

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Comal ISD swim team members enjoy new campus pools**

Not that they have anything against the beautiful city of Boerne, but members of the Smithson Valley High swim team are quite pleased with the fact they don't have to travel there on a regular basis anymore.

New heated outdoor pools opened up at both SVHS and Canyon High this semester, and one will open up at Canyon Lake High at the beginning of next school year.

"We used to leave the school at 5:50 every morning to travel to use the facilities in Boerne," SVHS swim team member Anna Mayfield said. "It sure is great to be able to sleep longer. I always dreaded that early morning bus ride."

Members of the Canyon High swim team only had to travel across New Braunfels to the YMCA, but the convenience of having a pool in their backyard has drawn much praise as well.

"I'm very grateful," said CHS senior Amanda Gutz. "I didn't know if we'd ever get a pool here. There aren't many schools that have swimming pools in this area."

The pools, which are 25-yards long, were built for approximately \$325,000 each and were financed through donations, real estate sale revenue, and bond interest money.

"It's exciting to see projects like these go from the planning stages to the fun part where students are getting to enjoy and use the facilities," said Thomas Bloxham, assistant superintendent for support services. "We think all three pools will be great for the schools and the community."

Both SVHS and CHS were able to draw experienced swim team coaches once the pools were built.

CHS' head coach Will Haltom was at Clear Creek High in Houston for 13 years. SVHS head coach Kari Osborne was at Judson High for three years. Both the CHS and SVHS swim team participant numbers are up more than a dozen students this year.

"I don't think I would be here if not for this new pool," Haltom said. "I think the future is very bright for our program. I think you'll really be able to see a difference when we start to implement summer youth swim programs here and those kids eventually get into high school."

SVHS swim team member Josh Tavaréz said the new pool has created a buzz around campus.

"People know we have a pool, so now they know we have a swim team," Tavaréz said. "I've seen a lot of interest generated in just the first few months of school this year."

Osborne said she's excited at the chance to build a foundation at SVHS.

"It's a great opportunity to build a program that's still at the ground stages," Osborne said. "We plan on eventually having set times for intermediate classes, and times for the community to use the pool, so we have a lot in the planning stages right now. It's an awesome time to be associated with swimming in Comal ISD."

-CISD-

#### IN PHOTOS:

Smithson Valley High swim team members Larissa Garza (front) and Addie Erhardt are hard at work during a morning swim practice at the campus' new pool.

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.