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‘New’ New Scotland Elementary returns home

Wearing a purple-and-white jersey with a new name and an old number, New Scotland Elementary School Principal Gregory Jones welcomed his school back to its familiar home at 369 New Scotland Ave.

“I chose this number for a very specific reason,” Mr. Jones said of the #19 jersey with “New Scotland” on the front that he wore at the school’s Jan. 6 ribbon-cutting celebration. “This may be a new school, but we are very proud of our tradition and we will always remember School 19 and what it has meant to generations of families in this community.”



Superintendent Eva C. Joseph, Ed.D. (center) cuts the ribbon at the New Scotland Elementary opening ceremony with help from Board President Barbara Gaffuri (center, left) and Principal Gregory Jones (center, right).

More than 400 people turned out for the ribbon-cutting and public tour on New Scotland Elementary’s first full day back home (the first day was delayed two hours by the weather Jan. 5!). The new cafetorium – the former gym/auditorium – was standing-room-only, and visitors filled the halls and classroom for a look at the fully updated space.

Originally constructed in 1919 and expanded in 1924 and 1950, the former Public School 19 is the 11th school to be rebuilt or renovated through the City School District of Albany’s current facilities project.

In addition to the new cafetorium, New Scotland Elementary features a new gym that was added on in the back of the school, a new library/media center on the second floor and a new main office just inside the stately front doors. That space became available when the Albany Public Library chose to relocate its New Scotland branch, which had been housed near the school’s front entrance since the 1950s expansion.

New Scotland Elementary also features entirely new mechanical, electrical, plumbing, communications, security and technology systems. Unique features include three 1,000-pound ice storage containers in the basement and 40 geexchange wells drilled 400 feet beneath the play area to help cool the building more efficiently.