

## **RIVER RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPGRADES LOCAL SCHOOLS**

*District on track to bring schools in line with state specifications*

**PATCH GROVE, WI** – The halls may be empty of students and teachers this summer, but there has been no lack of activity inside River Ridge School District's schools. The district has been working with McKinstry, a design/build contractor, to upgrade the mechanical and electrical operations of the District's buildings in Patch Grove and Bloomington. The work will bring the district's buildings up to current industry standards and codes, as required by the State of Wisconsin.

Upgrades currently in process or planned for the district's school in Patch Grove include:

- HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning) upgrades to bring the school in line with mechanical codes.
- Electrical upgrades to bring the buildings up to current electrical codes.

Upgrades currently in process or planned for the district's school in Bloomington include:

- HVAC upgrades to bring the school in line with mechanical codes.
- Electrical upgrades to bring the school in line with electrical codes.
- Evaluation of necessary structural engineering modifications.

HVAC duct work in the elementary school rooms is 85% complete as of Aug. 14. McKinstry and its subcontractors, Westphal Electric and General Heating, will continue to work during the school year but are focused on creating as little disruption to operations as possible. All work is on track to be completed by the start of the 2016-2017 school year. The school has also implemented secure entrance doors for the new school year. During classroom hours, visitors will need to ring a doorbell for building admittance and complete a log-in system for a temporary visitor badge.

The district's new superintendent, Dr. Jeff Athey, says, "I'm very pleased with the construction progress; I have every confidence that our contractor and subcontractors are on track to bring our facilities up to code, providing a safer learning environment for River Ridge students and staff."