



TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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Triton: Past, Present, Future



Part 4 of 4: The Next Chapter for Our School

This week in our four-part series, Triton: Past, Present, Future, the *Triton Voice* dives into the past with an article about the 2001 renovation that Triton underwent. Then, reporters blasted back into the future with two articles about the students' responses to Pentucket and what they are looking for in a Triton renovation. A reporter interviewed teachers to compare their previous experiences at other schools to their time here at Triton. One student reporter also did a comparison of the Triton cafeteria to the Pentucket Cafe space.

Field Trip into the Future

With Visit to New Pentucket High, *Triton Voice* Students Glimpse a 21st Century Building

By Weston Murphy, Lucas Bistany, & Sadie Clifford, *Staff Writers*

Leaky ceilings, brown stained walls, cracking foundation, and outdated systems are just some of the problems that come with keeping a 55-year old school building in action. But after visiting Pentucket's new high school last month, students took away what Triton might look like if it should be renovated.

On Tuesday February 27th, 43 journalism students and three chaperones visited the new Pentucket High School in West Newbury. The group spent three and a half hours touring the school, speaking with students and staff, and eating in the new cafe. After the visit, students wrote a variety of articles for our newspaper.

In a survey after the field trip, the students said that their school building had many features that stuck out to them (See "Praise & Criticism" at right). One that students adored were the breakout rooms. Other positive takeaways were the welcoming sense of natural light and open spaces. However, there were also criticisms, including different organization of the building and lunch structure as well as the size of some aspects of the building.

Huge glass walls with a brand new finishes, Pentucket flags showing school pride, and a beautiful walkway inviting students up to the front door were key aspects that greeted *Triton Voice* students on their visit. It contrasted with Triton's entrance, which can be confusing since there is a middle school entrance, which was added on years after the high school.

The bathrooms in the old Pentucket High School featured graffiti, students noted during interviews. But after touring the new building Triton students observed none of that.

"I feel like people have been more respectful to the new building," one student told the *Triton Voice*. In the

old building you'd see people write on the walls, but now since they know how bad it once was there are more caring towards the building."

Triton student Ryan Snow noted that at Triton, there are temporary fixes, but a lack of "new." "We (Triton) don't fix things fully, and this leads to them lasting a maximum of three years. If the bathrooms were fully renovated, I'm sure students would have much more respect for them."

Security at Pentucket also improved, with an air-locked entrance with multiple lockable doors, plenty of cameras, and an office facing the entrance between the doors to assure against intruders. Police officers in full gear were also seen walking around the building.

"I do feel safe in Triton due to the area we live," said Triton senior Liam Kneeland, but he also noted that Triton's high school and middle school entrance are both guarded by one door, with no "man trap" such as Pentucket has at their front entrance.



At left, a breakout room between classes at Pentucket High; above, a lunch/study area. (Clifford photos).

Praise & Criticism

Students Respond After Visit

By Sadie Clifford, *Staff Writer*

Following a visit to Pentucket High School, *Triton Voice* reporters took a survey about what they saw. The results were a balance of positive takeaways and criticisms.

The positive key takeaways included the breakout rooms between classrooms and the welcoming sense of natural light. Criticisms included the disorganization of the building and lunch structure and the size of some aspects of the building.

"It is a great way to do independent work," one Pentucket student said. The breakout rooms at Pentucket are for students to do work in a separate quiet space outside of the classroom. They are smaller rooms with sound proof glass to keep the surrounding sounds to a minimum. A lot of the Journalism students said that Triton could benefit from breakout rooms.

"[They] can be extremely beneficial to both students and teachers and enhance a better learning experience," another said.

Another feature of Pentucket that stood out to students was the spacey and bright feeling of the building. Pentucket had a variety of windows that let in a lot of natural light. Students mentioned how dark Triton felt without many windows in the hallways and around the building.

"It feels like I'm in a brick box without any light," one student said in their response.

Students also liked the higher ceilings which contributed to the spacey feel that Pentucket had. Triton's hallways are much dimmer and cramped compared to Pentucket hallways. One student said that the higher ceilings made it less claustrophobic and easier to breathe.

There were a lot of positives about Pentucket's building that the students would like to see here at Triton. There were also some negative characteristics about the building that students didn't find as enjoyable. The tight spaces at Pentucket was something that many students mentioned.

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Classroom to Classroom

The Experiences of New Teachers at Their Previous Schools

By Lilah Nason, *Staff Writer*

As the academic year unfolds, new teachers have infused our school corridors with fresh perspectives and rich histories from their previous educational landscapes. Each educator carries a unique blend of approaches, classroom management strategies, and subject expertise, shaped by the diverse schools they've attended before joining the Triton community.

Three new teachers were recently interviewed here at Triton High School to ultimately give us some insight about their old school buildings. These interviews were conducted to help us compare and contrast these buildings to our current one to better understand where our building stands in regards to functionality.

Business Teacher Mr. Torres

With recent stories of violence in schools, having a solid security system can help ease some of the uncertainty of safety, but that isn't the case for every school.

Before coming to Triton, Francisco Torres taught in Boston Public Schools where he claims the safety concerns had a major impact on his teaching experience. "MPTVHS

(Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in Roxbury) is a million-square-foot building with three floors that were not fully functional," said Torres. "I did not feel safe because the 200 doors did not have alarms or cameras. Students and other people could come into the building any time of the day. This created an unsafe place to work."

In contrast to these major safety concerns, Torres feels he has found himself in a much safer environment. "Here at Triton, our amenities are better in the sense of doors with buzzers plus cameras, as well as heat and AC. We also have clean facilities and janitors can be found." Torres recognizes a better sense of security and with that, he said it has had an immense impact on his teaching experience.

Assistant Principal Mrs. Pacheco

Elizabeth Pacheco, our newest vice principal alongside Mr. Joseph Celia, previously worked at Georgetown Middle-High School in Georgetown.

During our interview, she described her environment of work and the difficulty she and her

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Clockwise from top, Triton Middle School entrance, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School in Roxbury, Georgetown Middle-High School, and Wellesley High School (TRSD/MPTVHS/Georgetown Schools/Wellesley Schools photos).

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Back to the Future

Triton's Middle School Addition Was Most Recent Renovation

By Jonathan Hight & Ryan Voltero
Staff Writers

In 2001, Triton High School opened after a years-long renovation: the middle school was added, and a second gym for the high school gym was added as well. We as a school have greatly benefited from this renovation 23 years ago, but what complications and challenges dealt with then could help us as we look to renovate again in the future?

During the 2001 renovation both students and teachers had to deal with the difficult environment or working and learning during a renovation project. "I don't remember the specific impacts, but as with any reno project, you get a bit displaced and manage the best you can," said Head Of Physical Education Mrs. Donna Anderson. During renovations like these, students' learning environment can be disrupted. Adding a whole new gym and middle school is not quiet, but "Students, like the staff, rolled with it," said Anderson.

This renovation changed the layout of Triton: the high school's was added — the current middle school gym had been the high school — and the current band room area for both high school and middle school was the had previously served as gym and dance studio space. Before the renovation, the school's central office and entrance were where the art hallway is now.

Luckily during the middle school renovations, no staff or students had to be moved from their designated learning areas since the project was mostly an addition. However, there were disruptions.

"They had to rip down a whole part of the wall for a doorway to get in" for a new entrance, said Middle School Principal Mr. Alan Macrae. "It was completed in phases, so we could get into different parts of the building."

The renovation added what is now the seventh grade section, including an upstairs, downstairs, and basement levels as well as the middle school office, nurse's office, and entrance. Finishes, such as floor and ceiling tiles, paint schemes, and exterior additions were also changed from what had been there in the past. "It looked very different from today," stated Mr. Macrae of the older building. "There used to be orange lockers."

Roughly around the same time as the middle school renovation, Triton switched from having 7th-12th grade school with a junior high to the current separate middle school and high school models. Another difference was that instead of a separate administration for the middle school, the assistant principal would take charge as the principal for the junior high.



Before and after: Below Triton Middle School takes shape back in 2000; above, as it appears today (TRSD photos).



MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION

Culinary Analysis: Sampling Pentucket Lunch

By Brian Clark
Staff Writer

School lunch is an important time to most students and is a key part of their day. Nothing feels better than getting in line and seeing your favorite school meal on the trays ahead of you. For the brief period that students have to enjoy themselves, doing it with a delicious meal makes it so much better.

With talks of a new building as a possibility for Triton, just what could that mean for our lunch block? As a reference, we took a look at Pentucket, which just recently got a new building. During the tour that *Triton Voice* was invited to, we got to take a quick look at their brand-new lunch experience.

As the *Triton Voice* reporters visited our local rival's new building, a standout was their brand-new cafeteria and kitchen. The cafeteria is replaced with what looks like a "hotel breakfast bar" that is surprisingly small. The students at Pentucket are presented with a lot of different options for their meals. Unlike Triton, some classic meals stayed constant for the students and had a new special every day. Meals like burgers and chicken parmesan are available every day as an option for both students who just want to enjoy the classics, and for the students to fall back on if they aren't big fans of the special that day. On the day we visited, the special was grilled cheese and crispy fries.

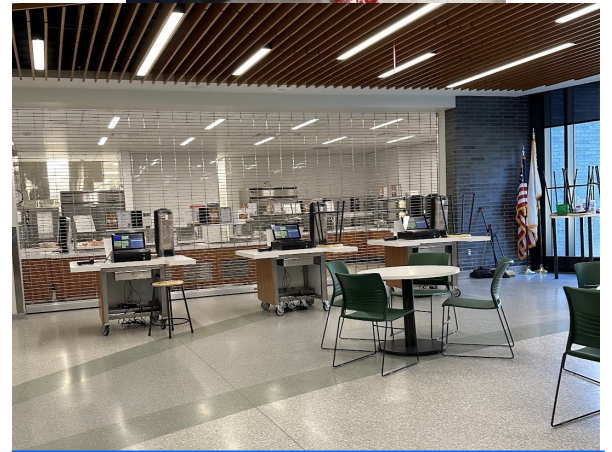
The actual quality of the food at Pentucket was the standard for school lunches. Most of the meals had a similar taste to that of Triton; the burgers were very similar, still the same dry flavorless without the right sauce. The chicken parmesan tasted like a mix of a Triton chicken sandwich and mozzarella nuggets with the marinara sauce cooked inside of the patty, helping a surprising amount with the dryness. The main standout were the fries. They were both salty and crispy and were good. But has the new building affected the school lunches at all?

Logically no, according to the panel held at Pentucket, the meal provider has remained the same in the new building. In an interview with one of the Pentucket cooks, when asked if the new kitchen helps with the cooking, they replied "Yes, definitely." adding, "the new equipment definitely helps a lot with making the food." When asking one of the students, Pentucket senior Josh Foley said, "The food has stayed the same. I guess the lunch has been more comforting because it's a newer and nicer place to eat."

One final difference between Triton and Pentucket

lunch is that there is no central cafeteria room where everyone has to stay for lunch. All around the school are little hub areas that look like modern coffee shops that students can take their lunches to and eat all around the school. This adds to the experience. Here at Triton, it can feel very restricting to be held in one place for the entirety of the period.

Overall, both schools, despite the new building of Pentucket, have very similar lunches. But it's the actual experience where the differences start to show. The vast number of lunch options given to the students, as well as the freedom to eat wherever you would like across the building, add to the experience of the lunch block.



Top, Triton students enjoy a Pentucket High School lunch in their new high school café (Clark/Clifford photos).

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students faced due to their location and class sizes. "I taught in a classroom space that was not conducive to learning for six years," said Pacheco. "The classroom was an extension of the library and the fourth wall was a moveable partition that was transitioned to my classroom because it already had the wiring for a computer lab."

"The students in the library were able to hear my class and visa versa. There were also two large support columns in awkward spaces. The classroom was also under the size requirements of square feet to students ratio. So, as my classes grew in size, that became more and more of an issue. As a result of those, I was not able to see certain desks in the classroom."

Unlike Torres who feels he's witnessed a major upgrade between his previous school and Triton, Pacheco said that Triton was not really an upgrade from her previous community. "There are a couple of spaces in our building that are underutilized at times (such as) the courtyards. The courtyards we have here

are beautiful regardless of the season. I would love to see more collaborative learning taking place in the courtyards."

PE Teacher Mrs. Martin

Another new teacher to the Triton Community is, Megan Martin who came to Triton from Wellesley High School.

"My last school had a lot of money," said Martin. "The facilities were newer, maintained more often and were very clean. We also had more money to purchase equipment." For reference, Wellesley is the third wealthiest town in the state of Massachusetts and it has 71.3 millionaires per square mile, which is the highest in the state of Massachusetts.

Although the physical building and facilities may have been nicer, Martin has found Triton to be a much more welcoming place. "I would have to say that the teaching staff and administration are way more down-to-earth and less uptight than my last district. I appreciate this so much. So, having better and more open human beings to work with is definitely better."

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"The hallways and staircases were very small," a student said. "Every time there were large groups of people walking at the same time it was hard to get around."

It wasn't just the hallways that students found cramped, it was also the auditorium, cafeteria, and gym. The Pentucket auditorium looked nice but felt small. The cafeteria area where students went to get food had little individual food stations that didn't make much room for students to come and go.

"I don't like the cafeteria or lack of, it seems like the cafe is shoved in a corner and it is a wick-ed small space to get your food" one student said.

A good number of students from Triton found that the spaces that were meant to be bigger were actually quite small.

Students also said that the set-up of classes and seating arrangements for lunch felt organized.

"I felt at Pentucket that the classes and where they were were not organized well," a student said. "It seemed scattered and confusing as someone who doesn't attend school there."

The lunch seating also felt disorganized to some Triton students. At Pentucket, there are multiple seating arrangements for students on both the first and second floors. Some really liked the scattered seating areas. According to one student, it made them feel free. Others disagreed with their lunch dynamic. One student mentioned how Triton's multiple seating arrangements could be a mess.

When asked about what Triton should keep if it was renovated, students gave mixed responses. Some students mentioned how the character should be kept as in the artwork around Triton. Pentucket had lost its character during its renovation. One student said that the auditorium should definitely be kept considering its size.

"It is one of the nicer high school auditoriums I have been in," they said. "It also seats a ton of people, whereas Pentucket only seated around 400."

Students also said that the track and field should be kept. The stadium is very nice according to the students and the space feels new.

Under the assumption that Triton will one day be renovated, students made note of a lot of beneficial factors that will come from a new building. Students mentioned how Triton will certainly be much cleaner and better looking after a renovation. The biggest common beneficial factor that students had was that Triton students would have more respect for the school building. It was also a shared opinion that school spirit would be more present.



Scenes from the *Triton Voice* trip to tour Pentucket High School (Staff photos).