

BODY & MIND

2 high schools get new gyms

Kirby's renovations force alternate class locations

By Jasmine Hall
Kirby High School

As the last school on the MCS gymnasium renovations list, Kirby's students are forced to suffer due to limited space.

"It's just so hot", said 12th grade gym student Benjamin Norfleet as he fans a magazine and wipes sweat off of his forehead.

Due to ongoing renovations three classes have to share one small gym. Each teacher has about thirty students, while one teacher has 46 students.

"It's a little bit hotter with three classes and I had to adjust to smaller settings," Coach Katarii Donald said.

Coaches are required to use a variety of teaching methods. Activities such as basketball, weight lifting and volleyball are included in the curriculum. Each class gets about half the gym to use during class time. There are no seating arrangements and classes are shortened.

Coach Gaylon Jones said he tries to do as many outside activities as possible but person-



Photo by Jasmine Hall, Kirby

Kirby's new gym floor has a logo with the school mascot, a cougar, and a big white K.

ally does volleyball.

"Sometimes it stinks in here," said Alexandria Starks of Kirby High School.

Some physical education students said they have lost their motivation and don't want to go to class.

Moving classes and putting them on appropriate time schedules has been a challenge for

Kirby's principal, Reginald Williams. He said he is looking forward to the new gymnasium and is very excited about it.

The new gymnasium will have brand new floors, bleachers and paint. Painters are currently working on the paint. But Williams said when the gymnasium is completed it will be state of the art.

Overton gym gets 'upgraded,' boast new floors and AC

By Celeste Adams
Overton High School

Beyonce's "Upgrade Ya" might not play on the radio anymore, but in Overton High School's new gym, it would be the perfect song to go



along with the new blue and white bleachers and freshly painted walls. Since the 1990's Overton has been the same, but this year OHS is getting upgraded.

This summer, construction workers have been at Overton working hard on the gym. In the past, the gym had no air conditioner, old wooden bleachers and dust everywhere. Now, students have the oppor-

tunity to enjoy a fully redesigned gym with cool sir and new shiny floors.

"When I first saw the gym I thought it was impressive" said Steve Bercier, a coach at Overton. "The new floors make the lighting look brighter and the kids really enjoy it."

During a physical education class students can actually be seen lying on the floor while others enjoy a game of basket-

ball.

Amanda Glover, an Overton student, says the gym is nice and comfortable. With five physical education classes and extracurricular activities after school, the new gym is getting more than enough attention.

Overton athletics have stepped up their game and are looking forward to showing off their new skills as well as their new gym.

Student keeps moving to his own rhythm

By Artice Carter
Central High School

Sherrod Hughes has a gift of music, but his music has hit a sour note recently. The junior at Westwood High School was diagnosed with two debilitating diseases.

Three years ago Hughes was told by doctors he has Pars Defect and Scoliosis, both diseases affect the function and growth of the spine. Hughes has been jamming with music since he was 2 years old.

He started playing in band in sixth grade when he got to Corry Middle School. In the ninth grade, his dreams of continuing to play the drums in the school marching band came to a halt when he became impaired.

Pars Defect prevented him from continuing his drumming career. The disease affects the lower part of the spine causing back pain, and led to fractures in his spine. During this time, Hughes also started to feel the affects of scoliosis, which is a curvature of the spine.

"They took it tough," Hughes said of how his family took the news of his diagnoses.

Hughes recently returned to the classroom after two years and said the first few weeks of school have been alright. Hughes currently is unable to play in the band, but he has decided to continue his education in music. He takes a class called general music.

Rubin Aldridge of Fairley High School, Hughes' good friend since second grade, said Hughes is "going places," and he is doing better with maintaining a positive attitude.

Hughes' future goals are to attend Jackson State University, in Jackson, Miss., where he feels one day he will be able to march again. If not he will go into the field of education or become a music producer.

"Be strong always," Hughes said. "Don't ever let anyone tell you what you can't do."

