

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Gordon
830-885-1081

Release Date: Aug. 23, 2010

Comal ISD opens doors to three new campuses on first day of school

The opening of three brand new campuses highlighted the first day of school on Aug. 23 around Comal ISD.

Garden Ridge and Clear Spring elementary schools, and Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early College High School (ACMECHS), officially opened doors to students for the first time.

Garden Ridge Elementary is located at the corner of FM 3009 and Municipal Parkway. It replaces Comal Elementary, which closed in May, and has “green school” features such as a living roof, skylights and rainwater harvesting with on-site storage.

Clear Spring Elementary, located in the Avery Park subdivision in New Braunfels, will help alleviate overcrowding at Freiheit Elementary.

“I think the new campus will have a huge impact on this area,” said parent Marli Atkinson, who has four children attending GRES. “All the neighborhoods out here are booming with growth. It gives us a sense of pride to have our own school.”

Fifth-grade GRES student Kaitlyn Albrecht visited the living roof on the morning of the first day of school and said she can’t wait to start conducting science experiments.



“It will be great to get out of the classroom sometimes and do exciting science work up here,” Albrecht said. “Plus, the view is awesome.”

Albrecht added it should be fun to be the first students to ever set foot on the campus this school year.

“We’ll be the first people here to make memories,” she said. “That makes us feel like we’re really important.”

Clear Spring Elementary principal Betsy Nash said she couldn’t be more pleased how smoothly things went on the first morning of school.

“The teachers and students were both very excited and everything was very organized,” Nash said. “We had a couple of moms crying, but I always tell them that this is harder on them than it is on their kids.”

ACMECHS is located in the building that previously housed Memorial High School in New Braunfels. ACMECHS is partnered with St. Philip’s College in San Antonio. Students will have the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree or up to 60 college credit hours from St. Philip’s in addition to their high school diploma.

ACMECHS principal Dr. Dolly Adams said she’s been looking forward to the first day of school at her campus, which will include just over 100 students, all incoming freshmen. ACMECHS is geared toward enrolling students who would not normally have the chance to go to college

“It’s going to be a great opportunity for so many students,” Adams said. “I think they’re going to be up for the challenge. It’s a thrilling time in the lives of all of the young people who will attend our unique school.”

In all, Comal ISD, which was recently named a “Recognized” district by the Texas Education Agency, projects to have just over 17,000 students enrolled in its 25 campuses this school year.

-CISD-

GRESFirstDayWalk: Tara Montgomery walks with student Tyren Montgomery into the open doors at Garden Ridge Elementary on Aug. 23. It was the first official day of school at the brand new Comal ISD campus.

GRESKissMommy: Garden Ridge Elementary second grader Alana Michell gives her mother Anita a big kiss goodbye before heading into teacher Holly Crossland’s classroom on the first-ever day of school at the new GRES campus.

GRESLivingRoofStudents: Garden Ridge Elementary fifth-grade students Bennett Emmons (left) and Kaitlyn Albrecht are amazed at the beauty of the school's living roof. The living roof is part of several "green school" features and will be used as part of the science curriculum. Also pictured is one of several skylights on the roof that will send natural light directly into the library, which will cut energy costs. The roof also includes a silo that will harvest rainwater for on-site storage.

CSESNametag: Kindergarten teacher Rachel Garcia lends a helping hand to student Jack Griffiths as he puts on his nametag on the first-ever day of school at Clear Spring Elementary.

CSESExercises: Clear Spring Elementary students Owen Painter (left) and Paislee Conder do morning exercises in kindergarten teacher Rachel Garcia's class on the first day of school at the new CSES campus.

ACMECHSFirstDay: Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early Colleges High School Student Services Specialist Dannette Young gives student Sean Young all the information he'll need about his transportation to and from the campus on the first day of school.



