

Complete Renovation of DAR School Track is Underway

KDS DAR School is pleased to share that after years of serious structural issues and incorrectly constructed dimensions, the school's track is being demolished to make way for a new state-of-the-art track and field complex.

The KDS DAR School track, which was constructed in 2006 along with the football stadium, was in a terrible state of disrepair. During construction, the base was not properly compacted, resulting in large cracks all along the track's surface. The cracking was so severe it rendered the track virtually unusable.

"The cracking had gotten so bad it was really a hazard for anyone to try and run or even walk on the track," said KDS Executive Director Heather Green.

Additionally, the track was not the proper size or dimension to be utilized in Alabama High School Athletic Association sanctioned events such as High School Track Meets and lacked the straight-lane extensions required for 50- and 100-yard dash events. The KDS Track Team has numerous students who participate in track and field events each year, with many qualifying annually for the State Track Meet. Because of these issues, KDS has not been able to host track meets, which is the primary source of raising funds for equipment and transportation costs.



Other issues with the KDS track were an improper drainage system, the lack of designated space for field events such as high jump, pole vault, shotput, discus, and javelin.

"The complete renovation of the track was a daunting and costly project, and we are so thankful Marshall County Schools understood the need and worked to make this happen," said Green. "Dr. Wigley and the members of the Board of Education are to be commended for their work and commitment to providing this facility for our students and the community."

The demolition on the existing track and inner fencing started on Wednesday, July 13, by Gameday Athletic Surfaces, the specialized athletic field construction company awarded the bid on the project which will include removal of the track surface and D-Zone areas, inner fencing, and drainage. The new track will be constructed with a properly compacted base layer; dash even straight-lane extension; Conica track surfacing system; field event areas for high jump, long jump, triple jump, shotput, discus, and javelin. The estimated cost for the project is \$916,808.

"Having a track of this quality is a game changer for DAR and Marshall County student athletes. Not only will it provide our athletes and coaches a beautiful venue to host track meets, it will provide our athletes with a safe surface and regulation track for practice that will be one of the top in North Alabama," said Alan Garner, Assistant Superintendent for Marshall County Schools. "Practicing on a surface of this quality will allow the athletes to train harder and run faster in practice and be better prepared for meets. I believe they will break several DAR track team records this year."

The construction of the new track at DAR should be completed in late September or early October.

Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the track project were KDS High School Principal Larry Bolin, KDS Executive Director Heather Green, Alabama State Representative Wes Kitchens, Alabama State Senator Clay Scofield, Marshall County Board of Education Member Brian Naugher, Marshall County Board of Education Member Bill Hancock, and Marshall County Schools Superintendent Dr. Cindy Wigley.

