



The Andover Elementary/Middle School teachers convened on August 27 for a day of workshops before the students returned from summer vacation on the 28th.  
Photo: Charlie Darling



Garry George (in the excavator) moves earth for the new AE/MS amphitheater in the natural bowl beside the AE/MS Annex, while Howard George (in the tractor) spreads topsoil.  
Photos: Charlie Darling

## AE/MS Amphitheater is Becoming a Reality

School plays, community events coming soon

By Jane Slayton, AE/MS principal

If you have been in the vicinity of Andover Elementary/Middle School this summer, you have probably noticed big equipment, trees taken down, large boulders, and big open space. The third and final phase of the Andover Community Park and Playground has started.

The original plan, designed in 1999 by architect Bill Hoffman, had three phases. The playground area, the skatepark/basketball court, and finally ... an amphitheater.

While the first two phases have been completed for several years, they continue to need maintenance,

additions, and attention. This has tied up our resources and volunteer efforts, and it hasn't been feasible to begin work on the amphitheater.

However, this summer our timeline was quickly adjusted after an unexpected and generous donation was made to Andover Elementary/Middle School by Proctor Academy. The intent of the donation was to be used toward the planned amphitheater.

Landscape architect Bill Hoffman made a site visit to the play area to help guide our thoughts, ideas, and energy. A building permit was secured. Work was collaborated with the Andover Recreation Committee. If the area was going to undergo work, the time was

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Technology experts Heidi Unger from AE/MS and Jim Cox from Proctor Academy work together to get the new computer network up and running for the new school year at AE/MS.  
Photo: Jane Slayton

## AE/MS Heads Back to School!

New curriculum, new classrooms ... and football!

By Jane Slayton, AE/MS principal

Many AE/MS staff members attended workshops and courses this summer to help them with the transition to the Common Core State Standards. We are pleased with the increased academic expectations.

Math classes will cover fewer topics, but the topics covered will be in much greater depth. There is an increased focus on arithmetic and number sense while highlighting mathematical procedures, conceptual understanding, and consistent mathematical practices in all grades.

In language arts, students will read more non-fiction and be asked to increase their focus by providing evidence in their oral and written responses. Students will read increasingly more complex text.

We are pleased with the clearly defined expectations at every grade level. Full-day kindergarten at AE/MS came at a perfect time and puts AE/MS in an ideal position to successfully reach the higher expectations.

AE/MS was a very busy place this summer. As soon as the students left for vacation, all the classrooms were emptied, cleaned, painted, and in many cases relocated. In order to accommodate the two kindergarten classes, changes had to be made throughout the building.



AE/MS eighth grade students have been helping set up for the new school year. Chloe Methven and Betsy Abrahamson are shown inflating basketballs and stocking the playground cart.  
Photo: Jane Slayton

**An Ideal Set-Up**

We have ended up with an ideal set-up now for collaboration between grade levels. The two kindergarten classes are now located on the lower level of the building, beside the library. Each kindergarten classroom has its own  
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## Watch Out For School Buses!

Please keep our students safe! Remember these important safety rules:

### Stop For School Buses!

School bus yellow caution lights come on at least 100 feet before a planned stop. Watch out for students who may cross the street before the red lights start flashing.

School bus red lights mean **traffic in both directions must stop!**  
**Never** pass a stopped school bus on the right!

### Violations Can Be Costly

Being convicted of ignoring a school bus' flashing red lights can mean up to \$1,000 in fines and suspension of your license for 30 days.

Being convicted of passing a stopped school bus on the right can cost you up to \$1,200 and up to a 120-day suspension.

And who knows how much it will cost you in increased auto insurance premiums, and for how long!