

Transcribed from:

The Darien Review: Thursday, August 18, 1927
Volume 80, Number 32

New High School Nears Completion

Contractors Confident of Having Everything Ready for Opening September 7

That the new Darien High School will be ready for business on the opening day, Wednesday, September 7, seems assured at this writing and everything is being done to have it ready for that date. The work of installing the furniture and fixtures is going on at this moment and unless something unforeseen occurs, everything will be ship-shape very soon.

And what a splendid building it is! We venture to say that there is not a prettier or more suitable high school building within many a mile of this town. To be sure, there is still a great deal of work to be done, such as grading, completing the road and so forth, but the interior of the building is of first importance now and that is ideal.

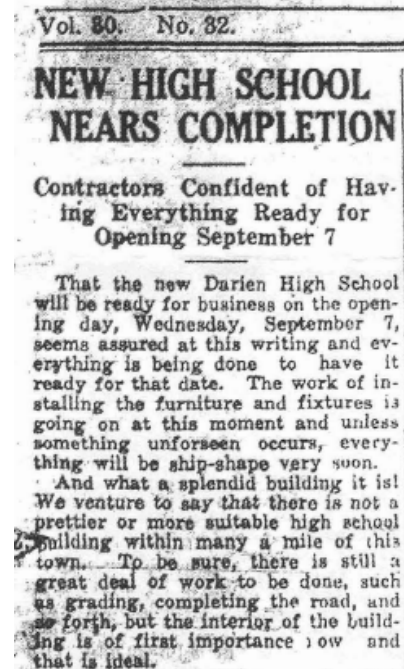
Entering the building on the first floor you are confronted with the entrance to the spacious auditorium with its modern stage, dressing rooms, fire exits and other features that go to make up a strictly up-to-date school auditorium of the most approved type. The floor is a regular theatre floor, sloping gradually to the stage. The seats will be fixed as they are in modern theatres. There is an ample stage where amateur theatricals may be produced, or from which, in days not far hence, we shall have the privilege of hearing the graduation programs, or matters pertaining to town affairs, for, it is understood, this auditorium will be used extensively for public meetings of various kinds. The curtain is now in place, a beautiful green velvet curtain, and the final finishing touches are being applied here and there.

The corridor is wide and you will find at regular intervals, fire hose ready for contingencies which we all hope will never arrive; modern sanitary drinking fountains, built in lockers for the boys and girls, and notice, too, that there are folding iron gates at either side of the stairway which may be closed so as to prevent access to any other part of the building when it is being used for public purposes other than school affairs.

On the first floor is the cooking room, fitted up with 24 gas burning stoves, where girls will learn, first hand, about the art of good cooking. Off the cooking room is to be a model dining room, and don't forget to notice the kitchen with its convenient built-in cupboard. Then there are book and supply closets of ample size to accommodate whatever are needed there.

Across the hall is the sewing room, which will be fitted up with several electric sewing machines, work tables, and all the accouterments incident to a well organized sewing room. You will also find a fitting room with a triple mirror with which no sewing room is complete.

On the first floor, also, we find the principal's and superintendent's offices. Just off the principal's private office is the general office of the school with its telephone switchboard, fire alarm apparatus etc. And in the superintendent's office there is a fireproof storage vault for all of the valuable records and documents of the public school system of Darien.



Of course there are boys' and girls' locker and toilet rooms on the first floor as well as on the second. These are situated at either end of the corridor, the girls on the south end and the boys on the north. Then there are general classrooms, also fitted up in the most approved manner.

On the second floor is the physics and chemistry room, with its various equipment necessary to these studies. There you find test tables, fume hood, preparation room, and all of the latest accessories for study and research in both of these subjects. Across the hall is the biology room with its germinating tables, aquarium, etc. You, will notice, too, that there are girls' and boys' locker and toilet rooms on the second floor, just as there are on the first and that there are drinking fountains, fire hoses exactly like the first floor in most respects.

The library should come in for more than casual inspection. With its high arched windows, built in book shelves, magazine rack, study tables, it presents a picture of efficiency. It will comfortably accommodate 48 pupils at a time and doubtless will be used to excellent advantage in all sorts of research work. Notice that it connects with a double study room, this room has folding doors which may be closed, making two good-sized study or class rooms, or it may be used on large classroom as necessity demands.

There is a nicely fitted medical room where the school dentist, doctor and nurse may see patients. The furniture here is of the sanitary white enameled type. Just beyond is the bookkeeping room, which opens into the typewriting room, and in this room there is an office for the head of the commercial department. And from the second floor you enter the balcony over the large auditorium. Incidentally, the auditorium, balcony included will have a capacity of 750. There is a modern and approved motion picture both here, too.

In all there are five entrances to the building. The main entrance for the general public, the boys and girls entrances on the first floor, and in the basement there are two doors from the play ground. There are two fire exit doors in the rear of the stage and two in the rear of the gymnasium. In the basement adjacent to the gymnasium, on either side, are the boys' and girls' shower rooms. Further down the corridor to the right, is the janitor's room and just beyond that the huge furnaces and hot water heater. Mr. Charles Bennett, of Noroton, has been engaged as janitor, and Harold Orrell, formerly janitor at the junior high school, assistant janitor.

The gymnasium, which is underneath the main auditorium, is a spacious room and will be fitted up soon. Underneath the balcony in the gymnasium is the kitchen for the cafeteria, which will be fitted up with gas stoves, etc. On either end of the balcony, on the ground floor, are boys' and girls' physical instructor's rooms. Going outside toward the athletic field, you cannot help noting how wide and strong the fire escapes are. Everything has been done to protect life and limb in this new school building. At the north end of the building the sewage disposal plant and filtration beds are being installed. Men are at work on the new road leading in from the Post Road and this road will be ready for travel soon.

It is interesting to know that the Building Committee have planned to have the electricity come in by way of Park Place from Noroton Avenue, instead of from the Post Road as the temporary poles might indicate. This will leave an unobstructed view from the school building to the main artery. It is also interesting to know that the Town of Darien owns all of the property in front of the school building to the Post Road and 350 feet on the Post Road. It takes in the new road that is being constructed, also.

The interior trim of the building is ash stained with a walnut stain, making a most attractive appearance. You should see it for yourself. It is very much worth while to make the trip over there.