



Contact: Julie Jerome  
830.221.2621  
[julie.jerome@comalisd.org](mailto:julie.jerome@comalisd.org)  
Jan. 9, 2012

# NEWS BRIEFS

## **Semester exams take place this week**

End of semester exams for middle school and high school students will be this week, with early release on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 12 and 13. Students are encouraged to: get a good night's sleep and eat a hearty breakfast before the tests and to show up to school on time.

At the elementary level, students will be taking benchmark tests at various grade levels. For more specific details about your child's testing schedule, please contact the campus.

Buses will run at 12:45 p.m. at the secondary level and at the normally scheduled time, 2:45 p.m., at the elementary level.

Monday, Jan. 16, is a holiday for all students, and a staff work day. Report cards for all students go home on Jan. 20.

## **Community invited to strategic planning summits**

The remaining three strategic planning “summits” are scheduled for Monday evening, Jan. 16, and Tuesday, Jan. 17. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend any or all of them.

The schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 16, 6 p.m. Mountain Valley Middle School Cafeteria
- Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m. Spring Branch Middle School Library
- Tuesday, Jan. 17, 6 p.m. Smithson Valley Middle School Cafeteria

With the aid of a Cambridge Strategics facilitator, participants will be asked to share their dreams and aspirations for the future of education in Comal ISD.

Input gathered at these community awareness summits will be shared with the district’s Strategic Planning Team in early February. The 25-member team will mirror the community, comprising parents, community members, teachers, students and staff. The team will meet on Feb. 6, 7 and 8 to form the district’s mission, beliefs, parameters, objectives and strategies, which become the goals of the strategic plan.

Each strategy, which range in number from four to seven, will be developed by separate action teams—anywhere from 10 to 20 members of staff and community participate on an action team—that meet regularly over a period of about four months and develop action plans to address the strategy.

In all, more than 150 members of the Comal ISD staff and community have an opportunity to participate in the Strategic Planning Team or one of the action teams.

If you are interested in participating in Comal ISD strategic planning, please attend at least one of the summits. You will have opportunities there to express your willingness to participate further.

A link for strategic planning has been placed on the homepage of the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org). If you have any questions, please contact Julie Jerome, 830.221.2621, [julie.jerome@comalisd.org](mailto:julie.jerome@comalisd.org).

## **Smithson Valley HS hosts Junior Parent College Night**

Smithson Valley High School will be hosting a Junior Parent College Night on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the auditorium. Representatives and recruiters from colleges and military services will be on hand to answer questions from parents of juniors, who are thinking ahead to next year.

The evening will begin with a general information session followed by the opportunity for parents and students to ask questions of a panel of experts.

## **Public hearing on district progress slated for Jan. 26**

The annual Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) report for Comal ISD will be presented on Thursday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m., at the district's Support Services Building, 1404 Interstate 35 in New Braunfels. The public hearing will precede the district's regular monthly board meeting.

Each December, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) issues the AEIS, which includes the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) rating. The report includes information concerning student performance, expenditures, average class size and student/teacher ratios. The public is invited to attend.

The AEIS is posted on the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org), and on the TEA website, [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

## **‘Laws you should know’ at Canyon Lake HS**

Comal County Judge Charles Stephens will present “Laws You Should Know” on Friday, Jan. 20 in the Canyon Lake High School Library. Judge Stephens’ visit is sponsored by the school’s Parent Resource Center.

Parents are invited to attend the sessions, which are scheduled for: 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., and 1 and 2 p.m.

## **Become a bus driver!**

Comal ISD student transportation department is seeking bus drivers. No experience is required and starting pay is \$13 per hour with a full-time benefits package. Those hired will be trained for commercial driver’s license (CDL). Apply online, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org) or call 830.221.2055 for more information.

**-CISD-**