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### **Signing Day & Graduation Ceremony**

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind will hold our Signing Day Ceremony on Thursday, May 23rd, 2024, beginning at 1 PM. This event marks a pivotal moment for our graduating students as they officially commit to their post-graduation plans. In addition to our Signing Day Ceremony, our 2024 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 24th, beginning at 10 AM. Our distinguished commencement speaker for the upcoming event is Ms. Donna Brown. Notably, Ms. Brown boasts a distinguished tenure as a former educator at WVSDDB. Additionally, her accolades include being a four-time Paralympic medalist in the esteemed domain of Track and Field. We will celebrate the remarkable achievements of our graduating students as they transition to the next chapter of their lives. These ceremonies will not only honor the hard work and dedication of our students but also demonstrate the solidarity and commitment of the WVDE to the success and well-being of every student. We extend a cordial invitation to members of the WVDE Board to attend our forthcoming Signing Day and Graduation Ceremonies. Your presence will serve as a source of inspiration and motivation for our graduating class, reminding them that they have a strong support system cheering them on as they embark on their future endeavors.

### **WVSDDB CEFPP Facility Improvement Update:**

In our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and modern campus environment for our students and staff. We wanted to update you on the continued campus-wide work from CEFPP at The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind's campus.

Firstly, we've prioritized the safety of all by modernizing campus elevators, ensuring smooth and secure transportation for everyone. Additionally, Keller Hall is undergoing a revitalization with a fresh coat of paint, as well as new lights throughout the building, enhancing both aesthetics and functionality.

Originally known as the Potomac Academy, the structure later served as the classroom building for the School for the Blind. Following the devastating fire that engulfed the Administration Building, it now holds the distinction of being the oldest standing edifice on the campus grounds. Dating back to the late 1840s, this venerable establishment is now recognized as The Blue and Gold Building. The Blue and Gold Building renovation is progressing rapidly, with an anticipated completion by October 2024. This project promises to rejuvenate this vital space on our campus as it will be used as a new student center for our students to enjoy.

Further, the PE Building, which was originally completed in 1953 is set for comprehensive improvements including a new roof, door upgrades, window replacements, and installation of a state-of-the-art fire alarm and suppression system, enhancing safety measures. For Deaf and

Hard-of-Hearing students, the installation of a new fire alarm and suppression system in the PE Building ensures that they receive timely visual alerts in the event of an emergency. Similarly, upgraded exterior security cameras enhance campus safety, providing an additional layer of security for all students.

Our campus-wide projects encompass various enhancements, such as flooring replacement, tree removal, upgraded exterior security cameras, and the exciting addition of an outdoor classroom and greenhouse, along with a loading dock to facilitate operations. The addition of an outdoor classroom and greenhouse offers unique learning opportunities for both Visually Impaired and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students. These spaces provide hands-on experiences and promote sensory exploration, enriching their educational journey.

Overall, these upgrades demonstrate our commitment to creating an inclusive campus environment where all students can thrive. By addressing the specific needs of Visually Impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, we ensure that they have equal access to educational resources and opportunities, empowering them to reach the full potential of all who call our campus home.

Please see the attached blueprint of the upgrades to our campus:

**Important Dates:**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Young Writers Day

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Prom

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Spring Deaf Tea Chat

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Signing Day Ceremony

May 24<sup>th</sup> – Graduation Ceremony

May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – State-wide Interpreter's Retreat

**Elevator Upgrade**

Project: Elevator  
Modernization  
Status: In Design

**Keller Hall**

Project: Painting Refresh  
Status: Out to Bid

**Blue & Gold**

Project: Renovation  
Status: Est. Completion Oct  
2024

**PE Building**

Project: Roof, Door and Window  
Replacement  
Status: Ready to Begin

Project: Fire Alarm and Suppression  
System  
Status: To Be Awarded



### Campus Entry

Project: Campus Entry  
Status: Bid Documents and Drawings being finalized

### Campus Wide

Project: Flooring Replacement  
Status: Out to bid

Project: Tree Removal  
Status: Out to bid

### Campus Wide, Cont

Project: Sprinkler Head Replacement  
Status: To be Awarded

Project: Exterior Security Cameras  
Status: To be Awarded

### Campus Wide, Cont

Project: Outdoor Classroom and Greenhouse and Loading Dock  
Status: In design

