



San Leon Elementary welcomes 600 students

Monday, August 20th, 2007

San Leon Elementary got off to a great start when administrators and teachers opened the doors to 600 students when classes resumed for the 2007-2008 school year on August 27. The dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting took place August 14 in a cafeteria full of approximately 300 parents, students, community members and district administrators.

Fifteen new San Leon students came together to form the first choir and perform, "Ready to Learn" and "All Jazzed Up," under the direction of new music teacher Roderick Blake. Several local dignitaries and community representatives, including Senator Mike Jackson, Representative Craig Eiland, County Commissioners Patrick Doyle and Stephen Holmes, Lynn Nutt from the San Leon-Bacliff-Bayview Chamber of Commerce, Gary Jones from the Citizen's Facility Task Force and Board of Trustees President Fritzie Samford, spoke at the dedication to offer congratulations and best wishes on the upcoming school year. Teachers Alice Kusnerik and Amy McClellen relayed their excitement about the upcoming school year in a new facility.

Principal Linda Duggar spoke about the opportunities ahead for staff and students as they come together to form a new campus and become a "beacon of learning to all students," which is the new theme of the campus.

"Due to its vicinity to Galveston Bay, the school has developed a lighthouse theme starting at the front entrance to the school which features a brick marquee with a lighthouse design welcoming parents, students and the community to the school," said Duggar.

The school is named after the San Leon community where it is located. San Leon is located in northeast Galveston County overlooking Galveston Bay. With the help of Bay Architects and Drymalla Construction, the new campus was started in the spring of 2006 with an official groundbreaking held April 6, 2006. The school has the same basic design as two other Dickinson ISD campuses - Bay Colony Elementary and K.E. Little Elementary - with some modifications. The architects also added some square footage to the new campus to accommodate the growing needs of the district. The campus, which cost \$10,530,500, offers 102,000 square feet for students and staff.

The library serves as the focal point in the center of the school, with pods of classrooms assigned primarily by grade level surrounding the library. The pods feature an open area for classes to meet as a group and large individual classrooms along the sides. A set of restrooms is also available in each pod. The cafeteria and gymnasium are located at the back end of the school, along with designated rooms for art, music, a computer lab and a science lab.

The school provides a challenging curriculum designed to engage students while meeting their needs. The curriculum program features vertical and horizontal teaming, technology integration into all core subjects, performance-based activities, math and literary assessments and Gifted and Talented. A full continuum of services is provided to students with special needs. An academic coach model is available at the school to target the needs of students needing extra assistance with various academic subjects.



The campus, which relieves overcrowding at the district's current four elementary campuses, is part of the \$85 million bond issue approved by voters in April 2005. The bond issue also included a new Barber Middle School for fifth and sixth grade students, a new McAdams Junior High, a new Sam Vitanza Stadium and an agricultural facility.

Cutline: Members of the San Leon Elementary administration and staff take part in the ribbon cutting at the San Leon Elementary Dedication August 14.

