

FEATURE PROJECT

BASIS BATON ROUGE PRIMARY SCHOOL: MID CITY CAMPUS

Metro's work includes installation of 40 roof top units and associated duct and 3 ductless splits. Buquet & LeBlanc is the general contractor for this facility.

BASIS BATON ROUGE PRIMARY SCHOOL: MID CITY CAMPUS
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

MORE THAN JUST ABCs

The Mid City Campus of BASIS Baton Rouge Primary School is slated for completion just in time for the Fall, 2021 school year. Joining its sister school, Basis B.R. – Materra, this is the latest addition to the tuition-free public charter school system. Basis advertises a “world class education” and uses the teaching pattern of building fundamental concepts at an accelerated pace to prepare students for higher education and beyond.

Buquet & LeBlanc is the general contractor for this facility. The new 43,000 square foot school will feature 27 classrooms, 2 multi-purpose areas, and outdoor and indoor play space serving grades K-5. Metro's work includes installation of 40 roof top units and associated duct and 3 ductless splits.

With growth in the Baton Rouge market, Metro is also opening our fourth office location in east Baton Rouge. This will help serve our customer base and allow for equipment staging and pipe fabrication for local projects. We are excited about having a permanent home base in this area.

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ENTERGY



HOT SPRINGS ★ ARKANSAS

Another prime mechanical project for Metro included the renovation of Entergy's Hot Springs Service Center. Our work included replacement of an 80-ton chiller, three air handlers, associated duct, piping, electrical and controls. Entergy operates administrative offices, meter reading dispatch, equipment and materials storage out of this facility.

CAPITOL FACILITIES



JACKSON ★ MISSISSIPPI

Metro crews are installing new computer room equipment on the 700 North State Street building. This is part of the Capitol Complex operated by the MS Department of Finance and Administration. Our work included removal of a roof top unit and replacement with a Stultz computer room unit using dual source cooling of chilled water and DX. This project is scheduled for completion in April.

GARY ROAD SCHOOLS



BYRAM ★ MISSISSIPPI

As part of the Hinds County School system, Gary Road Schools are adding multi-use space called Gymatoriums. These spaces can be used for large group meetings or recreational space for students. Coleman Hammons Construction is the general contractor for this addition to both schools. Metro's work includes all HVAC, site and building plumbing.

FORREST GENERAL HOSPITAL



HATTIESBURG ★ MISSISSIPPI

Metro HVAC and plumbing crews are renovating the E Wing at Forrest General Hospital. This work will provide space for a new dialysis unit with 27 patient beds. Metro's scope includes acid waste, medical gas, heating/chilled water piping, new air handlers, 28 VAVs, and exhaust fans. This is one of nine projects presently underway in the Hattiesburg market.

METRO'S OPEN HOUSE IS BACK: FRIDAY, MAY 14

After a year off due to the pandemic, Metro's Open House and Fish Fry is back on for 2021. Mark your calendars for **Friday, May 14**. Extra care will be taken to provide a safe setting for all attending.

Our fish fry is the largest marketing event of the year for the Metro team. We enjoy hosting clients, professionals, vendors, and others who support us in so many ways. It is our way of saying thanks to the business community in helping build our business. Watch for your personal invitation in the mail shortly.



SAFETY CORNER: ZERO CAN BE A GOOD NUMBER

Most of us are not so far removed from school days that we have forgotten the dreaded "Zero". Failing to turn in an assignment, skipping class, or the dog eating your homework. All of these left a bad mark on your grade average.

In the world of safety, zero can be a positive number. Our motto has long been "Safety is No Accident" as in no occurrences or incidents. We are now into our fourth year of zero lost time incidents and zero days away for restricted or modified duty. This timeframe encompasses almost 800,000 man-hours in the field and our team is to be commended for this record. Safe practices, use of PPE, and avoidance of near misses don't happen by sheer luck or coincidence. This is an intentional plan of training, reminders, and reporting of unsafe conditions. **Congratulations to Lamar McPhail and our safety team in leading this charge!**



BY: RICK WHITE

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

MY VIEW: WE GOTTA HAVE A PLAN OF ACTION

The famed actor, cowboy, humorist, and newspaper columnist Will Rogers who lived eighty years ago had a famous saying, "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there". At the time of his death, Rogers had written over 4,000 syndicated newspaper columns and was one of Hollywood's highest paid actors. He was known far and wide for his witty sayings.

His quote about just sitting there has a great application in the business world. The Metro Message is in its twenty-second year of publication. Every edition is archived in our office and these newsletters paint a picture of how business and the industry in general has changed over time. For instance, two decades ago retail was the "bread and butter" of most new construction. Today that has all but gone by the wayside. Senior living facilities were a footnote 25 years ago and are now springing up everywhere. Mississippi has seen huge growth in the industrial sector as manufacturing jobs have moved south from other parts of the country.

Our management and marketing team is constantly reading the "tea leaves" to determine where the next move or trend is heading. The first quarter of every year is a time of analysis. What worked? What created challenges? How do we optimize opportunities and skip the projects that just don't fit our model? The best path is sometimes difficult to discern.

Our management retreat mentioned elsewhere in this edition is just one way of keeping the team on the right track. Plans are made but subject to change. Our hats are off to our managers who bring ideas and are willing to take a chance on a plan of action. You gotta have a plan. Like Will Rogers, we know that just sitting there is not the solution.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: COLBY BLOUNT



COLBY, ELIZABETH, ADDISON & PRESTON BLOUNT

Colby began his career with Metro in 2007 after graduation from Central Hinds Academy. He started in sheet metal/field installation and has worked in a variety of positions over his career here. Colby now supervises the retrofit/equipment change-out group with Metro. He is married to Elizabeth and they have two children, Addison and Preston. In addition to work, Colby enjoys hunting, fishing, and being Dad to two active kids. The Blounts live in Bolton. We appreciate the contribution he makes to our team.

METRO MECHANICAL: MANAGEMENT RETREAT

Scott Adams, the renowned creator of the comic strip Dilbert has a saying, "Every skill you acquire doubles your odds of success". While doubling may seem a stretch, learning and polishing skills as a manager is critical. Each year, Metro has a practice of leaving campus and taking some dedicated time to share ideas, challenge each other, and develop practices that enhance our skills as managers. Our senior leadership gathered recently at the ABC Mississippi office in Pearl to work on processes and efficiencies that help our company operate as one team.



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THE METRO BUTTON: IT'S WHAT WE DO!

A national office supply company once advertised the "Easy Button". It was a suggestion that anything you needed, they were the one stop shop for your needs. In the construction and service world, we are bombarded with questions like these.

- ★ My project is over budget. Can you help?
- ★ Who handles warranty once we are past construction?
- ★ We are planning our new facility and we want it done right. Can you help with design?
- ★ Oh, no. We have water all over the floor in our office. Can you help?
- ★ Our vendor can't deliver our spiral duct for 8 weeks. Do you stock this?
- ★ We're adding more servers for IT. What should we do for HVAC?
- ★ It's time to think about replacing older equipment. Where do we start?

These questions and many more are all part of Metro's wheelhouse. We have solutions. Design, construction, retrofit, service, or specialty fabrication needs are what we do. We are the "easy button" of mechanical construction and services.

