



April 5, 2016

Dear Parents,

You may have seen media coverage over the past two weeks about the modernization at Bowness High School. I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with an update on the project and help clarify some misinformation.

Funding for upgrades and modernization of the school was announced by the Provincial Government in January 2014. The request from CBE for the project was for \$20 million. The Province initially provided \$16.9 million and then increased to \$18 million after we requested additional funds. There have been no other changes in the funding we received from government for the modernization at the school.

At the beginning of the process, the CBE took a look at the current and future programming needs for the school. Working with the school leaders and CBE Administration, a priority list of spaces for construction was determined. The modernization will provide new classrooms and Career and Technology Studies spaces that will meet the learning needs of students.

Demolition of one wing of the school began last spring with construction starting shortly afterwards. The wing was originally constructed in the 1950s. As part of the modernization, classrooms will be replaced with the same square footage and equal number of updated learning spaces. The school won't lose any space. We are on target to have the construction completed by the fall of 2016.

The top priorities, including a new robotics lab for the Pre-Engineering program, are being constructed. There is also a limited amount of additional space that will not be immediately used. About 8.5% of the renovation will be completed at a later date when funding is available and there is a need in the school. This will offer our school flexibility to adjust to future growth and program popularity. It is important to note that all of the programming choices being asked for by our students will be accommodated.

This is an exciting time for Bowness High School and we can't wait for our new learning spaces to be completed. More information about the project can be found on our website: <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/schools/building-and-modernizing-schools/Pages/bowness-high-school.aspx>.

Sincerely,

Jana Macdonald
Principal, Bowness High School