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BCPS VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO HOST REDEDICATION OPEN HOUSE

Bloomfield Hills, Mich., October 2, 2009 — Valley View Elementary School, Springfield, Michigan, within the Battle Creek Public School system, will host a Rededication Open House next week on Wednesday, October 7th, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The ceremony will include brief presentations by the district superintendent, school principal, board president, and will include a Valley View student choir performance. The building received nearly 36,000 square feet of remodeling and over 25,000 square feet of additions this year. The new and improved school houses K-5th grades, an early childhood classroom and an accelerated program for grades 4 and 5.

TMP Architecture, Portage, along with Architects Incorporated, LLC, Battle Creek, designed the 61,150 square foot school as a model for other schools in the district. Valley View is the first to receive building improvements, and is one of four projects as a result of the May 2007 bond issue passed by Battle Creek and Springfield voters. The other bond projects include C.W. Post Athletic Fields, Central High School and Central Field House projects. The bond is the first issue to be approved by voters in over 50 years.

A unique project element includes a grouping of four same-grade classrooms around a common multi-use “family room.” The common room includes a kitchenette, storage, resilient flooring and portable tables. The flexibility of the space allows for a science lab environment or a large open space for gross motor skill activities. A carpeted area provides space for presentations or quiet activities, and an expansive countertop accommodates ten laptops. Three of these classroom groupings form “neighborhoods” for various grade levels – one for the lower K-2nd grades, and the upper elementary grades of 3rd through 5th.

The early childhood education classroom has a separate, adjacent playground as well as a secure entrance for drop-off and pick-up. A separate gymnasium and cafeteria allow for physical education classes to take place throughout the day.



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New amenities include individual room temperature controls, operable windows, room darkening shades, a combination of carpeting and hard flooring surfaces in each classroom, ergonomic furniture, and a separate bus and parent/visitor drop-off and parking area. The new school has the capacity to serve 640 students, allowing for anticipated growth.

TMP, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has offices in Portage and Bloomfield Hills, Michigan as well as Columbus, Ohio. The firm produces a variety of projects for K-12 educational, college / university and municipal clients. Recent award-winning projects include two new LEED Silver Certified high schools in Michigan: Whitmore Lake High School, Whitmore Lake and Skyline High School, Ann Arbor. Some of the firm's current work includes various projects for Hillsdale College and for Portage Public Schools.

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