



Dudley STEM school unveiled

Written by

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Sometime in the next four days, the first butterfly will be born on the corner of a small milkweed at the Monarch Way Station at the former Dudley Elementary, and officials said a new Battle Creek Public will be born with it.

The way station -- basically a butterfly garden -- is one of several improvements at Dudley that transformed it into the Dudley STEM School. Those improvements, which also included new science and technology labs, new interactive whiteboards in the classrooms and other renovations, were displayed at an open house Tuesday attended by about 250 people.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math, and BCPS Superintendent Linda Hicks told Tuesday's crowd that Dudley is only the first of many planned changes that would bring a focus in those subject areas to the district.

"We're on a mission to develop a STEM community," Hicks said.

After a re-dedication ceremony to rename the school -- new signage at the building was unveiled -- parents and students

toured the new facilities and checked out some of the new technology students will use beginning this school year. This included iPads that will be used in classrooms. On Tuesday, students used an iPad application that allowed them to scan a bar code next to their teachers' picture on the wall and the iPad automatically played a video showing that teacher introducing him or herself.

Ciera Gibson, 25, said she attended Dudley elementary and now had transferred her daughters, Aaziyah Gibson, 9, and Carreaye Edmond, 5, from Ann J. Elementary to Dudley for the improvements. She said the school looked very different Tuesday than when she attended.

"It's so exciting," the mother said. "This is a good change for education."