



The new Sheridan Preparatory Academy is one of many elementary schools in the City School District of Albany to be built or renovated as part of the district's comprehensive \$185 million facilities project.

The project, which was passed by voters in December 2001, will continue to fund the rebuilding and modernizing of nearly every school in the district over the next six years. In doing this, the district will put an end to inequity and give every school the resources and space needed to help Albany's students succeed in the 21st Century.

NEW SCHOOL

Sheridan Preparatory Academy, a newly constructed 55,000-square-foot, three-story building, is located at the former site Harriet Gibbons Alternative High School, 400 Sheridan Avenue. The building—previously Our Lady of Angels—was owned by the Catholic Diocese. The district purchased it in 2002 and tore it

down to make room for the new school. Architects and engineers determined the building was too old to renovate.

Sheridan is a K-5 school

serving 450 former Philip Schuyler students beginning in the 2004-2005 school year.

One of the main goals of the district's facilities plan is to build smaller, more personal learning environments. Sheridan Preparatory Academy and Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy were built to replace the 900-student Philip Schuyler Elementary School that housed twice as many students as the district preferred to have in its elementary schools.

PHILIP SCHUYLER HISTORY

Philip Schuyler was built in 1912 to serve as the original Albany High School but was converted to an elementary school when the present Albany High School opened in 1973. Although the building's architecture is distinctive, it is old and would need to be renovated if it were to be used as a school.

The Board of Education has not yet decided whether the building will be sold or used in the future. However, while the facilities plan is being carried out, the building will be used to temporarily house other schools' programs, staff, and students while their schools are undergoing renovations.

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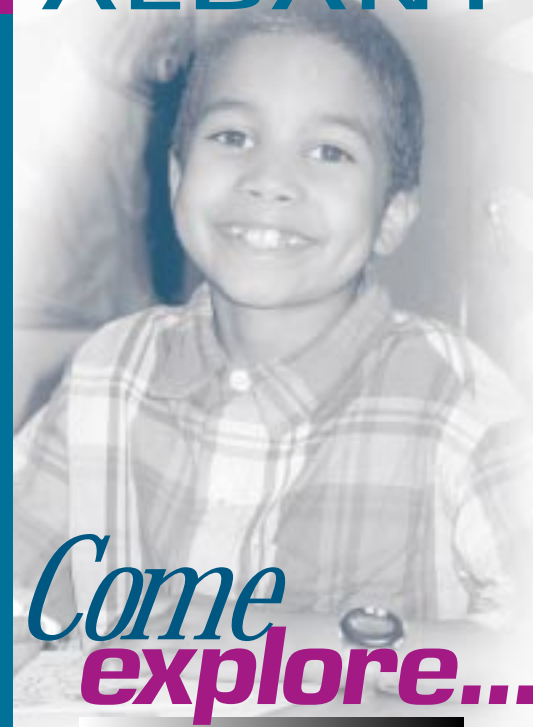
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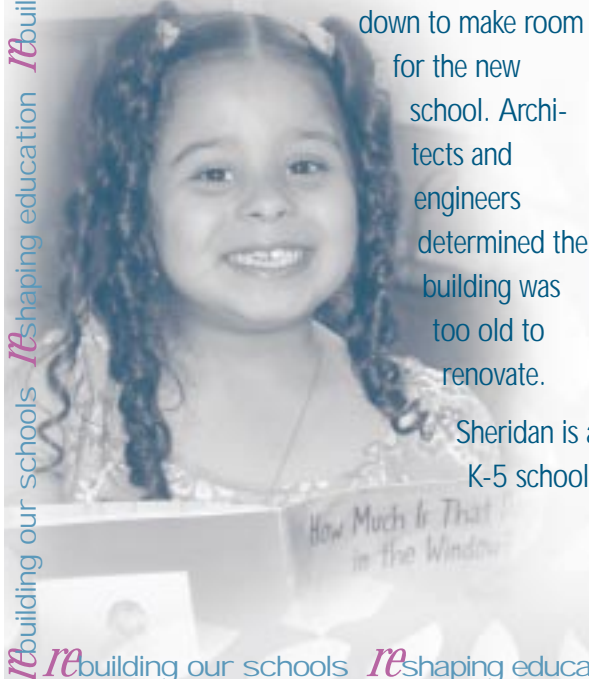
Come explore...

Sheridan Preparatory Academy

400 Sheridan Avenue
Albany, New York 12203
(518) 427-2340

Grand opening & tour

- Wednesday, September 1 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- Join us for a tour of the new building



What Sheridan Preparatory Academy has to offer ...

The newly constructed school includes many new features to foster learning.

- **Spacious classrooms with modern amenities and computers in each room.** Students will no longer be crowded in small classrooms, some of which were converted storage closets. Instead, every classroom meets the State Education Department's requirements of 770 square feet per classroom and 900 square feet per kindergarten room. The additional space also means teachers won't have to arrange students' desks in rows, which was the typical classroom setup when learning was largely rote. But today's academic standards require even the youngest of students to be actively engaged

in project work that includes high-level questioning, thinking, research, technology access, and teamwork.

There also is enough space in each classroom—including the kindergarten rooms—for a small pod of computers with Internet access. Sheridan Preparatory has 18 K-5 classrooms (all kindergarten rooms with toilet rooms), three special education classrooms with support space for special services, and two tutorial/enrichment rooms.

- **Computer labs.** As little as 10 years ago, many of Albany's elementary schools did not have computer labs. In today's technological society, it's hard to imagine a school without one. Sheridan students are now up to speed and have access to a high-tech computer lab with 25 computers all connected to the Internet. The teacher's computer can be connected to a projector to display the desktop on a wall, making it easier for students to follow the lessons being taught.
- **Music room.** This school has a real music room—not a converted classroom—with a separate practice room and storage for instruments. The larger room allows the music teacher to better incorporate instruments into the lessons. There is a keyboard and a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments for student use during music class. And, because the room is acoustically treated for sound absorption, musical melodies made by little ones will be contained in the room.
- **Art room.** This large, sunny room is sure to get every student's creative juices flowing. The room is equipped with a kiln for drying pottery work, a large hands-free sink for easy clean up, and lots of

storage space for students' work and supplies.

- **Library/Media center.** The spacious and inviting library is large enough to host a puppet show in one corner and storytelling in the other. The library shelves are stacked with books galore, which are electronically cataloged. Children will have no problem finding books to their liking to bring home. There also are a dozen or more computer workstations for researching the World Wide Web and working on class projects.
- **Nurse's suite.** This area was built with care and privacy in mind. There's a separate exam room, bed area, and private bathroom where students can receive the medical attention they need in private.

Additionally, the new school is handicapped accessible, fully air conditioned for summer usage, and equipped with a fire detection and sprinkler system throughout. The motion-sensor lighting and temperature control heating and cooling systems make this building more energy and cost efficient.

There also is a full-size gymnasium and a cafetorium with a performance area that will be used for concerts, plays, graduation ceremonies, and more.

A parent/community room also was built in the school, since volunteer services and community members are key ingredients that are needed to make a school a recipe for success.

If you are interested in learning more about Sheridan Preparatory Academy and/or would like a tour of the building, please join the board of education on Wednesday, September 1 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the new elementary school.



Ribbon cutting ceremony & public tour

Wednesday, September 1
4:30-6 p.m.
Join us for a tour of the new school!

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