

# insider



July 13, 2017

Summer special

## SAISD schools being made ready for the start of classes

With Aug. 14 just a month away, SAISD facilities and construction services are overseeing the finishing touches on schools, including several renovations and updates, to be ready for 2017-18.

Funding for these projects is through TRE - the Tax Ratification Election SAISD voters approved last November.

These are just a sample.

The Young Women's Leadership Academy's make-ready includes both exterior and interior painting and new auditorium ceiling tiles and window curtains.

Highlighting YWLA's new amenities will be the latest modular teaching wall systems with embedded technology and power wiring with marker and tack

board elements. The newest Smartboards will be installed into these walls in 21 classrooms.

Featuring sophisticated technology, the walls provide an environmentally friendly way to create customizable, sustainable architectural interiors.

CAST Tech HS also will be a beneficiary of the same modular teaching wall systems.

Re-opening as a Montessori school is what originally was Steele ES, while the former Gonzales Achievement Center and Nelson ES will re-open as early childhood education centers.

"As soon as we heard these schools may open up we kicked our forces into gear and started to assess the condition and then made a plan of action," said Michael Sanchez, the District's senior executive director for facilities and plant services.

Work to ready Gonzales, opening in Midtown, and Nelson, located in the Woodlawn Lake area, includes renovating out-dated windows to improve energy efficiency, painting, floor and ceiling repair as needed, new fences and age-appropriate furniture and playground equipment.

A portable was removed from Gonzales and parking spaces were increased.

At Nelson, both the kitchen and a parking lot were re-established.

Steele is opening to ages 4 to 6 and will ultimately expand to age 12. Classes will be held in the wing constructed through bond 1997.

Work includes a canopy-covered drop-off, parking lot, replaced windows, new furniture and playground equipment, and painting.

Twain is transitioning from a middle school to a PK-8 dual-language academy and will open to students in PK to 2nd grade, who will be housed on the ground level.

Preparations include installing restrooms in classes for the littlest learners, as well as fencing and age-appropriate furniture and playground equipment.

A significant portion of the work throughout the District is being done by SAISD staff, with the remainder by outside contractors and vendors.

"Students and their families will feel very comfortable in the newly made-ready facilities," Sanchez said.

"I am very proud of our in-house forces, their teamwork and all they are doing to get everything ready for our students."

*Photo: Workers level the subgrade material in preparation of laying asphalt for a new parking lot at Steele Montessori.*



## Make note of these important upcoming dates



**SAISD Convocation**  
August 9, 2017  
8-9:30 a.m.

AT&T Center • 1 AT&T Center Parkway  
Doors will open at 7 a.m.

**School starts Aug. 14**

Just a reminder that SAISD schools will start earlier this year - sooner than the other area school districts. Please help us spread the word that the first day of classes for SAISD is Aug. 14!

**Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017**  
Aug. 26 - 4 to 6:30 p.m.  
Alamo Convocation Center  
110 Tuleta Drive  
Tickets are \$25 per person



Read the inductees' bios and get ticket information at:  
[www.saisd.net/athleticchalloffame2017](http://www.saisd.net/athleticchalloffame2017)

# Summer in SAISD



1

Courtesy photo



2



3



4



5



6

Courtesy photo

Availing themselves of fun learning opportunities are just some of the ways District students and staff are spending summer 2017.

These photos represent a sampling.

1) With the lower waterfall at Yosemite National Park as a backdrop, Rhodes MS students and teacher William Davis raise the school banner to proclaim their presence in California. This annual summer trip brought lessons in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and science to life.

2) Edison HS choir teacher Valerie Rizanji directs student

actors in singing the “Golden Age of Chocolate” during an SAISD Musical Theatre & Visual Arts Camp rehearsal. Thespians in grades 6-12 comprised the cast performing “Willy Wonka Junior.”

3) Incoming CAST Tech HS students use their interactive skills to design a Rube Goldberg machine at Tech Industry Day, hosted by Rackspace.

4) Through ACE, SAISD’s Athletic Conditioning & Enrichment pilot program, students such as these at Whittier have the opportunity to use middle school gyms and weight rooms this summer while

also enjoying healthy meals and learning about nutrition and fitness.

5) Instructor Alfred Balderrama goes over notes with students attending Summer Orchestra Camp, one of three SAISD musical camps held in June.

6) During training at the Houston Montessori Center, Amanda Bryant practices touch boards, in which students order them by smooth to rough and opposite. She will teach ages 3 to 5 at SAISD’s new Steele Montessori.

To view more photos, [click here](#)



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