

# Science wing ready early for Glen Rock students

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**GLEN ROCK** – The new two-story science wing at Glen Rock High School/Middle School is set to open when classes begin on Tuesday – five months ahead of schedule and between \$3 million and \$5 million under budget.

“Students were not supposed to come in until January, but we’re significantly ahead of schedule,” Business Administrator Michael Rinderknecht said of the \$28 million phase of the \$45.3 million project.

“We’re under budget \$3 million to \$5 million,” Superintendent David C. Verducci said. “We don’t know what the final costs will be, because estimates made can come in lower than originally anticipated, but we have eliminated waste. The building will be open for students on the first day of school.”

The 35,112-square-foot building adds flexible biology, chemistry and physics laboratories, a computer-aided drawing lab, and a greenhouse. Industrial and engineering classrooms are also part of the addition approved by the public two years ago.

The improvements included upgrades made to the district’s four elementary schools.

“The labs are ‘flexible’ in that it allows flexible scheduling,” Verducci said of the architectural design. For instance, if sections of biology are not needed as much as sections of physics or chemistry,

the labs can be adapted to fit what is needed most. That ability to interchange saves money, Verducci said.

The construction and renovation plan was approved in March 2008. The bonds were sold during an all-time low, and there was no shortage of construction companies bidding competitively on the project. Sixty-three vied for portions of the \$28 million phase at the high school/middle school.

Students will also have a new 3,449-square-foot performing arts wing and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) online instruction facilities. There are upgrades to the lighting and audio system in the adjacent auditorium, which has new seating and air conditioning.

The last phase of the project is the addition of the administrative wing of offices to the back of the school. That phase will be complete by late 2011, Verducci said.

The Glen Rock school board and finance committee will revisit the savings and payments on the 30-year bond after the final phase.

“It will be revisited once the project is 100 percent complete,” Rinderknecht said.

The safety aspects and standards in the labs exceed the minimum set by law, and the opening on Tuesday will give students a jump on remaining competitive in the sciences, Verducci said.

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