

New theatre premieres in Normal

HILARY DIRKS
News Editor

Just next to Interstate 55 on 201 McKnight road debuts the new mega-movie theater Starplex Cinemas Stadium 14 which opened February 27. As the name implies, this new attraction has 14 theaters with 2500 seats total.

The lobby of the theater has a large concession area as well as an arcade. The box office windows are outside, however it can be accessed from indoors as well.

Two of the screens are ready to show digital features as well as 3D movies. The leather chairs are situated stadium style and have moveable arm rests.

Since the theater's opening, they have been busy.

"We have had a lot of business," said Mike Fenske, the General Manager at Starplex Cinemas.

Prices for this new theater are very competitive at \$6 for students, seniors, and children and \$8 for adults after 6 pm. An extra fee of \$2 is added for those who go to see a film in 3D.

These prices are in the same price range as other movie theaters in the area with Palace's prices at \$7.75 and Galaxy Cinema's prices at \$6.75.

In spite of the better prices, students do not prefer Starplex as much. "I didn't like it as much as Galaxy," said Senior John Delanois.

Student Prices:

- Galaxy Cinemas = \$6.75
- Palace Cinema (and other Carmike Cinemas)= \$7.75
- Starplex Cinemas = \$6

Three day weekends cut short next year

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Writer

Students often down count the days to the next three-day weekend. But next year students will have less of these three day weekends to count down to, because District 87 has made several calendar changes for next year that will add several school days onto the yearly schedule.

Beginning in the fall semester of 2009, all of District 87 must attend school on Veteran's Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Casimir Pulaski Day and Good Friday. However, the district will be off on President's Day, essentially in exchange with Lincoln's Birthday.

There are several reasons for these calendar changes.

"At our elementary schools, specialists normally meet on Fridays," said Principal Tim Moore. "Incidentally, we tend to have holidays on those days, forcing elementary specialists to miss quite a bit of time."

In addition to benefiting elementary schools, Bloomington High School will also be affected. With less days taken off, the semesters will be more balanced, by several days. The first semester will consist of 81 days, while the second semester will consist of 92 days. Students will be in school more often, and have a better balance between halves of the school year.

In the beginning, the idea for this calendar change was proposed by Barry Reilly. This was then presented to the school board and union, and then finalized.

"Formerly, our days off were on odd days," said Mr.

Moore. "We found it an inconvenience to have days off in the middle of the week. In the future there will be more holidays taken on Mondays."

"The calendar changes won't have a huge effect on the school year," says science teacher Diane Goerlitz. "I'm going to miss those days, though. Winter is hard to get through, so it's nice to have days off every now and again."

Seniors like Josiah Pettie will not have to worry about the upcoming changes.

"I'm not affected whatsoever, so I don't care. I'm going to have months off for college anyways."

However, underclassmen such as Freshman Brandon Phipps feel differently.

"I disagree with the decision. I think we should still get those days off of school. The people some of those days represent are heroes. I think their memory should be honored, and not just forgotten."

The biggest reason for the schedule change is to create a better alignment with Unit 5. Many teachers in District 87 have children that attend Unit 5 schools, or vice versa. Also, students may have other issues dealing with people from other units or districts, like picking up family members, or having meetings on certain days. Creating a more solid alignment with Unit 5 hopes to serve a great purpose and make things a bit easier on everybody.

Regardless of the separate views of students and faculty, the decision stands that four holidays will be removed from the District 87 calendar, and a change will be made that everyone is just going to have to get used to.



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