

August 25, 2011

TTIPS grants to help transform two SAISD schools

Davis MS and Navarro HS start the new school year as beneficiaries of a total of more than \$7 million in funding to help improve their campuses.

Through Texas Title 1 Priority Schools grant funding they will use a transformational model - one of the four federal intervention model choices - to increase student achievement and exit improvement status.

Under the transformation model, improvements call for increases in teacher and leadership effectiveness, academic performance, school climate, data-driven instruction and parent involvement.

Davis MS

Using the theme "A New Day at Davis," this East Side school's \$2.6 million will go in part to integrating project-based learning and developing a middle school-level engineering program toward an eventual transition to an in-district charter.

Programs will be aligned with those at nearby Sam Houston HS, host site of the New Tech HS which also makes its debut this year and the MET, Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology Magnet.

Other offerings will include: expanded programming to overage students; developing a parent center; implementing a Leadership Officer Training Corp; developing after-school clubs and tutoring programs with transportation provided; and many partnerships.

City Year will place a team of 12 highly-trained corps members at Davis four days a week to provide

assistance before, during and after the end of the school day. Among their functions will be to provide classroom teachers academic support by assisting in efforts to better meet individual learning styles.

Other partners will include: Ben E. Keith Co.; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Communities In Schools; Flint Hill Resources; Fort Sam Houston; NAACP; Phi Kappa Gamma; San Antonio Sports and Entertainment; San Antonians for Growth on the Eastside; and SA Youth. Also lending their support will be Sam Houston HS, feeder schools and local churches.

Navarro HS

This near-downtown campus has chosen "A New Navarro" as the theme for a project designed to implement rapid, dramatic reform.

Navarro's \$4.5 million will help to create smaller school communities within the campus to meet students' unique learning needs. These will be:

- **Career and Prep Academy.** Serving 9th- and 10th-graders requiring non traditional learning techniques. There is no bell schedule, and project-based instruction and hands-on learning opportunities are organized by interdisciplinary teams of core and elective teachers.
- **Star Academy.** Ninth-graders who are behind are provided credit acceleration through the integration of hands-on cooperative learning with technology.
- **Virtual High School.** Students use on-campus multimedia technology including online, self-paced individualized courses to earn high school credit.



Kim Butler of Creative Learning Systems (shown background) trains Davis MS technology teacher Anthony J. Jaramillo on the use of computers in the new SmartLab Learning Environment, the first of 11 middle schools to receive them through SAISD Bond 2010. The career technology lab will augment the school's transition to an in-district charter specializing in engineering.



Assisting juniors and seniors enrolled in the Virtual High School program at Navarro HS is math teacher Chong Johnson. Virtual High School is among the three smaller schools communities designed to meet each student's unique learning needs.



Workers smooth freshly-poured cement for curbs being installed for all-new athletic tracks at Burbank HS. Later this month the South Side campus will host its second round of meetings on SAISD Bond 2010.

Next series of SAISD Bond 2010 community meetings set

Patrons are invited to continue providing input to architects for master-planning efforts, as well as learn about the latest updates and begin discussions on the look and feel of their schools. The second in a series of community meetings for all 23 schools getting major renovations through SAISD Bond 2010 will be held in September.

Upcoming meetings will be:

Sept. 6 (Tues) - 6 p.m.

- Bonham Academy, 925 S. St. Mary's St.
- Cotton ES, 1616 Blanco Road

Sept. 7 (Wed) - 6 p.m.

- Woodlawn ES, 1717 W. Magnolia Ave.
- Rogers ES, 620 McIlvaine St.

Sept. 8 (Thurs) - 6 p.m.

- Edison HS, 701 Santa Monica Drive

For the complete meeting schedule, visit:
www.saisd.net

Keep up with SAISD Bond 2010 at:

www.saisd.net/bondprojects



Happy New School Year!

Welcome back for the 2011-12 school year! Preparations for many throughout the District began weeks prior to Aug. 22, while others were there to greet and lend a helping hand to the projected more

than 55,000 students on their first day of classes.

With such a dedicated array of Trustees, administrators, staff, students, parents and partners, this is bound to be the best year yet!



Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón (l to r), Athletic Department Executive Director Gil Garza (standing) and Trustees James Howard, Carlos Villarreal and Olga M. Hernandez enjoy a presentation for SAISD coaches by GameOn Sports Nutrition President Jackie Sherrill. The former college football coach is perhaps best known locally for his tenure at Texas A&M University.

School Board Assistant Secretary Olga M. Hernandez (right) ensures that the first day of school is sweet for Rogers ES staff including school secretary Idalia Beltran by bringing them cookies.



District 7 Trustee Ed Garza (left) chats with fellow Jefferson HS alum and KSAT-TV sportscaster Greg Simmons and principal Joanne Cockrell at the traditional Ice Cream Social.



Courtesy photo

Joining Brackenridge HS cheerleaders and other supporters at a pep rally encouraging parents, employees and community members to join the SAISD Council of PTA is District 5 Trustee Patti Radle. The August PTA membership drive kickoff is an annual back-to-school event.



Moms (l to r) Ashley Jennings and Brittany Anderson give their children Adranique Franks, Tamera Brothers and Anthony Brothers one last encouraging hug prior to entering pre-kindergarten at Cameron ES.



J.T. Brackenridge ES secretary Adrianna Acosta looks up room numbers for kindergartners so that they will know where to report on the first day of school.



The Spurs Coyote teams up with the Sam Houston HS drumline for an announcement that Spurs Sports & Entertainment will provide funding to City Year San Antonio for City Year's Whole School, Whole Child program at the East Side campus.



The generosity of donors and SAISD partners in education are making it possible for students throughout the District to start the school year well supplied for learning. These photos represent just a few examples. **1)** Miller ES students and principal Charlotte Gregory (left) are all smiles after receiving school supplies courtesy of the SA YES Foundation, presented by R&L Foods Inc. president and vice president (respectively) Richard and Lana Breakie. Miller was one of nine District beneficiary elementaries. **2)** SAISD Plant Operations employee Richard Wildman unloads boxes



of approximately 1,900 backpacks filled with school supplies and other essentials including non-perishable food and toiletries delivered to the District's Food and Child Nutrition Services Department's warehouse. The items - donated by Feed the Children - will be given to students who are homeless. **3)** Collins Garden ES principal Anselma Chase (forefront left) and her staff lead applause for the academic achievement students no doubt will experience, thanks in part to backpacks given by EZ Corp. The company also provided supplies at other schools near their stores' locations.

SAISD campuses to mark major milestones in 2011-12

According to our Communications Department history files, these schools are observing significant anniversaries this year.

- **125th** – Austin Academy
- **125th** – Navarro HS
- **105th** – J.T. Brackenridge ES, at its present site since 1906. Originally called the Kerr Hill school, the campus officially was named to honor benefactor George Brackenridge's brother in 1907.
- **85th** – Nelson ES, by its present name. The campus opened as the West End School in 1895, and from 1902 to 1926 was known as Francisco Ruiz. That year it was renamed Pauline Nelson in honor of principal Molly Nelson's deceased mother.
- **85th** – Page MS, location. While Page was among SAISD's eight original junior schools established in 1923, classes were held at

other sites until its building was completed in 1926.



The former Navarro ES now serves as an alternative high school of choice. Its three oldest buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

- **80th** – Jefferson HS, as of this Feb. 1. The school opened that day in 1932 to 1,400 students including transfers from Main Avenue, now Fox Tech HS.
- **75th** – Margil ES, at its present site.
- **70th** – Rogers ES
- **60th** – De Zavala ES
- **55th** – Baskin ES
- **50th** – Foster ES
- **45th** – Cameron ES
- **40th** – Bowden ES
- **20th** – Davis MS, present name. Renamed from Jefferson Davis in 1991 to S.J. Davis in honor of the District's first African-American trustee, and moved to its present site in 1989.

Energy conservation = dollars and sense

Want to kickoff 2011-12 by helping SAISD save money while also assisting in citywide efforts to avert power outages caused by increased electricity usage?

It's actually easier than you might think, and even the smallest gestures on everyone's part to save energy could result in some big dividends.

"We are asking everyone to take actions to reduce energy," said Kamal ElHabr, associate superintendent of facilities services. "While this is particularly important now due to the heat and high energy use, we want to continue to do this throughout the school year."

By observing the following tips based upon a presentation ElHabr made at the Principals Summit, he estimates employees could assist the District in cutting 10 to 20 percent of the total electric bill - resulting in a potential savings of about \$1 to 2 million annually.

What you can do

- Turn off lights in classrooms and offices when not in use.

- Use natural - instead of electrical - lighting in offices and classrooms when possible, even if the rooms are a little darker than usual.
- Keep all doors and windows closed in air conditioned spaces, especially gyms and portables.
- Turn off air conditioners in unoccupied spaces that have local controls, such as gyms and portables.
- Unplug equipment when not in use.
- Notify District of areas in a building where air conditioner can be turned off.

Bonus tip for educators

Ignite a lifelong passion for conservation in your students by making this important cause part of the curriculum and/or campus routine.

For written materials, contact the State Energy Conservation Office, or visit: www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us

'Team Up' with the Spurs



Again this school year Silver & Black Give Back is providing funding for service learning projects.

Through the Team Up Challenge, students have the opportunity to apply learning to real-world experiences through performing their choice of public service.

In 2010-11, projects created by students from four SAISD campuses were finalists, with Highlands HS ultimately winning one of the top \$20,000 prizes.

Silver & Black Give Back sent applications to all schools earlier this month, and the deadline to apply is **Sept. 15**.

For more information visit:

www.teamupchallenge.com

What's on SAISD's horizon following the state funding crisis

As Trustees prepare to adopt the 2011-12 budget on Aug. 29, Steven Bassett, associate superintendent for finance, provides this perspective on how SAISD fared last year's state funding crisis and what to expect.

Where we've been

During the past year there was lots of discussion, confusion and fear regarding the state budget cuts that SAISD was expecting to absorb. So, what actually happened?

As part of the District's efforts to manage the state funding crisis, Trustees approved phase I of SAISD's cost-cutting measures this past March and April.

While estimates during this time frame showed that SAISD would need to cut roughly

\$30 to \$50 million dollars from its budget, the final amount was \$28.1 million.

Where we are

Because of the lower-than-expected revenue reduction, the District restored funding in select areas.

For example, the full-day pre-kinder program was restored throughout the District. Additionally, the health insurance premiums paid by employees was kept at the same level, with the District absorbing the associated increases.

Since there will be no pay raises this year, Trustees and administration did not want employees to suffer what would amount to a pay cut if health premiums had increased.

Throughout this process, the District's

goals have been to balance the budget while minimizing the impact of cuts on students and the classroom, protecting employment for SAISD staff and avoiding a last-minute reduction in force or large cuts in employee pay.

By working as a team, we have managed to accomplish these goals.

What's ahead

Because of SAISD's low-target revenue per student, we actually are anticipating an increase in state funding for 2012-13.

It is our goal for that year - depending on the economy and our continued efforts to reduce expenses and increase revenue - to improve compensation through a well-deserved pay raise. In the meantime, we must remain vigilant to strive for efficiency (such as ways described in the story above) in all aspects of our operations.

