

## Neepawa Middle School

Since 2008, Beautiful Plains has seen an increase in enrolment and more specifically an increase in students in Neepawa schools. In 2008, the enrolment was 760 students and in 2018 the two schools are nearing 1100 students. Portable classrooms were added at both HMK and NACI and grades were reconfigured to accommodate numbers in the existing spaces. In total 4 portables are at HMK and 5 are at NACI. Beautiful Plains applied to the Public Schools Finance Board for additional classroom space and in the summer of 2017 was awarded a major addition to NACI. This addition started in the spring of 2018 with a target completion date of September 2019. While the addition is connected to NACI, it will be an autonomous middle school. The only shared spaces will be the Industrial Arts and Home Economics rooms, sports fields, bus loop and parking lots. The addition, officially named Neepawa Middle School, will be over 38000 square feet and accommodate up to 450 students in Grades 5-8. It will be two floors with 10 classrooms, a gymnasium, library, band room, art room and multipurpose room as well as office space, change rooms and bathrooms. This is in addition to the existing Grade 7/8 classrooms for a total of 20 classrooms. Also included in the government plan is a 6300 square foot stand-alone daycare. The daycare will be operated as a separate entity from an outside daycare provider.

While growth is exciting and positive, construction is always stressful. These growing pains will not only be felt by Beautiful Plains staff but the entire community as well. We will all need to live through “division dust” and focus on the positive outcome – a brand new, contemporary learning space for our children and an extra facility for community use. There will be an opportunity for the public to view Neepawa Middle School’s plans in the fall of 2018.