

A school for the 21st

by Tricia Moore

As daffodils poke out of the ground heralding spring, construction crews at Reynoldsburg Schools' Summit Road campus must be feeling a mixture of relief and pressure. The break in winter weather means fewer disruptions to a very ambitious work schedule, while the August completion deadline looms just around the corner. All eyes are watching as novel designs take shape in brick and mortar.

The Summit Road campus will be home to a K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program and a high school academy specializing in arts, communication and design. The high school building will house more than 1,000 students, while the neighboring elementary school will have about 400.

What's so novel about the high school plans?

Reynoldsburg was fortunate to be able to design the building at the same time as district educators were redesigning the high school curriculum to create a highly personalized, highly rigorous educational experience for every child.

Classrooms feature moveable walls, lots of windows and oversized doors that open to shared extended learning areas. These features mirror the academies' emphasis on college- and career-ready skills such as collaboration, self-efficacy, creativity, problem-solving and higher-order thinking by accommodating active learning in large and small groups.

The building showcases cost-saving innovations in environmental technology as tools for learning. *Slanted ceilings, light shelves and solar-sensitive electric lights mean that the school can rely almost entirely on natural lighting.* Geothermal systems will help

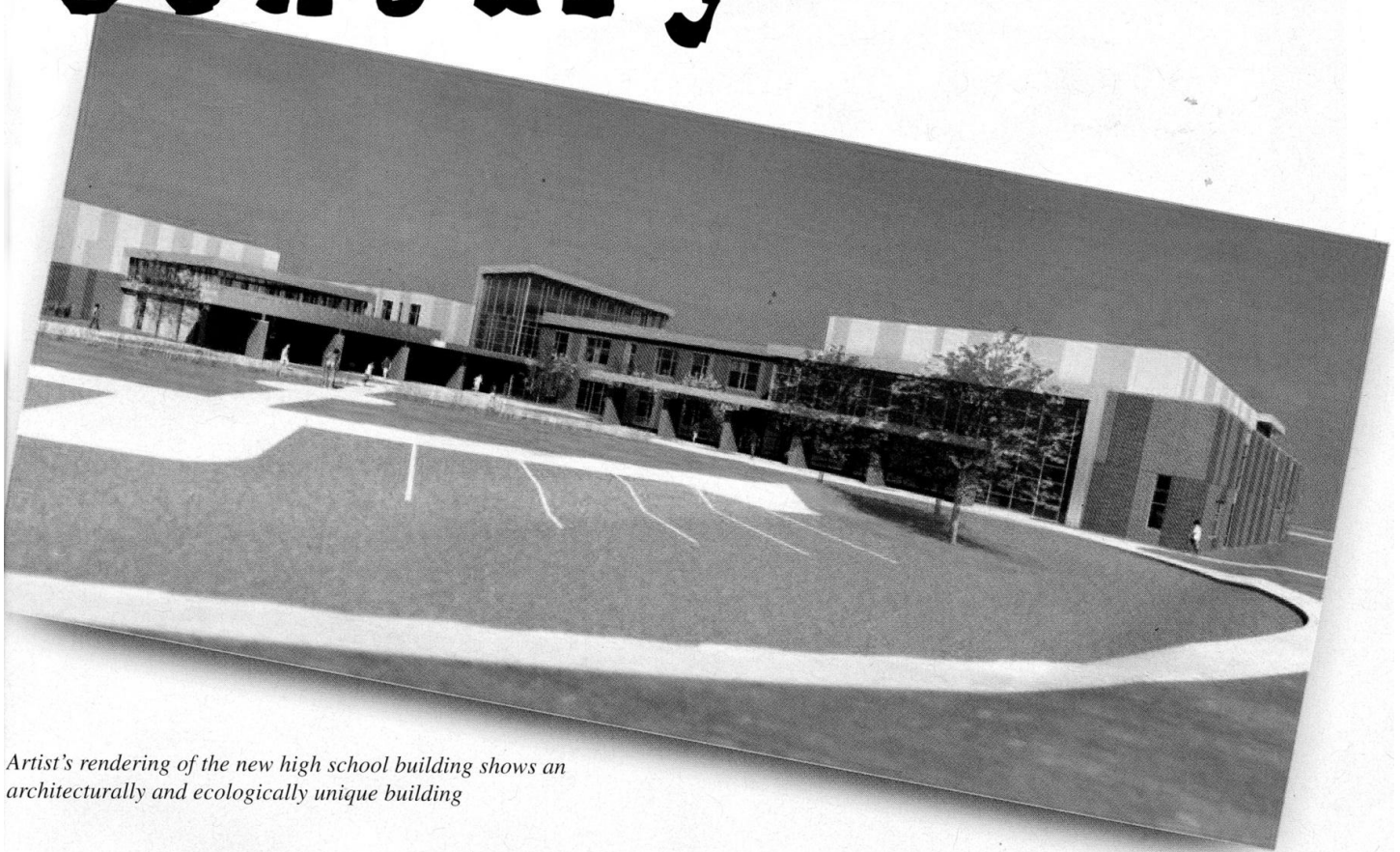
contain heating and cooling costs. All utility systems will be color-coded and labeled so that students and visitors can see how the building works.

At an on-site Eco-Learning Lab, funded in part by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, students will explore wetland, stream and riparian systems, and examine their findings in an adjacent science lab. A green roof will double as botany lab.

Also at the campus will be athletic and arts facilities benefiting the whole district and the community. Reynoldsburg will remain a one-high-school town, which has allowed the district to avoid duplicating facilities. A gymnasium, varsity softball field and 10 tournament-ready tennis courts at Summit Road will round out the district's fine athletic facilities at Livingston Avenue and Baldwin Road.



building Century



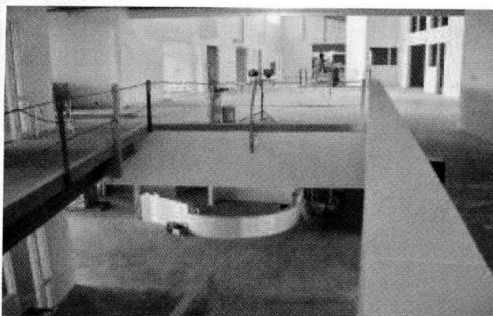
Artist's rendering of the new high school building shows an architecturally and ecologically unique building

A concert hall with seating for 1,100 will allow school music performances to be hosted in town after years of being displaced to

larger facilities only available outside of Reynoldsburg.

The entire project is on schedule and under budget. Reynoldsburg can take pride in its investment in

schools that demonstrate the community's commitment to an innovative, high-quality, cost-effective education for all students.



Reynoldsburg Magazine Photos

The photos on the opposite page show various stages of the construction of the building. The photo at left on this page shows one of the reception areas in the high school building. Natural light is dominating all throughout the building.

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