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School work to be finished before classes resume

by Michael Shelton

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The renovation of the Kingsley-Montgomery School in the Waterford School District is about 90 percent complete, according to the school's principal, Sean Waymaster.

"All of us should be in on Sept. 1," he said. "I did a walk through last week and I saw the carpeting, tile, and painting and they were working on the electrical portion. It looked great."

The school will host an open house on Thursday, Aug. 12 from 1-3 p.m.

The \$12-million renovation of Kingsley-Montgomery began in April.

The school first opened in 1979, and consists of center programs for special education students suffering from physical, mental and emotional impairments.

The school not only welcomes Waterford students, but students from across Oakland County, including from the Avondale, Bloomfield Hills, Brandon, Clarkston, Huron Valley, Lake Orion, Oxford, Rochester, Royal Oak, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield districts.

Waymaster said about 150 students are expected to attend this upcoming school year.

While construction was ongoing, Kingsley-Montgomery students attended classes at the former Pine Lake Elementary School in the Bloomfield Hills School District during the 2009-10 school year. Waterford Schools leased the building as part of an agreement with the Bloomfield Hills School District after Pine Lake was closed because of declining student enrollment.

The renovated school will consist of up to 57,900 square feet of space, including a new main entrance, expanded physical education and therapy areas, integration of all student groups, centralized administration and support, a media center for severely emotionally-impaired students, and a new covered drop-off area to protect students from the elements.

Waymaster added that the school is asking for volunteers to come and assist on Aug. 2 with the installation of equipment for the first part of the school's new playground.

Those interested are asked to call the district at 248-623-9660 and mention that they want to help with the playground.