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Education Focus

Georgetown ISD | July 2008



Jim Mitchell Elementary • 1601 CR 110



Ninth grade campus • 4490 E. University Ave.



Birklebach Field • 2275 N. Austin Ave.

Georgetown ISD opens new facilities

BY BETH WADE AND HABEAB KURDI

Population projections reveal that the school district will have more than 10,000 students on Aug. 25. As the student population grows, so does the district's need for new facilities.

"We started this school year closer to 9,300 or 9,400, but based on projections it is not a matter of will we be over 10,000 [this fall], but how much over 10,000 will we be?" said Abbe Boring, GISD superintendent. "We are anticipating somewhere in the vicinity of 4 percent growth over all."

New campuses

Ten years after opening the first ninth grade center next door to Georgetown's only high school, the district will open a new facility on the east side of town. The school, which will eventually become Georgetown East View High School with grades 9-12, will remain a ninth grade center until the population grows enough to warrant building the second phase, said Brad Smith, school board president. Phase one, paid for with approximately \$34 million from a bond approved by voters in 2005, is about 239,500 sq. ft., with an initial capacity to hold more than 800 students.

"It was brought to the community as a phased high school, so the 2005 bond covered phase one," Boring said. "We will need a phase two at some point in time to construct the rest of the classrooms and other facilities that will allow us to turn it into a second comprehensive high school. We are anticipating that would be no earlier than 2012. That is our target date. That would require a successful bond sometime in the future and two years for construction."

Phase one includes core areas to accommodate four grades, including administration offices, library, cafeteria and kitchen.

Ninth grade core curriculum teachers will report to work at the new campus; however, teachers for subjects that are taught to classes with a mix of grade levels, such

as elective classes, will work at both campuses throughout the day. Those teachers will be compensated for travel, Boring said.

Also on the east side is the district's 10th elementary school, named for Jim Mitchell, one of the founders of Georgetown's Partners in Education.

The elementary school will serve grades pre-K through fifth and have approximately 600 students in its first year. The 73,000 sq. ft. facility has a capacity of 720 students, 31 classrooms, additional computer labs and rooms for art, music and special education.

Construction on the project cost more than \$13 million, which was also paid for with 2005 bond money.

Boring said the district could need money to build an 11th elementary in the next proposed bond package.

"The board is proactively looking at it," Smith said. "We look at the growth of the district and the capacity of the classrooms. There could be the need for a new elementary bond, but we would most likely package it with the high school [phase two]."

Birklebach Field

The district will also complete the athletic complex this fall with addition of an approximately \$11 million multipurpose stadium, named for former GHS football coach Bernard Birklebach. The complex already includes softball and baseball fields, tennis courts and a separate track facility.

The stadium will include seating for more than 11,000, bathrooms, four concession stands and a 4,000 sq. ft. press box. A 6,200 sq. ft. "half-time house" will have rooms for each team, officials and trainers, but does not include any workout facilities or locker rooms.

The former GISD stadium near San Gabriel Park was turned over to the city at the end of an extended lease agreement. The city has no formal plans for the stadium at this time.

New elementary math books in GISD

BY BETH WADE

Elementary students in Georgetown ISD will learn math from new textbooks this fall, after the book adoption process was opened by the Texas Education Agency last year.

"This was the year that the state set up for school districts to adopt new textbooks," said Tricia Rothenberg, Georgetown ISD pre-kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics curriculum coordinator. "It has been a long time since we have had new [math] textbooks, and since that time our state standards have been revised. Our books have been outdated, so we are fortunate to be able to get some new ones."

For the first time in six to 10 years, Georgetown ISD officials began looking at the different options allowed by the state in November 2007, Rothenberg said.

Using a process designed by the Dana Center at the University of Texas, a group of 23 parents, teachers and school administrators spent four and a half months

determining the best book option before settling on the "Think Math!" series for kindergarten through fifth grades.

"The 'Think Math!' textbook series has an excellent balance of conceptual understanding, skill proficiency, problem solving and reasoning," Rothenberg said. "It is going to give kids a great foundation conceptually, but also give them plenty of opportunities to practice their skills and get proficient. It is designed to raise their ability to problem solve and reason in math."

Each student will receive a hardback book, workbook and kit with various items to be used in the classroom.

"One of the interesting things about 'Think Math!' is that it presents lessons in a way that captures the natural curiosity of children in order to motivate their learning," Rothenberg said.

Education Development Center, Inc. wrote the book, and Harcourt School Publishers published it. All math teachers

in the district went through a two-day training session in June to learn about the book. A second training session will be in August for new hires.

"The teachers have worked very hard to prepare for the first few weeks of school, and they have made many plans as to how they are going to implement this new book," Rothenberg said. "It should be a lot of fun to bring this into the math classrooms."

The new materials, while helpful to students, will also give teachers support to teach math in a way that is interesting to students and builds a foundation for future learning, she said.

"The curriculum is the same; what we



are going to teach is the same," Rothenberg said. "This is just going to be an excellent resource to use to teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Many of the strategies and the types of lessons that you will find in 'Think Math!' our teachers have been using, but this is one unified program that packages it all in a way that has been researched so that they know what builds on what and provides the kind of foundation that we can easily use in a classroom."

Georgetown ISD

Compiled and designed by *Community Impact Newspaper*

GEORGETOWN ISD:

2007 TAKS RESULTS	STATE	DISTRICT
Reading	89%	93%
Math	77%	88%
Writing	92%	93%
Science	71%	82%
Social Studies	89%	94%

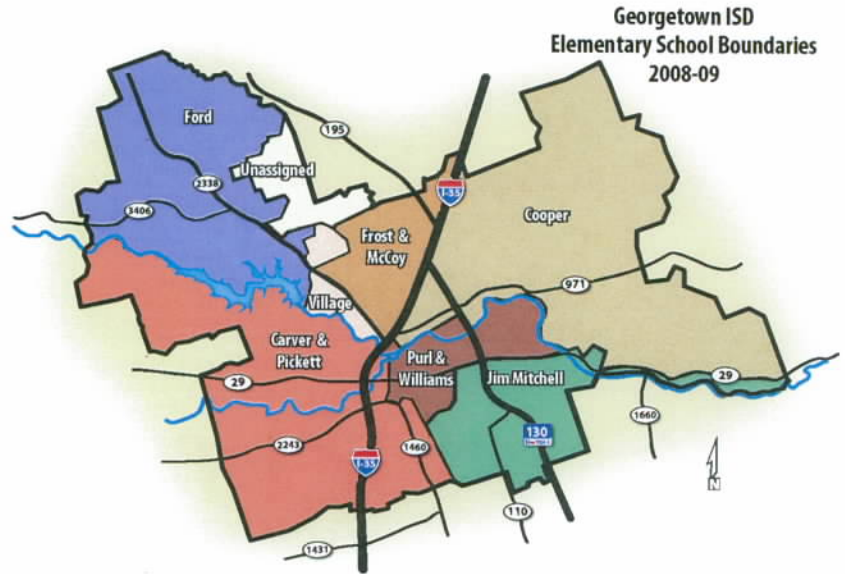
2007 STATISTICS	STATE	DISTRICT
Economically Disadvantaged:	55.5%	36.3%
Limited English Proficient (LEP):	16%	9.3%
Number of Students Per Teacher:	14.7	12.9
Average Years Experience of Teachers:	11.3	12.3
Average Teacher Salaries:	\$44,897	\$43,237

TOTAL STUDENTS: 9,508

2008 DISTRICT SCORES BY GRADE

2008 Preliminary TAKS scores

- 3: Reading 97% • Math 89%
- 4: Reading 88% • Math 93%
- 5: Reading 94% • Math 96%
- 6: Reading 95% • Math 90%
- 7: Reading 92% • Math 91%
- 8: Reading 99% • Math 91%
- 9: Reading 89% • Math 78%
- 10: English Language Arts 90% • Math 76%
- 11: English Language Arts 94% • Math 85%



JIM MITCHELL ELEMENTARY
 1601 CR 101
 Principal: Rob Dyer
 Opening Fall 2008
 Grades: PreK-5

TIPPIT MIDDLE SCHOOL
 1601 Leander Road • 943-5040 • www.georgetownisd.org/tippit
 Principal: Carlos Cantu
 Open since: 1981
 Grades: 6-8
 2007 Accountability rating: Recognized
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 90%, Math 87%
 2007 Total students: 776
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 44.6%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.8

2008 preliminary TAKS scores:
 6th Grade: Reading 95%, Math 87%
 7th Grade: Reading 92%, Math 89%
 8th Grade: Reading 97%, Math 89%

PURL ELEMENTARY
 1700 Laurel St.
 943-5080 • www.georgetownisd.org/apurl
 Principal: Brian Dawson
 Open since: 1953
 Grades: PreK-2
 2007 Accountability rating: Academically Acceptable
 2007 Total students: 736
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 65.5%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 13.5

Kindergarten through 2nd grade students do not take the TAKS test.

WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY
 507 E. University Ave.
 943-5160 • www.georgetownisd.org/williams
 Principal: Cheryl Lang
 Open since: 2002
 Grades: 3-5
 2007 Accountability rating: Academically Acceptable
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 92%, Math 96%
 2007 Total students: 518
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 56.2%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 13.6

2008 Preliminary TAKS scores:
 3rd Grade: Reading 97%, Math 91%
 4th Grade: Reading 90%, Math 92%
 5th Grade: Reading 94%, Math 98%

COOPER ELEMENTARY
 1921 NE Inner Loop
 943-5060 • www.georgetownisd.org/cooper
 Principal: Beth Foss
 Open since: 1999
 Grades: K-5
 2007 Accountability rating: Recognized
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 95%, Math 87%
 2007 Total students: 528
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 35.8%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 13.0

2008 preliminary TAKS scores:
 3rd Grade: Reading 99%, Math 86%
 4th Grade: Reading 80%, Math 90%
 5th Grade: Reading 92%, Math 95%

FORBES MIDDLE SCHOOL
 1911 NE Inner Loop • 943-5150 • www.georgetownisd.org/forbes
 Principal: Leonard Rhoads
 Open since: 2001
 Grades: 6-8
 2007 Accountability rating: Recognized
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 95%, Math 94%
 2007 Total students: 649
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 31.7%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.0

2008 Preliminary TAKS scores:
 6th Grade: Reading 97%, Math 93%
 7th Grade: Reading 92%, Math 92%
 8th Grade: Reading 99%, Math 88%

CARVER ELEMENTARY
 1200 W. 17th St.
 943-5070 • www.georgetownisd.org/carver
 Principal: Melinda Valeriano
 Open since: 1964*
 Grades: PreK-2
 2007 Accountability rating: Academically Acceptable
 2007 Total students: 431
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 58.9%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.2

Kindergarten through 2nd grade students do not take the TAKS test.

PICKETT ELEMENTARY
 1100 Thousand Oaks
 943-5050 • www.georgetownisd.org/pickett
 Principal: Laurie McIntyre
 Open since: 1992*
 Grades: 3-5
 2007 Accountability rating: Academically Acceptable
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 93%, Math 97%
 2007 Total students: 425
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 42.8%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.0

2008 preliminary TAKS scores:
 3rd Grade: Reading 98%, Math 93%
 4th Grade: Reading 86%, Math 92%
 5th Grade: Reading 95%, Math 97%

FORD ELEMENTARY
 210 Woodlake Drive
 943-5180 • www.georgetownisd.org/ford
 Principal: Jennifer Mauldin
 Open since: 2004
 Grades: PreK-5
 2007 Accountability rating: Exemplary
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 98%, Math 99%
 2007 Total students: 533
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 11.6%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 13.8

2008 Preliminary TAKS scores:
 3rd Grade: Reading 100%, Math 99%
 4th Grade: Reading 94%, Math 97%
 5th Grade: Reading 98%, Math 98%

BENOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL
 3407 Northwest Blvd. • 943-5090 • www.georgetownisd.org/benold
 Principal: Les Michalik
 Open since: 1996
 Grades: 6-8
 2007 Accountability rating: Recognized
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 98%, Math 93%
 2007 Total students: 706
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 25.8%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.4

2008 Preliminary TAKS scores:
 6th Grade: Reading 95%, Math 90%
 7th Grade: Reading 93%, Math 93%
 8th Grade: Reading 100%, Math 95%

FROST ELEMENTARY
 711 Lakeway Drive
 943-5020 • www.georgetownisd.org/frost
 Principal: Monica Martinez
 Open since: 1986
 Grades: PreK-2
 2007 Accountability rating: Academically Acceptable
 2007 Total students: 501
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 41.9%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 14.0

Kindergarten through 2nd grade students do not take the TAKS test.

MCCOY ELEMENTARY
 1313 Williams Drive
 943-5030 • www.georgetownisd.org/mccoy
 Principal: Curtis Locklear
 Open since: 1964*
 Grades: 3-5
 2007 Accountability rating: Academically Acceptable
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 83%, Math 88%
 2007 Total students: 456
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 37.7%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.9

2008 preliminary TAKS scores:
 3rd Grade: Reading 94%, Math 74%
 4th Grade: Reading 87%, Math 92%
 5th Grade: Reading 92%, Math 93%

VILLAGE ELEMENTARY
 400 Village Commons
 943-5140 • www.georgetownisd.org/village
 Principal: Alma Guzman
 Open since: 1998
 Grades: PreK-5
 2007 Accountability rating: Exemplary
 2007 TAKS results: Reading 98%, Math 96%
 2007 Total students: 395
 2007 Economically disadvantaged: 24.8%
 2007 Number of students per teacher: 11.4

2008 Preliminary TAKS scores:
 3rd Grade: Reading 99%, Math 99%
 4th Grade: Reading 93%, Math 97%
 5th Grade: Reading 91%, Math 96%

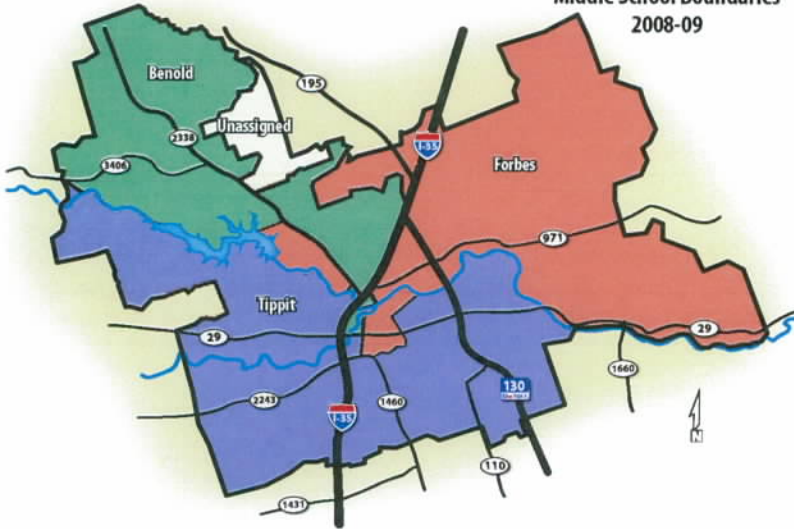
TAKS results and scores are given in percentages of students who passed the test.

*School building opened this year, but was later re-purposed into current usage.



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Georgetown ISD Middle School Boundaries 2008-09



NINTH GRADE CAMPUS

4490 E. University Ave.
943-1800
www.georgetownisd.org/ngc

Principal: Dave Denney
Open since: 1998, new campus fall 2008
Grade: 9

2007 Accountability Rating:

Academically Acceptable

2007 TAKS results:

Reading 96%, Math 86%

2007 Total students: 762

2007 Economically disadvantaged: 27.8%

2007 Number of students per teacher: 12.9



2008 preliminary TAKS scores:
9th Grade: Reading 90%, Math 81%

GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

2211 N. Austin Ave.
943-5100
www.georgetownisd.org/ghs

Principal: Carlton Tucker
Open since: 1975
Grades: 10-12

2007 Accountability Rating:

Academically Acceptable

2007 TAKS results:

Reading 91%, Math 79%

2007 Total students: 1,989

2007 Economically disadvantaged: 26.2%

2007 Number of students per teacher: 15.1



2008 preliminary TAKS scores:
10th Grade: Reading 90%, Math 76%
11th Grade: Reading 94%, Math 86%

Q & A

Dr. Abbe Boring

Georgetown ISD Superintendent of Schools

Hired: November 2007

Background: Teacher, assistant principal, executive director and district superintendent at Houston Independent School District; deputy superintendent for Birmingham city schools; chief academic officer for Dekalb County, Ga.; superintendent in Bartow County, Ga.

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Michigan; master's degree and doctorate in educational administration, University of Houston

Contact: 943-5015, boringa@georgetownisd.org



Q. What are your goals for the upcoming school year?

A. We have as our overall vision that we want to be a school district of excellence. We identified seven goals that would serve as our plan of action that we will be working on as a school district for at least this next year. A few of these will take a number of years to achieve. The first one is exemplary performance for our students. That is more of a long-term [goal], but if we don't start that today, we won't get there tomorrow or in the future. (Find these seven goals online at www.georgetownisd.org.)

Q. What is the biggest challenge for the school district right now?

A. I think our biggest challenge is making sure we are strategically planning for the growth and the changing dynamics of our community. We are also looking at changing dynamics as our city is looking at growth. As those things have changed, we have had approximately 25 percent of students on the free and reduced lunch program as measured by the federal standards. [Now it is] upwards of 40 percent. Again those are different dynamics not necessarily affecting a student's ability to learn, but it may impact the background that they have and the level of preparation that they come to us with. It may be slightly different for students who are in one area versus another area.

Q. If you had an unlimited budget, what are the first things you would do?

A. I think we would continue to look at making sure we are competitive in how we compensate our employees. One of the goals that we have for quality staff is to make sure we reward excellence and that we reward employees who are successful with what they do. I also think that we would be able to look at facility needs with an unlimited budget. I would also look at professional development to make sure that we are investing in our staff — that we are continuing to build capacity and help them to have the tools and the information that they need to do their jobs well.

Q. What excites you about your job?

A. I started my career in Texas, and I am very excited to be back. I am very excited about being in Georgetown because we have enjoyed a reputation as an outstanding school system. We are also a growing community, and I am very excited to be part of one that is growing, evolving and changing. I am also very excited about the quality of our teaching staff and other professionals.

Q. What is the most important lesson you learned in school?

A. I think the most important lesson I learned in school was getting along with people. We can learn all kinds of facts and information, but being able to get along with others, to work as part of a team and to lead others in a direction is one of the most important things.

Q. What makes you want to come to work in the morning?

A. The 10,000 children who are counting on us, as adults, to make sure that they are prepared just like others took care of us. I believe that we, as a community, have a responsibility to our children. It is something that we have to work at every day, and the children are counting on us to do that. They are counting on me specifically.

Q. Did you always know you wanted to be in education?

A. No. In fact, I started college as a music major. As part of my early college experience, I worked in an early childhood center and fell in love. Over time that love and desire to [help] children has grown and evolved from doing it in a classroom level to principal and some of the other administrative positions where I can influence more teachers and ultimately more children with the things that we are able to do.

Q. Who inspires you?

A. My mom has a pretty significant part in that. She was a teacher. Other models are not necessarily any one person, but the teachers throughout our system that I see and dedicated principals that bring out the best in our teachers and staff.