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Technology and Thoughtful Design Welcome New Students

Buckeye Elementary School District opens seventh K-8 school in growing district.

BUCKEYE, ARIZONA – (August 14, 2017) – More than a thousand parents and children waited in the courtyard, while other children played on the new playground equipment until the announcement was made to line up to enter the new Marionneaux Elementary School in Buckeye. The first day of school for the students was also the first day for the Buckeye Elementary School District’s eighth school.

The new school was constructed by CORE Construction of Phoenix at a cost of \$16.8 million and paid for by a bond passed in Nov. 2015. The school sits on more than 15 acres of land and is 86,174 square feet featuring three buildings serving kindergarten through eighth-grade. The school was designed by Hunt & Caraway Architects of Phoenix. The design goal was to provide a comfortable, educational environment for the students and teachers alike.

“We were very intentional in designing a facility paying particular attention to the programming needs of the thousands of children who will walk the halls for years to come,” said Dr. Kristi Sandvik, Buckeye Elementary School District superintendent. “With the idea of flexible learning spaces in mind, maximizing technology and personalizing the individual needs of children, the district worked tirelessly with architects and planning teams to deliver what we hope we will inspire teachers and students alike to challenge the status quo and enhance critical thinking skills for years to come.”

“We wanted to create an environment for our parents, students and community members that makes our school very warm and welcoming,” said Nick Forgette, Marionneaux Elementary School principal. “The goal we have with this school is to create a bond and partnership with our community to help raise and educate our students.

The campus, located at 24155 W. Roeser Road, has three buildings for the students. One dedicated to kindergarten through fifth-grade students, another for sixth-grade through eighth-grade students and the third building contains the gymnasium, kitchen, and library. The classrooms are designed with flexible

workspace floor-plans, state-of-the-art teaching technologies, including interactive teaching walls, STEM Lab, natural lighting, high-tech security systems and other features to enhance the educational experience. The school's student capacity is approximately 1,000 for Kindergarten through eighth grade.

“Ensuring our children receive a good education is one of the most important components a city can provide its residents,” said City of Buckeye Mayor Jackie Meck. “The City of Buckeye is thrilled to have a great relationship with its Buckeye Elementary School District. The largest and fastest growing school district in Buckeye.” Meck further commented, “We share the same vision in providing an environment dedicated to the success of each student by providing a world class education.”

In addition to the educational technology of the school itself, there are large ball fields, basketball courts and covered playgrounds, including one exclusively for kindergarten students.

“I love this school. I'm very impressed, said Marionneaux fourth grade teacher Adrienne Begay. “I've been at several schools and this school is amazing. Parents are in awe because they don't realize how it is, especially when they get to the courtyard and they see a middle school by itself. They love this school.”

As students settled into their new classrooms, principal Forgette had one final announcement for parents before the business of the school could begin. “Parents that are still visiting in the classroom we would greatly appreciate it if you could give your son or daughter a big hug and kiss goodbye so our teachers could start their day.”

All Buckeye Elementary School District schools opened Aug. 2. Marionneaux opened with approximately 700 students.

About BESD

Buckeye Elementary School District, Arizona District 33, is a PreK-8 school district in Buckeye, Ariz. educating more than 5,200 students and employing more than 650 staff. The district consists of seven K-8 schools, Bales Elementary School, Buckeye Elementary School, Inca Elementary School, Jasinski Elementary School, Marionneaux Elementary School, Sundance Elementary School and WestPark Elementary School. In addition, the school district also includes the Buckeye Elementary Preschool and the Buckeye Family Resource Center. For more information about BESD go to www.besd33.org.

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