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New Walkertown High School opening pushed back to January

By TRAVIS FAIN



The opening of the new Walkertown High School has been pushed back again, this time to January.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools officials initially hoped the new high school-middle school combination would be ready by the start of this school year. But frequent rain led the system to push that timetable back over the summer and shoot for a fall transition.

Now the plan is to move middle school students, who are still at the old Walkertown campus, into the new building over the Christmas break. High school students, who attend classes at Atkins High, will wait until after their end-of-quarter exams and move in January.

"Weather is driving this," school system spokesman Theo Helm said Wednesday. "We had too much rain in the spring and the summer, and it just created more of a gap than we could overcome."

Walkertown Principal Piper Hendrix, who splits her time between the middle school at the old building and her high school's wing at Atkins, said students and faculty are ready for their new campus. But they're keeping "a great attitude," she said.

Atkins, a magnet school, is well below full enrollment, leaving room for the Walkertown students.

"We're guests in the building, but everybody's working well together and it's home for now," Hendrix said.

The system has another school under construction — the Career Center at the Kennedy High School campus. It has also experienced delays, and the plan is to move equipment from the center's current location to its new one over the Christmas break, Principal Dennis Moser said Wednesday.

Classes may be "taught out of boxes" just before and just after the move, Moser said, but "we are absolutely full steam ahead to move in Jan. 3."