

WAO Building Project Update

March 2026

Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District invited members of the community to experience their newly renovated facilities at an open house on Tuesday, March 17 from 2:00PM - 8:00PM.

In November 2022, voters approved a \$24.9 million bond referendum to address security, accessibility, inefficient maintenance systems, aging facilities, and a shortage of learning space. After a new addition and extensive renovations, the district has expanded its square footage by more than 38,000 square feet! The additional space consists of new classrooms, a commons, gymnasium, offices, and a central kitchen. The high school and elementary school classrooms, restrooms, and libraries have been renovated. The school district also invested resources in upgrading extracurricular spaces like the main entrances, auditorium, track, and fields.

The open house started at 2:00PM with a program in the auditorium. Representatives from the WAO administration, school board, and students shared a few words and the program concluded with an official ribbon cutting ceremony.



The WAO National Honor Society led facility tours from 3:30PM - 6:30PM, with tours departing every 15 minutes from the commons. A free meal was served in the commons from 5:30PM - 7:00PM and about 400 people were served. The night concluded with an introduction of Pony spring activities and games in the main gym.

The open house provided an opportunity for the community to learn more about the improvements, efficiencies, and renovations made possible by their support of the 2022 referendum and for the school to express its gratitude!

Special thanks to:

- **Past and present members of the WAO School Board** for their leadership, vision, and support.
- **Past and present members of the WAO administration Team.** I am especially thankful for the leadership and hard work of former WAO superintendent Kirk Thorstenson.
- **Our facilities and construction steering committees** for all of the planning, execution, guidance, and support throughout this process.
- **Everyone from ICON and Donlar** for their expertise, efforts, and support. I am especially thankful for the leadership and support of Allie Stevens, Tyler Lawry, James Gross, and Tom Spoden.
- **All of the many, many, many subcontractors** who spent countless time working on this building project. The number of people and activity happening all at once...I honestly have never seen anything quite like it. A shout out to Bergstrom Electric (especially Zach) who was almost always the first one here and the last one to leave the work site.
- **I want to thank Ehlers Financial** for their wisdom and support.
- **All of the WAO staff** for their efforts, patience, understanding, and flexibility during this two year process. I have seen it over and over again...This is just an amazing group of people at WAO!
- **All of the WAO students** for their support and positive energy you gave all of us when we most needed it.
- **The city of Warren and the Warren Sheaf** for your support throughout.
- **All of the WAO families and community members** for your continued support and trust everyday.

This event was about celebrating an accomplishment, new beginnings, and reflecting on the journey itself. That includes extreme gratitude that we have for the part everyone had in making this special vision come together and what was accomplished here in our school and in our community.

As we all know, this building project at WAO is more than bricks and mortar. It's a statement of the investment in our students now and for many years to come.

It says to our students and staff: *We believe in you! We've created spaces where you can be comfortable and proud of your school. A place where you can learn, collaborate, create, make relationships with either, and dare to dream big.*

It says to our community: *We are so grateful for your support and trust and we think we've built something special here for future generations at WAO.*

With admiration and gratitude to all,

Bryan J. Hackbarth, WAO Superintendent



LET'S GO PONIES!!!