

# School district's newest building dedicated



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Hillside Elementary was dedicated Sunday afternoon, although the school has been filled and operating since Oct. 31. Here, a group of students enters the building for the start of school

Tuesday. The Observer was not allowed to take pictures inside the building.

About 300 people attended the dedication Sunday of the new Hillside Elementary School, an 80,000-square-foot school in Farmington Hills which has incorporated a number of high-technology items and specialty rooms.

"I marveled at what the teachers had done in just two weeks," said Pam O'Malley, assistant to the superintendent and director of school/community relations for the Farmington Public Schools. She noted that teachers had moved their classrooms three times in the past six months, because the school was late in being completed. "And they're still smiling," she added.

The school has the capability of housing 650 students in grades kindergarten through five, and sits on a 12-acre, wooded site on 11 Mile Road just east of Halsted Road. It boasts a wing for early elementary students and specialty rooms for art, science and music.

Early elementary students moved to the school in late September; the building was totally occupied as of Oct. 31.

Hillside fifth graders played a big part in the ceremonies, receiving a flag from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary No. 2789, singing "America" with the Hillside band and participating in a segment called "Sharing It with Me" with Natalie Sleeth.

A number of local officials also participated, with director of building and student services Donald Cowan making opening remarks, project manager Bill McCarthy officially passing the keys to principal Dick Rutter and architect Judy Miller presenting a plaque to school board President Susan Rennels. GAI Beck, president of the Hillside PTA and superintendent Michael Flanagan also offered comments as part of the program.

Farmington-area voters approved bond money in January of 1989 during a special election for the \$7.2-million school, which drew many students from overcrowded schools in the west side of the district.

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