

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD makes excellent on Bond 2008 and Bond 2005 projects**

The Comal ISD continues to make excellent progress on construction projects funded through Bonds 2005 and 2008.

Just this year, through Bond 2005, CISD opened brand new Morningside Elementary in southeast New Braunfels and Timberwood Park Elementary in San Antonio last August, and has completed expansion projects at Arlon Seay Elementary, Mountain Valley Middle (formerly Mountain Valley School) and Smithson Valley Middle.

Also through Bond 2005, Johnson Ranch Elementary in Bulverde and Oak Creek Elementary in New Braunfels will open this August, and an elementary in Avery Park subdivision in New Braunfels will open in 2010.

In fact, due to strong fiscal management, both Avery Park Elementary, and a new school at the former site of the Bulverde campus which will become Rahe Bulverde Elementary School, will house K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students under one roof. These projects that were not in the original Bond 2005 plan but were added, at no additional cost to the taxpayer, through bond savings and interest accrued.

"I can't say enough about how efficient and thorough our team has been in stretching our bond dollars," Comal ISD superintendent Dr. Marc Walker said. "It's because of this effort, and the constant support of our community members and parents, that we are able to continually provide our students with superior learning environments as the Comal ISD continues to grow at a rapid rate."

Probably the best news coming out of both bond issues — 2005 and 2008 — is that the debt service tax rate paying for the bonds has not gone up. In fact, it's decreased by 3 cents because of the growth in Comal County and the refinancing of bond debt.

To learn more about the progress with Bond 2005 visit the district's website at [http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond\\_2005\\_Status.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond_2005_Status.asp). Updated construction PowerPoints, slide shows, and publications are on the site.

The major projects in Bond 2008 involve Smithson Valley High and Canyon High. Expansions at SVHS, including 20 new classrooms, an expanded agriculture department, a new performing arts center, and athletic department upgrades, and CHS, which will have 31 new classrooms, major upgrades in the career and technology and athletic departments, and a new performing arts center, will take several years to complete. Together both projects are budgeted at \$75 million.

New competition-sized swimming pools will also be built at all three high schools during their respective expansion projects.

The pools will be built for approximately \$325,000 each and will be financed through donations, land sales, and/or bond interest money. Vintage Oaks subdivision has already pledged a donation of at least \$200,000.

The goal is to have the SVHS and CHS pools open in fall 2009, while the CLHS pool will open at a later date.

Also through Bond 2008, Comal ISD will add new science labs and a library to Canyon Middle, a new cafeteria and science labs to Church Hill Middle, new classrooms and a new wood shop building to Smithson Valley Middle, and new classrooms and an expanded library at Spring Branch Middle.

The cost of these expansions is budgeted at a total of \$23 million.

Three new elementary schools also will be built thanks to Bond 2008, one off of FM 306 near Canyon Lake, one at the corner of Borgfeld Road and Bulverde Road in San Antonio, and one in the Garden Ridge area. The budget is \$16 million per school. Garden Ridge is scheduled to be completed by August 2010, the FM 306 elementary is scheduled to open in 2011, and the Borgfeld Road/Bulverde Road location is tentatively scheduled for completion in August 2013.

Additional Bond 2008 upgrades have decreased the student-to-computer ratio through mobile labs, and will include air conditioning in all elementary and middle school gyms, standardizing all elementary playgrounds, will improve parking at Specht Elementary, will add an agricultural barn at Canyon Lake High, and will provide interactive whiteboards, iPods, document cameras, and wireless internet connection to all campuses.

To learn more about the progress with Bond 2008 visit the district's website at [http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond\\_2008\\_Status.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond_2008_Status.asp). Updated construction PowerPoints and publications are on the site.

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