

Remarks at Vision One91 Groundbreaking
Principal Dave Helke
May 28, 2015

Good afternoon! I would first like to thank all of you for taking time this beautiful afternoon to join us for our Groundbreaking Ceremony. This is an exciting time for Burnsville High School, especially our students who are going to be able to experience a complete 9-12 experience

Over the past 59 graduating classes, Burnsville High School has established a strong tradition in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. Accomplishments in all of those areas are significant and the commitment our school board, district leadership, and community have provided throughout that time to achieve them is truly a testament to the value placed on educating our youth.

As we now kick-off our new construction and continue to realize VisionOne91 for our students, their families, our staff, and our community, we are so proud to be able to look forward to building an even stronger sense of community and richer programming for our students. Ultimately, this ground breaking is the start of creating a comprehensive 9-12 high school experience that is being designed to provide multiple areas of study for our students to help best prepare them for their future college and career experiences.

Ultimately, VisionOne91 and the future of our high school will be felt through the strong 9-12 community that will be created. In fact, right now as we are here for this event, there is a burnsvillestrong meeting occurring with the intent to create our own transition program to welcome and support our new students. With all of our seniors being here on one campus, the opportunities to develop their leadership and mentoring skills to support and guide our incoming 9th graders are endless. The potential for leadership for our seniors and the supportive school community created as a result is exciting to look forward to.

Additionally, a 9-12 high school experience is very much aligned with programming around college and career readiness. An additional year of high school experience will strengthen our students knowledge about and preparation for their post-secondary plans. It will provide an additional year for students to explore areas of study. The areas of study include a new health sciences pathway in which students will experience curriculum in a newly created nursing classroom and have the opportunity to pursue first responder and CNA certifications through partnership with Inver Hills Community College. To our right, the existing garage will be transformed into our automotive and construction trades center providing students opportunities in the area of auto mechanics, auto body, and construction through partnerships with businesses and colleges. Another area of study that will be greatly expanded is in the area of engineering, specifically focusing on research and design skills in a FAB and clean technology labs. Students interested in business marketing or information technology will be able to pursue classes in areas of interest with opportunities to collaborate on authentic projects in partnership with businesses and organizations. Also, collaborative learning spaces will be a feature throughout the new construction, allowing for students to work together on solving problems, creating solutions, debating

issues, and many more real-world tasks. With all of this programming, partnerships with business, industry, and colleges are integral with students having opportunities for authentic, real-world projects.

Finally, we are looking forward to all our 9th grade students being able to join and get involved in the many activities here at Burnsville High School. Having the opportunity to check out activities a year earlier is an advantage for our 9th grade students. Often, it is through these activities that students find their strongest connection with school and build their strongest friendships and sense of belonging. With an expanded activity center, our ability to maintain the strong tradition of Burnsville's activity and athletic programming will continue and grow even more.

Today is just the beginning as the many tomorrows to come beginning in 16-17 will be defined by a 9-12 high school experience our entire community will be proud of, our partners will be involved in, and, most importantly our students will find provides them with multiple areas of study, opportunities for earning certifications and college credit, and authentic real-world learning possibilities with business, industry, and community organizations.