



The Manoogian Voice

SPECIAL EDITION

Southfield, Michigan

September 2001

A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School

What a Great Day – New Facility Opens!

Wednesday, September 5, Manoogian School Board of Directors president, Dr. Richard Marburger, armed with a pair of golden scissors, commemorated the official opening of the school's temporary Middle School Building by cutting a ribbon and sending sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders streaming into their new classrooms.

Just before 8 a.m., on a clear but cool day, Manoogian was buzzing with anticipation as students began to arrive for their second day back since the Labor Day holiday.

Ceremonies began with Dr. Nadya Sarafian, the school's principal, greeting the staff, faculty, students and their parents, as well as visiting dignitaries.

"It's good to see that the first day of our new unit will be so memorable," said Sarafian. "We've had a great beginning of the year."

Hosep Torossian, the "driving force" behind the project, according to Sarafian, also addressed the crowd. Torossian said the middle school students deserved the new building because of their academic excellence in improving their Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores and leading the school to a Golden Apple Award.

Dr. Harry Kezelian, treasurer of the Armenian Apostolic Society, and Dave Hirsch, director of real estate, construction, and property management services for the Masco Corporation, also spoke. Both the Apostolic Society and Masco were key cogs in the school's expansion.



Clockwise, starting at left: Dr. Harry Kezelian addresses ceremony attendees; Dr. Richard Marburger, with assistance from Dr. Nadya Sarafian, cuts the ribbon and opens Manoogian's new facility; Dave Hirsch of Masco Corporation says a word about the expansion project; and seventh-graders pose in their new classroom on opening day.



"It's been our pleasure to help out," said Hirsch. Hirsch added that both Masco and the Apostolic Society are seeking permanent expansion solutions.

Just before 9 a.m. Marburger, surrounded by other members of the school's Board of Directors, as well as staff and faculty, cut the yellow ribbon, unlocked a door, and let everyone in attendance inside the facility.

The new building houses the entire middle school, with a fourth classroom to be used for electives. The facility includes an assembly or multi-purpose room. The classrooms are 30-by-30 feet, the multi-purpose room runs 56-by-30. The entire facility covers an area of more than 5,700 square feet.

The State of Michigan Electrical Department inspection came Aug. 30, and the State Fire Marshal performed a walk-through of the facility the following day.

Torossian said the school passed both inspections, and then was given the go-ahead on the facility's opening.

The new facility is state-of-the-art with classroom computers, security alarm system, and fire safety equipment. There's also a self-contained heating system, as well as air conditioning. An intercom system and security cameras will be added in the near future.

Congratulations to the middle school on its success.