**Northeastern Randolph Middle begins year with fresh look**

By Tim Moody  
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**LIBERTY** — As Northeastern Randolph Middle School (NERMS) begins its 19th school year, the school has undergone an “extreme makeover.”

Thanks to funding provided by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, NERMS has been re-roofed, painted, and had gym doors and carpeting replaced.

With additional projects such as re-upholstery of media center furniture, replacement of basketball padding, gym floor refinishing, locker painting and landscape overhaul, the school has welcomed students to a virtually new facility.

The plan is for all projects to be completed in the next few weeks.

The NERMS improvements have truly been a community effort. A number of groups and organizations have worked together to make sure students experience a top-notch facility.

Fred Burgess of Modern Woodmen collaborated with the schools to help re-upholster the media center furniture, and the NERMS Athletic Booster Club, under the direction of President Lisa Griffith, funded the replacement of worn pads behind the basketball goals, which now feature the school’s Husky logo.

“The Randolph County School System Maintenance Department did an extraordinary job of renovating a nearly 20-year-old facility to first-rate condition over the summer break, so as not to interfere with instruction,” Principal Dana Johnson said. “I am grateful for the support of the RCSS administration and staff along with our community partners for their efforts to keep Northeastern firmly on the road to success.”

Upgrades and repairs were carried out with high quality and professionalism under the direction of Maintenance Director Larry Chilton and Assistant Director Randy Wilson. RCSS Painting Foreman Tim Scotton accomplished a demanding Husky blue-and-gray paint scheme.

Superintendent Dr. Stephen Gainey and Finance Director Todd Lowe championed RCSS’ “Nine-Year Facilities Upgrade/Repair Plan” and secured the funding from the county commissioners that enabled the NERMS roof replacement.

The NERMS custodial staff, directed by Gary Patterson, had a particularly demanding summer, as every single piece of furniture and equipment in the school had to be moved for painting and carpet replacement, and then moved again for floor waxing.

Assistant Principal Ralph Jarrett, who oversaw the many moving pieces of the projects at the school level, said, “Students always return to a great looking and clean facility in the fall, thanks to a first-rate custodial staff, but this year students and parents are in for a real treat.”