Omega Construction On the MCA Upper School Expansion

Construction on the MCA Upper School expansion is progressing rapidly, with noticeable differences in the new structure appearing almost daily. This issue of *The Lion's Roar* shares a brief interview with Buddy Staton, the Project Superintendent.

How long have you supervised projects like this building? I've done this kind of work for six years. I've handled the office end of project management, but I really like being able to get out and supervise the project in the field.

What is your favorite thing about the construction project? I really enjoy seeing the progress made and knowing that people who drive by can see it changing so quickly. Of course, work on the inside will take a lot longer and seem to progress more slowly, but we're still working very hard.

What do you think about the tilt-up construction (where the walls are poured in concrete and then lifted into place)? I really like the tilt-up because it's so much faster and cleaner than traditional brick and mortar construction.

Are there any "fun fact" statistics about this new building? One of the most amazing things to me is that there are 150 cubic yards of concrete in the walls alone, and it took a 300 ton crane to lift them into place.

Buddy Staton, of Omega Construction, Project Superintendent

Left: Jason Easter, owner of Easter Corporation and MCA parent, is one of the sub-contractors working on the expansion. Easter Corporation won the bid for inside work such as framing, insulation, and dry wall.

Right: Superintendent Buddy Staton applies sealer to the concrete walls.

Above: Joshua Hicks, Brad McClelland, and Bradley Hay pause for a moment from their work of putting up all the inside room studs. Lasers are used to ensure framing on the floor properly lines up with framing on the ceiling to keep the studs perfectly vertical.

Is there a stand-out feature of this new building – something that's really special? I think the glass curtain wall is going to be the one feature that makes it look really special. It will hopefully be installed by the last week of June.

What's the hardest thing about a project like this? Obviously there are many different pieces of the work that need to be coordinated, so being sure that everyone works as much as possible without getting too many tasks stacked up at the same time is the challenge. I also want to keep everything moving as fast as possible.

These two panoramic photos show progress being made on the roof. In the top photo, steel beams are still exposed. In the bottom photo, materials are lifted up for completion of the roof.

Left, This photo, made from the window of the current upper school teacher's lounge, shows the steel grid work that will support the glass curtain wall being lowered and secured into place.

Left: The patio area is graded and readied for pouring. The brick marker wall will be placed along a planter bed in front of the existing shrubbery. Below: Workers form out the MCA style trim around the top of the building to ready it for painting to match the existing facility.

This view is looking at the current facility from inside the expansion. A glass curtain wall will be installed in this steel grid. The glass, specially tempered for safety, will appear to be green tinted from the outside, although the color will not be apparent from inside the building.