BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AT SCHOOL EXPANSION SITE

As the construction for the elementary school's Phase III expansion progresses, Lawrence Chappel, LFLA's woodworking and construction teacher, saw an opportunity to bring learning to life. Taking advantage of the project's close proximity, he led his students down the block for a firsthand look at an active worksite. "It's important for them to see a site in action and apply what we talk about in class," said Mr. Chappel.

The visit allowed students to witness the real-world application of concepts they had studied, including structural design, safety protocols, and project management. Guided by professional contractors, they observed various stages of construction, from framing and cement work to masonry. They even had the chance to try floating steps, a technique used to smooth out concrete.

For many students, including 11th grader Blake W., this was their first time experiencing a construction site up close—especially while heavy machinery was in operation. "It was really fun to watch the big equipment moving around the site and cool to see what exists as a career option in the construction field," said Blake.

Blake W. (11th grade) working his concrete slab





Trades students watching Hankins Construction team smooth cement for stairs

(Back row) Executive Director Marshall Cohen, lead donors John & Allison Ferring, Principal Danielle Price, Deputy Director Dr. Katrice Noble, Board President Scott Dolan; (Front row) Abigail W. (3rd grade), Quintin W. (2nd grade)



Back in the classroom, students put their newfound knowledge to the test, creating concrete slabs using the techniques Mr. Chappel had taught them. This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of construction principles but also introduced them to potential career paths while reinforcing their connection to the community-driven growth of their own school.

With the expansion well underway, the project is still working to secure the final funds needed to open its doors for the 2025-2026 school year. For more details or ways to help, contact Marshall Cohen, mcohen@liftforlifeacademy.org. Stay tuned for exciting updates as we get closer to the grand opening and a much-anticipated ribbon cutting ceremony for the final piece of our elementary school campus.