

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kari Hutchison
830-221-2045

Release Date: October 3, 2007

55% growth in 10 years; three new schools open this year in fast-growing Comal ISD

Comal County is one of the fastest growing counties in Texas. As a result, the 51-year-old Comal Independent School District is one of the fastest growing school districts of its size in the state. For each of the last few years, Comal ISD has grown by 5 to 8 percent each year, or the equivalent of an elementary school a year.

The Bond 2005 issue was approved by voters for \$189 million. It is allowing the district to build six new elementary schools, convert several existing schools, expand others, and it is providing new school buses, upgraded technology, and more land for additional schools to be covered out of future bond issues.

The Bond 2005 new elementary school projects will open at the pace of two per year. This year, Freiheit Elementary and Startzville Elementary opened to students in two different areas of the 589-square mile district (100th largest in Texas). In addition, Canyon Lake High School, funded through Bond 1999, also opened.

All three schools will be dedicated this fall according to the following schedule:

Saturday, Oct. 13 at 11 a.m. — Freiheit Elementary, 2002 FM 1101 in New Braunfels

Saturday, Oct. 20 at 11 a.m. — Canyon Lake High School, at the corner of FM 3424 and RM 32 on the north side of Canyon Lake

Sunday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. — Startzville Elementary, 42111 FM 3159 in Startzville (south of Canyon Lake)

This is the public's opportunity to visit the schools and see how their tax dollars are being spent. The dedications will start with traditional ribbon cutting ceremonies about 15 minutes before the dedication program starts. Tours will be given after the dedications and refreshments will be available.

Project budgets for Freiheit Elementary and Startzville Elementary were each \$14 million. Canyon Lake High School was built for \$42 million.

Capacity at the two elementary schools is 824 students. Freiheit accommodates prekindergarten through 5th grade and Startzville has prekindergarten through 6th grade this year and the 6th graders will move to the renovated Mt. Valley Middle School in August 2008.

CLHS was built for 1,500 and currently has only freshmen and sophomores, about 450 of them, this first year. It was built to relieve overcrowding at Smithson Valley High School.