

Hamilton students head back to school

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The Holland Sentinel

Posted Sep 07, 2011 @ 11:43 PM

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Saugatuck Township — Steven Redder started his eighth-grade year at Hamilton Middle School with a clean sweep — all the way down the sidewalk.

The student was lending a hand by pushing a broom Wednesday as his classmates slapped him on the back as they arrived for the first day of school.

“Perfect, perfect,” said new Principal Jason Feig as the last of the dirt and stones were pushed aside from the continuing construction projects at the building.

The work on the school, 4845 136th Ave., the attached pool and nearby football stadium was approved in November 2009 as part of the district’s \$16.5 million bond. The three projects total about \$6 million and are a continuation of work from last summer on the elementary school buildings.

“I would say that starting a school year with new leadership and a construction project is only pulled off by incredible staff — secretaries, custodial and teachers,” Feig said. “They have been amazing the last couple weeks getting all ready.”

The central office wasn’t ready for the start of classes, so students followed hand-written signs to handle schedule issues. Feig waved cars through the new drop-off lanes as construction workers carried coolers and equipment to the work site.

Hamilton was the last area district to start classes. Other public schools opened Tuesday.

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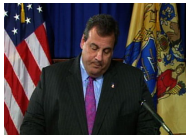


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