

Plainfield celebrates construction of Barlow School addition

[Mike Deak](#), Bridgewater Courier News

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PLAINFIELD - Students at DeWitt D. Barlow School will have separate places where they can eat lunch and play sports and exercise.

Construction is underway at the Farragut Road K-5 school on an addition that will house a new cafetorium and kitchen, plus a reconfigured gym.

The \$5.8 million project is anticipated to be completed in January 2020.



Participating in the ceremonial groundbreaking Thursday at Barlow School were: Front Row: LAN Site Manager, Carmencita Pile, Board of Education members Lynn Anderson, , John Campbell, Emily Morgan, Wilson Aponte, Principal of Barlow School, Sean Sutton, Buildings & Grounds Coordinator and school board member, Terence J. Johnson. Back Row: Jason Greer, Plainfield Public Schools Clerk of the Works, Kenneth Karle, president of LAN Associates and Gary Ottmann, Plainfield Public Schools business administrator (Photo: ~Plainfield School District)

“We look forward to utilizing our new cafetorium and gymnasium once they are complete,” Wilson Aponte, Barlow Elementary School principal, said in a statement. “These upgrades will provide for a more seamless day-to-day operation and ultimately create a better learning environment for our students.”

The school's gym now serves a dual purpose as the school's primary athletic space as well as the cafeteria. The 11,700-square-foot addition will allow the school to have separate areas for meal services and athletic events.

Because lunch will be served in the new space, the existing gym will be renovated with more space for gym classes and sporting events.

Within the cafetorium will be a stage so that the dining area can be easily transformed into an auditorium for school-wide gatherings and events.



An architectural rendering of the new addition at Barlow School. (Photo: ~LAN Associates)

“The new addition will provide adequate space for Barlow’s students and staff to gather,” said Kenneth Karle, president of LAN Associates, the architectural firm which designed the addition. “During design, we wanted to give each space its own identity while also ensuring that each would be flexible enough to fulfill its primary function.”

Plainfield school board members, other district officials and the LAN Associates design team, gathered Thursday morning at the school to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for the project.

DeWitt D. Barlow School, in the northeastern section of Plainfield, has an enrollment of approximately 370 students. The historical school structure is named in honor of Dewitt Dukes Barlow, mayor of Plainfield from 1937 to 1939 and a school board member from 1924 to 1937.

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