

Construction

Chaos

By: Zach Backus

Buzz, buzz, bam! Beep, beep, beep. These are the background sounds that can commonly be heard at Baxter High School this year. The construction, which is set to be finished by the 2020-2021 school year, is in full swing and progress is beginning to show. Many of the students and staff are excited for the upcoming year and look forward to having their own classroom again.

The construction for the new high school, which began in the summer of 2019, is on the minds of most of the residents in Baxter. Although it is just a little bit behind schedule, it is still set to be finished by the end of the school year. Lisa Cross, a long time resident of Baxter, shares her thoughts on the building project, "I think the new school is a very positive thing. I think it would be an overall benefit for students, staff and the community and it would bring a better learning environment." When asked how she felt about the slow start to the project she said, "I think that is a typical thing and you are tearing down an old building and finding unforeseen problems that need to be dealt with before progress can be seen." At the beginning of the school year, everybody was kind of wary as to why there was so little progress in the building project, but as Cross said, there were lots of problems that had to be dealt with before construction could begin. Despite some worries about the building's progress, the community of Baxter is excited for the new school and looks forward to the opportunities it will bring for the students of Baxter.

Due to the construction, the school year has been crazy, but the school has been able to work around the chaos. Dr. Clapper, the superintendent, shares this comment for all the staff and students, "I just appreciate everyone's flexibility, it's been a crazy year and everyone has just rolled with it. We just have to get to the finish line and it will be worth it but it will be hard." Dr. Clapper thanks everyone for their flexibility this school year with high schoolers in the elementary hallways and teachers in small classrooms. Ms. Hook, who has the gift of looking on the bright side, talks about her classroom this year, "My room this year is better than I expected it to be. I was a little worried about the size of it because everyone was telling me it was a very small classroom, but it's really not that bad. My other classroom was huge and it was a loss of space, however, it was not air-conditioned, so coming down here was a positive in that way. I think I like this room better. I like being where everyone is, it is nice to be in the middle of everything." Even though the setting is not the best, Ms. Hook, and many other teachers, continue to teach and thrive in the current situation. Some people at Baxter don't even notice the change, "I honestly don't mind the classrooms, I would say it's more of the crowded hallways that are more of a bother," said Logan Berg, 12. Working through the changes during the construction of the new building, everyone is willing to be flexible and work around the current situation.

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Although most people are excited for the new school, there are some people who feel they were brushed aside. This year's current senior class will never get the chance to have class in the new school, even after enduring a year of construction. Bryn Schultheis, 12, shares her thoughts, "I think the parking situation was a little bologna and seniors should have got priority. It was nice to have a period off but most seniors at surrounding schools get half days and

open campus lunch." Seniors at Baxter think that they were not taken into consideration

and were ignored by the administration. Schultheis talks about how other schools' senior students are allowed more free periods and open campus lunch, which has been requested for many years. She also talked about how seniors were not given any special parking space this year with the majority of staff and students parking all the way along the street. Logan Berg, another senior at Baxter shares his opinion, "I feel like I am more ready for my next step in life, which would be college, rather than focusing on what I may miss out on with the building.

And all seniors were given the option of a 7 period schedule over an 8 period schedule. While that does help, I wish we were able to get open campus, especially during lunch time. I feel like that would've allowed seniors to enjoy their last year at Baxter a little more." Although it wasn't necessary, many seniors believe that there should have been some sort of compensation for their flexibility.

Good things come to those who wait and it takes all of us to be patient and appreciate the good things and good things to come." - Pam Roush

Though this school year may not have all the accommodations as normal, everyone is excited for the new

year and is looking forward to the new school and the opportunities it will bring. Pam Roush, the head custodian at Baxter, gives a word of wisdom for the school, "Good things come to those who wait and it takes all of us to be patient and appreciate the good things and good things to come." Roush couldn't of said it better, good things will come to those who wait and it will take all of us to finish this project. Although it may not be fun to park on the street, hear the hammers and drills, or be with the elementary, it will all be worth it in the end.

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