



FALL 2020

## Many Spaces Renovated at Each School



*The photos above show the Maine West entrepreneurial lab (top), the Maine South MTSS room (middle) and the new health office at Maine East.*

This summer was extremely busy in District 207 as construction crews completed the overhaul of approximately one third of the classrooms at all three schools. Those renovations included new floors, ceilings, lighting and paint. The new mechanical system providing HVAC for those rooms at Maine South and Maine West allows for 100% outside air to be brought in the space. At Maine East, a recently replaced system brings in a large percentage of outside air into the classrooms. Additionally, new furniture is being added to many of those classroom spaces.

There were several other projects completed in the first phase of construction. At Maine East, a new nurse/student health suite and special education workroom were completed and a secured entrance to enhance safety is nearly complete. At Maine South, some of the Career Technical Education (CTE), visual arts and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) spaces were renovated and departmental workroom/offices were created. At Maine West, a secured entrance was installed, while CTE and special education spaces were renovated.

*There are three phases and all work is scheduled to be completed after the summer of 2023.*

Residents can stay up to date with all construction related information in many ways including the district's website at [www.maine207.org/construction](http://www.maine207.org/construction). The website contains videos and photos of the construction progress and new spaces. ■



# Progress is Being Made Toward Completion of Construction Upgrades and Additions

Materials are delivered by crane to the third floor of Maine East as that floor is converted into fine arts space.



The construction of a new hallway that will connect the main building at Maine South with A wing is in progress.



A crane delivers materials to the former courtyard as that space is converted into a new cafeteria at Maine South.



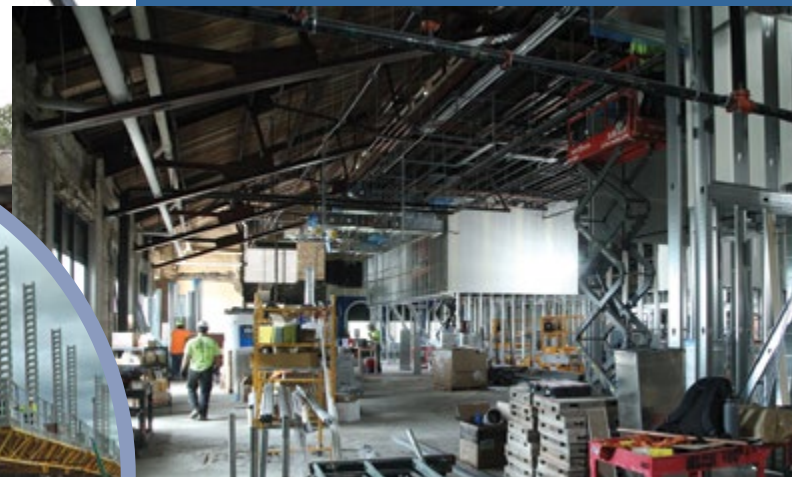
With steel supports installed, work begins on transforming the former courtyard into space for the new cafeteria at Maine South.



The swimming pool renovation at Maine West will deepen the pool and replace the original pool gutter system.



The renovation work at Maine East will turn this space into visual arts classrooms.



An aerial view of the retention vaults installed at Maine West.



The addition of new locker rooms as well as strength and cardio facilities adjacent to the field house is underway.



A view of the outside of the new Maine West field house as it begins to take shape.





**MAINE TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 207**

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Park Ridge, IL 60068

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**MAINE EAST**  
east.maine207.org  
847.825.4484



**MAINE SOUTH**  
south.maine207.org  
847.825.7711



**MAINE WEST**  
west.maine207.org  
847.827.6176



## Maine East Teacher Earns Top State Award

**Maine East Director of Choirs Kate Lee has only been at Maine East since the fall of 2018, but during that short amount of time she has had a major impact at the school. Her influence was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) when she was named the 2021**

**Outstanding Early Career Educator. Kate is one of just five teachers in the state to earn state-wide recognition from ISBE.**

“I feel humbled and honored to receive this recognition,” Lee says. “We, as educators, work so hard to serve our students every day that we don’t often have the time and space to take pride in our own work. I am grateful for this opportunity to celebrate the start of my career and give thanks to those who have inspired and supported me along the way.”

When Kate arrived at Maine East in August of 2018, she assumed leadership for a choral program that was in need of revitalization and she has dramatically increased the participation and has increased the number of choirs at Maine East. Kate also started a class for students of all abilities titled ‘All In Choir.’ The choir brings together special education and general education students.

Kate’s philosophy of education is influenced heavily by her experience as a first-generation immigrant from South Korea who was often provided an ethnocentric curriculum in her own K-12 education. “That led me to feel the need to be more American or White in order to not only assimilate, but succeed in school and in life,” she wrote. “It led me to be ashamed of my own cultural identity. As an educator of students of many different cultural backgrounds, it is my goal to provide a curriculum that is representative of my students’ cultures, so that they may further their understanding and connection to their own cultures as well as others. I seek to build a choral program that is inclusive, representative of our students, and culturally responsive and sustaining.” ■

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- 847.696.3600
- info@maine207.org