



October 2007

Dear Comal ISD Parents,

This is an exciting time to live and work in the Comal ISD. We continue to grow at an average of 5.5% a year and projections call for about 1,000 new students each year for the next several years.

With growth comes change and the need to be flexible. In our case, we're talking attendance zone changes. Attendance zones, or boundaries, will change as new schools open. Families will be impacted and we all must work together to provide the most balanced and efficient system possible.

There are several boundary changes for 2008-09 and 2009-10 that the school board initially approved in February 2006 and reviewed again this month. Please be assured we strive to make the most effective and reasonable decision based on defined standards even though that solution may not be popular. We are continually concerned about the district as a whole, not just in parts.

Guidelines in Making Changes to Boundaries

As a quick review, the Bond 2005 campaign that is responsible for the new schools and, consequently, new boundaries, was driven by at least three standards established by the school board that summer —

1. Grade alignments for Comal ISD schools will be Pk-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th; and,
2. School capacities will be 824 (elementary); 1,298 (middle); and, 2,575 (high); and,
3. Pure feeder patterns will be a priority (students move together from elem.>middle>high).

In addition, as boundaries are identified, we have to keep other factors in mind — balancing schools' enrollments, staying ahead of the growth, travel routes, time on bus, and, sustainability of boundary changes over time. We closely examine all alternatives selecting what is in the "best interest" of the entire district.

2008-09 and 2009-10 Boundary Changes

The following are highlights of the boundary changes as compared to the current boundaries. (High school boundaries are not changing.)

2008-2009

- Timberwood Park Elementary Opens (Pk-5th) — Specht Elementary's (Pk-5th) boundaries change
- Morningside Elementary Opens (Pk-5th) — Comal Elementary's boundaries change
- Arlon Seay Intermediate becomes AS Elementary (Pk-5th) — Fifth-graders return to their elementary schools at Bill Brown, Rahe Bulverde, and Specht. Bill Brown's and Rahe Bulverde's boundaries change.
- Mt. Valley Middle School Opens (6th-8th) — Smithson Valley Middle's boundaries change; all 6th-8th graders in the Rebecca Creek and Startzville elementary boundaries will begin attending MVMS (no "grandfathering" of students currently attending Smithson Valley Middle)
- All middle school students (6th-8th) living in Specht Elementary's boundaries start attending Smithson Valley Middle (no "grandfathering" of Specht students currently attending Spring Branch Middle)

2009-2010

- Johnson Ranch Area Elementary Opens (Pk-5th) — Specht's and Rahe Bulverde's boundaries change
- Oak Creek Area Elementary Opens (Pk-5th) — Hoffmann Lane Elementary's boundaries change

The 2008-09 and 2009-10 school boundary maps are available at [www.comalisd.org>About Us>Maps](http://www.comalisd.org>About%20Us/Maps). A public meeting to review the changes and answer questions will be held in the near future. Meeting details will be available on the website and through the district's e-news listserv. We will continue to communicate the district's intentions as efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,

Comal ISD Board of Trustees and Administration