Gatton Expansion Update

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The Gatton Academy is wrapping up a ten million dollar expansion and preparing to welcome its largest class to date.

Amy Bingham shows us how it’s all coming together in this week’s View from the Hill.

Ten years ago, WKU’s Florence Schneider Hall was retrofitted to accommodate 120 students as Kentucky prepared to open the state’s first high school for gifted students. That number will increase to 200 as a result of this expansion.

Dr. Julia Roberts \ Exec. Dir., Center for Gifted Studies

Dr. Lynette Breedlove \ Director, Gatton Academy

Zack Ryle \ Asst. Dir. for Admissions and PR

The countdown is on for the opening of the newly expanded Gatton Academy.

“We’re really excited about bringing in 100 new students this year, the largest class we’ve ever had .

For Julia Roberts, this has been part of the plan since the academy was first proposed in 1997.

“We are delighted with the opportunity expansion will make room for more students, more space within the building.”

The ten million dollar project began fifteen months ago.

Two new wings were added on each end and a large gathering space in the middle.

“The great hall is really exciting. It will be nice to have a place where our students can gather and study regularly.”

“Our fourth floor used to be our gathering pace but it was also the hangout, very much multi purpose space. Now it can be the den, a place to hang out, pool table can stay out all the time.”

Breedlove says the common areas on each wing will also bring new energy.

“They have really gotten a face lift with the white board paint on walls and fun carpet and really fun furniture.”

Admissions staff members are excited to once again show off the building on Gatton’s preview day.

“It’s a big game changer of families to have this building. “

“To think we did this with private funding is amazing.”

Now a team effort is underway to get everything finished.

“Everybody is working as hard as they can to make sure everything gets done by the time students get here in about a month and it will be done.”

After receiving legislative approval for the expansion, the building’s namesake, Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton, provided the lead gift and other private donations round out the ten million dollar price tag. With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.