

Belmont Middle School



Grand Opening Celebration

August 15, 2021

Order of Program

presiding

W. Jeffrey Booker, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Introduction	W. Jeffrey Booker SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Invocation	Ricky Collins, Pastor BETHLEHEM CHURCH
Pledge of Allegiance	Belmont Middle School Students
Principal's Welcome	Susan Redmond
Greetings from the Board of Education	Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
Greetings from the Board of Commissioners	Ronnie Worley SOUTH POINT TOWNSHIP
Greetings from the City of Belmont	Charlie Martin, Mayor
Perspectives: Our New School	Briana Armstrong, Student Melissa Bocchino, Parent Melissa Pruitt, Teacher
Official Dedication and Naming of School	W. Jeffrey Booker
Presentation of the Building	David Bellamy ARCHITECT, LS3P ASSOCIATES Robert Browne GENERAL CONTRACTOR, BEAM CONSTRUCTION
Acceptance of the Building	Jeff K. Ramsey W. Jeffrey Booker Susan Redmond
Blessing of the New School	George Ragsdale, Pastor FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT
Formal Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	Jeff K. Ramsey W. Jeffrey Booker Susan Redmond Ronnie Worley Charlie Martin Ricky Collins George Ragsdale Briana Armstrong Melissa Bocchino Melissa Pruitt David Bellamy Robert Browne
Special Performance of the Belmont Middle School Alma Mater	Carrie Lineberger BAND TEACHER
Closing	W. Jeffrey Booker

Self-guided tours immediately following the program.

Faculty and Staff

Susan Redmond, Principal
Sierra Jennings, Assistant Principal

Amy Covington	Jill Warren
An Cao Truong	Joe Manning
Andrea Goryl	Julianna Arnold
Andrea Hallums	Laura Pearson
Anna Abromaitis	Linda Cathcart
Ben McKinnon	Lindsay Weathers
Brad Beaver	Lisa Taylor
Brianna Beaver	Liz Elias
Brooke Loftis	Lynn Conner
Candy Massey	Madison Brooks
Candy Massey	Madyson Pennington
Carey Galbreath	Mari Airhart
Carey Pohlman	Meg Wilson
Carrie Lineberger	Melinda Dunford
Cheryl Morris	Melissa Clements
Chris Baity	Melissa Pruitt
Christine Douglas	Michael Telesca
Christy Boyd	Nathan Sherrill
Deanna Baucom	Officer Jim Reagan
Debra Elmore	Pamela Walker
Donna Vickers	Phyllis Helms
Fred Nelson	Portia Benfield
Ismael Villafane	Sabrina Smith
Jaci Miller	Sam Hendrix
Jada Criswell	Sam Pruitt
Jennifer Cheshire	Sandra Crawford
Jennifer del Castillo	Susan Biggerstaff
Jennifer Jacobs	Suzan Strickler
Jessica Absher	Terri Furtick
Jessica Booth	Violly Walton

Facts and Figures

Address: 1020 South Point Road
Belmont, North Carolina 28012
School Mascot: Wildcats
School Colors: Kelly Green and Navy Blue
Number of Students: 730

Groundbreaking Ceremony: March 25, 2019
Grand Opening Ceremony: August 15, 2021
Cost to Build: Approximately \$40 million

Major Features: Contemporary Design
155,000 Square Feet of Space
Modern Classrooms
Science Labs
State-of-the-Art Library/Media Center
Cafeteria/Multipurpose Room
Large Gymnasium Complex
Courtyard Area

Gaston County Board of Education

Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
Dot Cherry, Vice Chairman
Kevin Collier
Justin Davis
Lee Dedmon
Dot Guthrie
Steve Hall
Robbie Lovelace
Brent Moore

Gaston County Board of Commissioners

Tom Keigher, Chairman
Allen Fraley, Vice Chairman
Chad Brown
Bob Hovis
Kim Johnson
Tracy Philbeck
Ronnie Worley
Dr. Kim Eagle, County Manager

Belmont City Council

Charlie Martin, Mayor
Jim Hefferan, Mayor Pro-Tem
Martha Stowe
Ryan Schrift
Richard Turner
Marc Seelinger
Adrian Miller, City Manager

Construction of School

Architect: LS3P Associates
General Contractor: Beam Construction Company
Subcontractors:
Honeycutt Grading ECS Limited
Dallas Electric Company ARP Engineering
Foodesign Associates Learning Environments
Optima Engineering Hoyle Plumbing
Meteor Furnishings Benesch Engineering
Atlantic Commercial Caseworks
Hanson Professional Services
Superior Mechanical Systems

Special Thanks

Communications Department
Business Partnerships Office
School Nutrition
Facilities/Maintenance Department
Ford's Seed Store
Upchurch Garden Center
Harris-Teeter

Belmont Middle School

The new Belmont Middle School is the community's crown jewel.

Speeches, praise, and applause were the order of the day on March 25, 2019 when school, city, and county officials came together to celebrate the groundbreaking for Belmont Middle School. Today, August 15, 2021, the vision that everyone shared for a contemporary school campus comes to fruition with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that signifies a milestone for the Belmont community.

The new Belmont Middle School is an investment of approximately \$40 million – a construction project paid for through the 2018 school bonds. The building features more than 40 modern classrooms, various instructional spaces/collaboration rooms, science labs, administrative offices, teacher workrooms, conference rooms, a large cafeteria/multipurpose space, gymnasium, band/chorus rooms, and other areas. It is designed for 1,000 students with core areas of the school such as the cafeteria and gymnasium built to accommodate 1,200.

Unlike the historic school building on Central Avenue that served the community for eight decades, the new, 78-acre campus has its own athletic fields and plenty of space for parking, buses, and student drop off and pick up. There are more than 200 parking spaces, and the traffic lane can accommodate 100 cars. The sports complex includes a multipurpose football field with a six-lane track, baseball and softball fields, bleachers, a field house, and equipment storage facility. Trees and other vegetation behind the fields create a nice forest-like area where there is enough room for another school campus someday.

The contemporary, two-story structure is stately in appearance, thanks to the contrasting color of bricks, numerous large windows, and state-of-the-art design that rivals any modern school facility. The building, which maximizes the use of natural light and is energy efficient, has more than 155,000 square feet of space. The color scheme provides an inviting look for the school's interior. A shade of Kelly green is the primary color found throughout the building with hints of light green and navy blue as accent colors. Signage throughout the building and graphics featuring historic pictures and inspirational words are eye-catching.

The spacious classrooms are designed to support collaborative teaching and learning. The desks can be arranged in traditional style when necessary, but most times, they will be placed together so students can work in small groups. Flat panel screens, oversized whiteboards, instructional technology, and other features transform the classrooms and captivate the students' attention through highly visual and interactive elements. Sixth grade and fine arts classrooms are located on the first floor, and seventh grade, eighth grade, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) classrooms are located on the second floor.

At the heart of the school is the library/media center. No matter where you are in the building, you are only a few steps away from the library and its many academic and enrichment resources. Another significant feature is the gymnasium complete with a spacious lobby, locker rooms, concession stand, and weight/wrestling areas. The gymnasium is a stand-alone space that is connected to the main building by a hallway and outdoor courtyard area. The design makes the gymnasium conducive for hosting events after hours and on weekends without having to access the entire building.

Belmont Middle School is the third new construction project for Gaston County Schools in the past five years. Pleasant Ridge Elementary School in Gastonia opened in August 2017, and Stanley Middle School, which is similar in design to Belmont Middle, opened in March 2018.

No matter who you ask, everyone agrees that Belmont Middle School is a shiny new showplace for teaching and learning, collaboration, discovery, inspiration, friendships, memories, and so much more. Simply put, it is the community's crown jewel.