

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD ahead of pace on construction funded by bonds 2005 and 2008

Comal ISD is ahead of schedule on all major Bond 2005 and 2008 projects.

The bond issues, which passed by wide margins, have helped the district keep up with the tremendous growth the area has seen in recent years.



When Clear Spring Elementary opens in the Avery Park subdivision in New Braunfels at the start of the 2010-11 school year, every project from the 2005 bond issue will be complete.

Bond 2005 provided eight brand new elementary schools, including Freiheit, Morningside, Timberwood Park, Oak Creek, Johnson Ranch, Startzville, Rahe Bulverde, and Clear Spring.

Two of the buildings, Clear Spring and Rahe Bulverde elementary schools, were not in the original Bond 2005 plans but were made possible by strong fiscal management from other projects that finished under budget.

Other completed Bond 2005 expansions took place at Goodwin Frazier Elementary and Church Hill, Smithson Valley and Mountain Valley middle schools.

“We’re very proud of the fact we were able to build eight new elementary buildings instead of the six we planned for in Bond 2005,” said Thomas Bloxham, Comal ISD assistant superintendent for Support Services. “That’s not something many school districts are able to say they accomplished.”

Two major jobs ongoing from the Bond 2008 issue are construction projects at both Smithson Valley and Canyon high schools. Construction at both sites has been broken down into three phases, and phase one and two are complete at both SVHS and CHS.

"We originally thought construction would be complete in late 2011 at both CHS and SVHS," Bloxham said. "We're far ahead of schedule."

At CHS, projects already complete include a swimming pool, new Career and Technology building, Ag shop/classroom, 30 new classrooms, renovations to current classrooms, new administrative offices, a new main entrance and parking area, new science labs, new athletic field houses, and gym locker rooms.

The final project to be complete at CHS will be finished in December 2010, when the Cougar Den is converted into an approximately 600-seat auditorium.

"I'm absolutely pleased with the progress at CHS," Bloxham said. "Things went better there than we could have imagined."

CHS principal Brad Brown said he's certainly been impressed with the changes he's seen at his school.

"It's going to be hard to believe where we were a couple of years ago when everything is complete," Brown said. "Students are going to be very proud of their new beautiful campus."

Comal ISD is also on an accelerated schedule at SVHS.

Already complete are a new Ag shop, swimming pool, major parking expansion project, football stadium improvements, 22 new classrooms, a new main entrance, new administrative offices, field house additions and renovations, and a new competition gym. The new SVHS performing arts center that will seat around 600 is expected to be complete in December 2010.

By the time school opens in fall 2011, every part of phase three construction will be finalized including expansion and renovation in all science labs, interior renovations to all older areas of the school, a new culinary arts facility, conversion of the auditorium into a choir room, and conversion of the current choir room into career and technology classrooms.

"SVHS will now be an even greater learning environment for our students," Bloxham said. "The overall layout at both CHS and SVHS will be much better when all the construction is complete in the near future."

SVHS principal John Montelongo said all the additions and renovations will help tremendously.

“I think it’s great we’re going to have more up-to-date facilities across the board,” Montelongo said. “This will do nothing but boost the opportunities for our students.”

Also included in Bond 2008 is Comal ISD’s first green campus, Garden Ridge Elementary School. GRES, a replacement campus for Comal Elementary School that closed for good at the end of this school year, will open at the start of the 2010-11 school year featuring a living roof, skylights, and rainwater harvesting.

Comal ISD broke ground recently on an elementary school that will be located in the Kinder Ranch subdivision near the intersection of Borgfeld and Bulverde roads in northern Bexar County. The school is one of two elementary schools left to be built in the district’s \$205.85 million Bond 2008 issue. The Kinder Ranch elementary school will relieve overcrowding at Timberwood Park and Specht elementary schools and is expected to open in August 2011. The name of the school will not officially be decided until later this school year. The school will cost approximately \$16 million to build.

Originally, the district thought a new elementary in Canyon Lake off of FM 306 near Sattler would precede the Kinder Ranch elementary. But due to the district’s demographics showing greater need for schools in the fast-growing southwest region of the district, the construction of a new elementary in Canyon Lake has been postponed until a future bond issue. Instead, an elementary will be built in Indian Springs on the east side of Hwy. 281 off of Bulverde Road in addition to the Kinder Ranch elementary and is expected to open in 2012-13. Comal ISD still has the FM 306 site, which will be used in the future.

Additional Bond 2008 projects that are complete include renovations at Goodwin Frazier, Specht and the Comal Discipline Center, as well as technology upgrades across the district. Construction on a new swimming pool, Ag barn, and field house at Canyon Lake High is scheduled to be completed during the 2010-11 school year.

Other Bond 2008 projects that will be complete at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year include renovations and expansions at Canyon, Church Hill and Spring Branch middle schools.

IN PHOTOS: Garden Ridge Elementary, which will open at the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, will include features like a living roof and rainwater harvesting. It is located at the corner of FM 3009 and Municipal Pkwy, across from City Hall.

Canyon High swim team members (l-r) Ethan Pauling, Scott Jonsson, Carly Covington, Amanda Gutz, and Kelsey Emmons fire off the blocks as teammate Sarah Schell looks on during a morning practice at CHS' new pool last school year.

