

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Bond projects underway in Comal ISD**

Bond 2005, overwhelmingly approved by voters in December, is financing the construction of six new schools and three major school conversions over the next three years. Two of the new schools have broken ground and a third will break ground later this year.

About \$108 million of the \$189 million bond issue has been sold in order to finance the construction projects. The debt service portion of the district's tax rate pays for the construction bonds and even with the additional debt the debt service tax rate is decreasing from 30 cents per \$100 valuation to 27 cents in 2007. New growth in Comal ISD and higher property appraisals are reasons for the lower debt service tax rate.

The following is a list of the projects and their status:

- **Elementary on FM 1101 in New Braunfels** — construction underway.

Tentative opening is August 2007. It will alleviate overcrowding at Goodwin Frazier Elementary and will accommodate 824 students in grades prekindergarten through fifth.

- **Elementary in Startzville** — site work underway. Tentative opening is August 2007. It will replace the current elementary at Mt. Valley School. Once those prekindergarten through fifth-grade students move to the new elementary,

Mt. Valley will begin its transformation into a middle school for the Canyon Lake area.

- **Elementary in Timberwood Park** — drawings are in progress. A road through the property will be moved this fall and the groundbreaking will be this winter. Tentative opening is 2008. It will relieve the overcrowding at Specht Elementary which is currently capped. It too will accommodate prekindergarten through fifth-grade students.
- **Elementary in Morningside in New Braunfels** — land has been purchased.
- **Two elementary schools in the Hwy 281 area** — two pieces of property are under consideration.
- **Canyon Intermediate Conversion to a Middle School** — construction underway. School is being expanded and remodeled to accommodate sixth-through eighth-grades.
- **Arlon Seay Intermediate Conversion to an Elementary School** — this project will get underway in phase two of the bond issue.
- **Mt. Valley School Conversion to a Middle School** — this project will get underway after the elementary students move to the new elementary in Startzville in 2007.
- **Frazier Elementary Renovations** — construction begins this school year. The school is being expanded to be a complete elementary with grades prekindergarten through fifth.
- **Other Renovations** — Rahe Bulverde Elementary and Smithson Valley Middle renovations will occur in phase two of the bond.
- **Support Services Building** — construction in progress. The building will allow all support services currently scattered over two dozen buildings in New Braunfels to be under one roof by early 2007. The building is located next to Canyon High.

- **Technology** — \$2.2 million has been allocated thus far for campus computer rotation and growth, SAN disk storage, server rotation and redundancy, and software
- **School buses** — 55 new buses have been purchased thus far

The school district has a link on its website with current information about the bond projects. Patrons simply have to visit [www.comalisd.org/Growth/Growth.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Growth.asp).