



Contact: Julie Jerome  
830.221.2621  
[julie.jerome@comalisd.org](mailto:julie.jerome@comalisd.org)  
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# NEWS BRIEFS

## **Comal ISD closed for holiday break**

All campuses and the Comal ISD Central Office will be closed Dec. 17 through Jan. 1, 2012 for the holiday break. Classes will be released 90 minutes early on Friday, Dec. 16; busses will run 90 minutes early. Classes will resume on the regular schedule on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012.

## **School board to consider redistricting plan**

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees on Thursday will consider a plan that changes the lines of the single-member school board district boundaries. The new draft map is posted on the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org), under the Board of Trustees link. Public comment will be a part of the agenda.

It is important to note that these boundary lines determine the voters of each of the seven single-member district positions on the school board. They are not the boundaries of campus attendance zones.

If the board approves the draft map, it will be sent to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for pre-clearance. Once the map receives DOJ approval it will be in effect for the May 2012 trustee elections. Seats for District 1, 2 and 5, currently held by Stephen Smith, David Drastata and Carol Keller, respectively, are up for election in May 2012.

A redistricting advisory committee, comprising members of voters who live in Comal ISD, worked with an attorney and a demographer to draw up a map that reflects the increase in numbers of voters from the 2010 Census. The committee's recommendation was accepted by the board at the October regular meeting with the caveat that the board would make minor modifications to the lines.

In other business, the board will hear a report on the new end-of-course exams, a district technology update and will consider approval of the campus and district improvement plans.

The Dec. 15 meeting begins at 6 p.m. and will be at the Support Services Building, 1404 Interstate 35 in New Braunfels.

## **Community encouraged to join strategic planning summits**

A series of five “summits” will kick off the district’s strategic planning process in early January and parents and community members are encouraged to attend any or all of them.

The summits will be at each of the district’s middle schools. The schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, Jan. 5, 1 p.m. Church Hill Middle School Library
- Thursday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m. Canyon Middle School Cafeteria
- 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.

The strategic planning process that will be undertaken by the district involves five months of research, community engagement and goal setting by more than 100 parents, staff and members of the Comal ISD community.

“The key to accomplishing these goals is a student-centered, community-driven effort to align all resources and energies toward the community’s highest aspirations for its students,” said Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent of Comal ISD. “As we build our district beliefs, objectives, parameters and strategies—the components of our road map for the future in Comal ISD—we will continue to turn to you for help.”

At each of the summits, there will be opportunities for individuals who wish to take a larger role in the process to sign up. A link on the homepage of the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org), will be established for updates on strategic planning activity as well as events planned. For more information, please contact Julie Jerome, [julie.jerome@comalisd.org](mailto:julie.jerome@comalisd.org), 830.221.2621.

## **Deadline for online registration is Friday**

Students in middle school and high school next year have until Friday to register for their 2012-13 course selections through the txMyZone website. Instructions are available on the link is available on the right side of the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org).

Assistance is also available at your child's campus.

For students interested in dual credit or "Maymester" classes at the high school level, the process this year differs slightly from previous years. Apply Texas online college application packets are due Friday, with no exceptions. The Accuplacer tests will be administered after school and on Saturdays in January. Any student interested in a dual credit course or Maymester must complete all four sections of the Accuplacer and earn score requirements as per St. Philip's College. Sophomores may take one dual credit course a year and juniors and seniors may take two dual credit courses a year.

For high school juniors, Smithson Valley High School has been added as a test site for the Jan. 28 SAT and for the Feb. 11 ACT. Scores should be available from these dates for students to evaluate and decide whether or not to retake one or both in April, May or

June. To register for the SAT, please go to [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). Deadline for the Jan. 28 test is Dec. 30. To register for the ACT, please go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Deadline for the Feb. 11 test is Jan. 13.

For more information, please contact your child's campus.

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