community voted in support of a \$17.9 million bond program to fund a major transformation to the building.

"This project is a testament to our community's unity and support," said Godfrey-Lee Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Michael Burde. "Together, we are restoring and improving the school, to ensure it serves our students well for decades to come."

PROJECT SCOPE

Building Additions

- New 6,200 sf media center and adjacent flex space, with direct access for community and students
- New 4,300 sf band room to meet expanding needs
- Four new classrooms and an academic breakout area for project-based learning
- New cafeteria / multi-purpose space

Academic Space Renovations

- Classroom renovations and modern furnishings to create 21st century learning spaces
- Transformation of existing media center into a flexible learning environment
- Updated instructional technology

Health & Wellness

- Addition of modern mechanical systems and air conditioning, to create healthier air quality
- Conversion of current band room into Community Wellness and Resource Clinic
- Updating fire alarm and fire suppression systems
- Improved secure entry for controlled access to the building
- Increased accessibility, including a second story skywalk
- Adding roof insulation and replacing old mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment

The \$17.9 million bond program is being managed by [Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.](#), and designed by [TowerPinkster](#).

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ABOUT GODFREY-LEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Godfrey-Lee Public Schools is a small close-knit community school district with experienced and dedicated staff that offers small class sizes to a culturally diverse student population. This signifies the commitment to academic excellence shared by the staff and community. The community provides strong support for our schools, as exhibited through partnerships with a network of organizations, local businesses, and higher education institutions.

ABOUT O-A-K

Founded in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1891, Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. (O-A-K) is an employee-owned construction management company specializing in complex, community-driven program leadership. We believe the most successful companies are constantly adjusting to what they've learned. Driven by our core values of flexibility, accountability, and integrity, we manage the building process as an extension of the communities we serve. Learn more at owen-ames-kimball.com.

ABOUT TOWERPINKSTER

TowerPinkster is an employee-owned design firm specializing in architecture, engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, and technology design. Since 1953, TowerPinkster has channeled curiosity into unique and forward-thinking environments for clients and communities throughout Michigan and beyond. Recent work includes projects for Aquinas College, John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids Public Schools, and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The firm has offices in Grand Rapids, MI, Grand Haven, MI, Kalamazoo, MI, Jeffersonville, IN, and Louisville, KY. Learn more at towerpinkster.com.

Photos courtesy of Sabrina Ike