

# Roswell Independent School District

## Education Update

### RISD Board Goal 1: We will ensure discipline and student safety

#### Special points of interest:

- Construction Updates
- AYP Progress
- Technology role in RISD classrooms



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## Construction Progressing at Roswell Middle Schools

Throughout the years RISD has completed several construction projects to improve the learning and working environments for students and staff. Remodel and addition projects at Sierra Middle School and Berrendo Middle School are currently in progress. Both projects are funded by a combination of Public Schools Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) funds and Local General Obligation bonds. Schools are selected for projects based on a needs assessment by the state.

At Sierra, construction includes the renovation of the gymnasium and the addition of 16 classrooms for instructional use. The addition includes 13 regular classrooms, 2 science classrooms and a lab. The completion date for Sierra is anticipated to be June, 2009.

For Berrendo Middle School, the construction project includes renovation of the front office area, the addition of 10 classrooms for instructional use, and the addition of a second gymnasium. A kitchen addition and home economics classroom are also being added to the campus. Completion of the project is anticipated to be December, 2009.

With any construction project, safety of the students and staff is always a primary concern. Using the Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) at each school, safety issues are thoroughly addressed during the planning phases. The plan addresses specific tasks, responsibilities, and alternatives if original objectives are not met. Student safety remains the main focus during the project



Construction at Sierra Middle School

implementation. Student and faculty displacement issues are also addressed within the plan.

In the near future, renovations at Sunset Elementary School will begin. Other schools will be selected for renovation based on needs, committee recommendations and state PSCOC ranking.

## Future Construction Plans for Roswell Schools Require Bonds

RISD is looking to pledge upcoming local general obligation bond monies as matching money for Public Schools Capital Outlay Council funds to renovate three to five schools. A General Obligation bond of \$16 million will not raise taxes and will generate a state match of \$38 million for a total of \$54 million for school renovation projects.

Recently, the Roswell High School heating system has been identified as nearing the imminent failure stage. Additionally, a need has long existed to upgrade and expand the science

department labs at both Roswell High School and Goddard High School. While these two projects may not qualify for matching state funds, they have become priority needs for the RISD as well as community groups.

With an additional bond issue of \$7 million the RISD will be able to accomplish the following additional projects:

*Science lab renovations and additions at both Goddard and Roswell High Schools*

*New heating and cooling system at Roswell High School*

The \$7 million bond will result in a small tax increase that will expire after 15 years.

#### Proposed School Bond Tax \$7 Million Over (15 Years)

Market Value of Property	Net Taxable value	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost
\$75,000	\$19,250	\$15.40	\$1.28
100,000	26,333	21.07	1.76
150,000	40,500	32.4	2.7
200,000	54,667	43.73	3.64

Roswell residents will have an opportunity to vote on bond issues on May 12.

## Singapore Math Initiative

The Roswell Independent School District has begun an initiative to introduce and teach the Singapore Math technique to administrators and educators in order for it to be used as a tool throughout the district.

The republic of Singapore has a very successful record in international math testing. Their unique method of teaching math concepts through simple visual representations provides a bridge between concrete and abstract relationships found in the field of mathematics. By drawing models to represent number and word problems, students develop the ability to visualize problems with theo-

retical elements and picture word problems without experiencing confusion with the language of the math expression.

RISD has formed a Singapore Math committee and has trained them on the technique, how to introduce it to educators, and how to teach it to students. The trained committee members are presenting workshops that introduce the Singapore Math step-by-step model approach through ten different types of math problems and encouraging teachers to use the method in their classrooms. Workshops are ongoing and students have now begun to

use the methods in their math classes. The consistent and uniform approach to presenting the strategies and applying them to math concepts gives students a reliable process to complete math problems with success.

Singapore Math has been shown to increase success with contextual word problems like those found on New Mexico state assessments.

RISD believes that embracing this method of instruction will result in improved math scores, success in standardized testing, and improved self-esteem for students across the district.



## Roswell Experiences Gains in AYP Progress

Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, is a term heard across the nation to describe successful academic achievement in school districts everywhere.

AYP defines the annual academic targets in reading and math and other indicators that school districts must reach to be considered on track with the

federally mandated goal of 100% proficiency by the school year 2013-2014.

Roswell Independent School District has the highest percentage of schools meeting AYP among districts of 10 or more schools according to 2007-2008 assessment results.

The Percent of Schools with

Progressing Designation Status among districts of 10 or more schools rates Roswell as first in this category with a percentage rate of 90%. Compared to the state average of 45.2%, Roswell students are achieving significant success as they progress in meeting national goals.

## GearUp Initiative Supports Student Success

The GearUp Initiative currently available to 9th and 10th graders at Goddard and Roswell High Schools is a partnership grant delivered through ENMU-R, funded through the US Department of Education, and designed to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

The GearUp program tracks progress and provides tutoring and other educational services to cohort students at no cost to the student. Student participation in GearUp is voluntary. GearUp offers students tutoring

before and after school, enrichment opportunities that encourage learning and personal growth, Classroom Performance Systems technology, scholarship opportunities for students graduating in 2011 and 2012, and career awareness that opens horizons for students as they make career choices.

For parents, GearUp offers workshops and other support activities as well as participation opportunities and college preparation information to help families prepare for college.

For the 2008-2009 academic

year, GearUp is funding high school staff positions for new elective ACT preparation classes offered each semester to prepare students and improve test scores for graduation and college.

Students who participate in the GearUp program have the chance to get to know students who have the same goals as themselves.

For more information regarding GearUp at your child's high school, contact either RHS or GHS for more information.



## Technology Plays Vital Role in RISD Instructional Delivery

RISD students find that technology is an integral part of a typical instructional day here in Roswell. With over 4700 computers available for use in the district, students are able to access technology in various aspects of their educational experience.

Word processing applications, reading comprehension software, and core subject tutorials are just a few of the instructional opportunities students are accessing to complete learning tasks. Digital cameras, projectors, and visual presenters expand the learning environment to include non linguistic presentations and collaborative learning projects across the district.

One of the newest technologies available in RISD classrooms is the interactive presentation boards. These boards, represented under the brand names of SmartBoard or Promethean Board, allow teachers and students to create, manipulate, and save presentations in all areas of curriculum. Students and teachers all benefit from the use of interactive boards to

develop higher level critical thinking, and RISD is adding this technology resource to more and more classrooms each month.

In addition to direct instruction, RISD relies on technology to accomplish many of its reporting tasks at the state level. Attendance, formative assessment, and grade reporting are all done with the use of technology to collect, disaggregate, and report required information to the various agencies across the state. RISD will be moving to a Student Information System in the 2009-2010 school year that will allow parents, guardians, and students to access information regarding grades and attendance via the Internet.

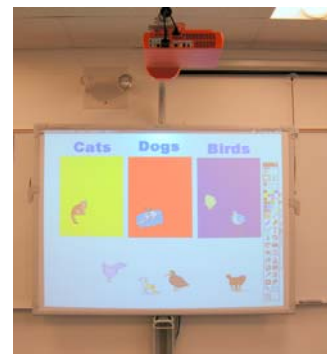
Technology also plays a role in student safety with the installation of security cameras at both Goddard and Roswell High Schools. Additionally technology allows for efficient notification of student absences through the use of an automated calling system.

With so much information and so many applications across the district, connectivity and robust communication speed are of

vital interest to the district. Fiber optic connections are currently available to our largest campuses, Goddard and Roswell High, and further expansion of fiber connectivity is being explored by the district. Additional T1 connections, which are not quite as robust as fiber, are being added at this time to other campuses to increase speed across the network. Fiber connections to all campuses is the ultimate goal.

Replacement cycles for aging or broken equipment are in place to assure the best possible equipment for all students across the district. Funding for technology comes from four primary sources - operational funds, 2 mil bond monies, legislative funding, and grant sources. Any purchases made by the district are reviewed and approved through the Information Technology Department to ensure compatibility with existing systems and consistency across the district.

RISD remains committed to providing the best technology tools possible to benefit student learning and achievement.



Promethean Board



Student Responders



## Technology Across the District

Student to Computer Ratio	Approximately 3 Students per computer
Available Computer Formats	Desktop Computers, Laptop Computers, Tablet Computers
Additional Technology Components	Projectors, PDAs, Scanners, Digital Cameras, Digital Camcorders, Interactive Whiteboards, ELMOs, Student Responders
Software Applications	Renaissance Learning, Plato, Skills Tutor, Read 180, Zip Zoom, Acuity, teacher selected applications, Activstudio, Sondag Reading Program

## Read 180 Supports Student Success

Read 180 is an intensive reading intervention program that uses technology and print to address the needs of students whose reading achievement levels are below proficient. Read 180 uses adaptive soft-

ware and high interest literature as well as direct instruction to develop students' reading and writing skills.

Currently, Read 180 curriculum is used in middle and high school specialized programs to

provide differentiated instruction for struggling readers.

RISD will be evaluating the success of the program and looking at expanding its use in the future.



## Parent School Connection Important to Child's Success in School

One of the greatest positive influences on a child's education is the involvement of the parent in their child's learning. The importance of a parent's role in the child's instructional life cannot be overstated. Simple tasks, such as inquiring about your child's day, making sure that homework assignments are completed, and checking with your child's teacher on a regular basis have a positive impact on your child's success in school.

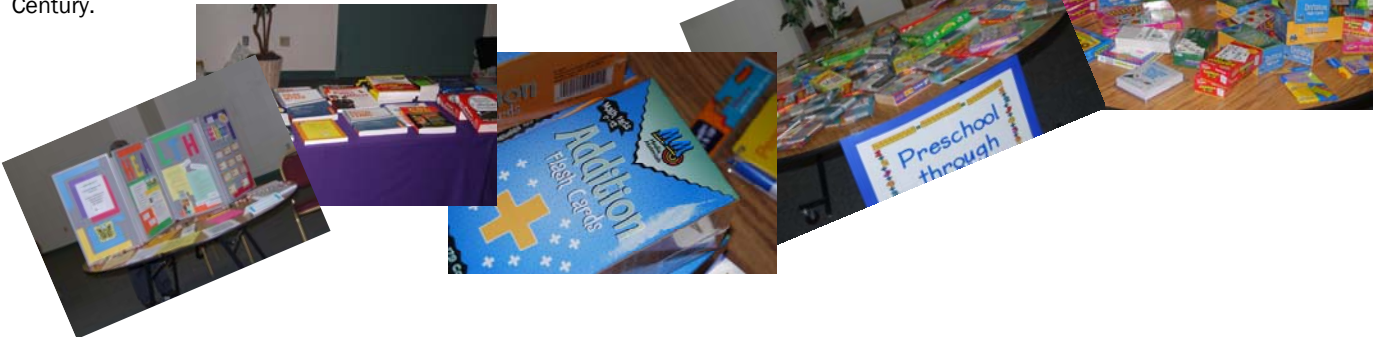
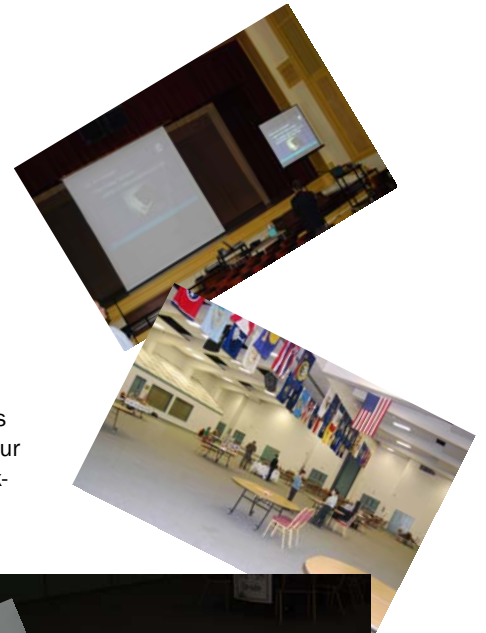
RISD annually surveys parents to obtain feedback and perspective on how the district is meeting its students' needs. Parent communication in this form is vital to the district as it identifies the district's strengths and weaknesses and provides guidance for RISD as it prepares students for the 21st Century.

Another valuable way in which parents connect with the schools is through participation in Parent Night, School Reading Night, or other scheduled events. Many Roswell schools have opportunities scheduled throughout the year for parents to visit the schools and experience some of their child's classroom activities.

RISD also offers district wide parent involvement opportunities through District Reading Nights and Math Nights each semester. These sessions provide materials, activities and support in core subject areas for students across all grade levels. Students and parents are invited to participate in activities in reading and math and get great tips and tools for academic excellence.

Another event offered by the district is Secondary Transitional Parent Night. RISD schedules meetings for students and parents of grades 6 and 9 to acquaint them with their upcoming transition to a different type of campus setting.

Parent involvement in your child's education is critical to his or her success in school. RISD schools invite you to visit your child's school and to participate in some of the activities across the district. Both you and your child will benefit from the experience.



## A Note from the Superintendent

Dear Community,

The 2008-2009 school year has been an exciting time for the Roswell Independent School District. Students are learning, teachers are engaged in their classrooms, and across the district many are working to ensure a quality education for all our students.

RISD has formed a great partnership with ENMU-R for dual credit and is researching ways to expand dual credit and on-line course offerings for next year. ACT classes are being offered through the GearUp Program. These classes will help students increase their ACT scores for college scholarships. If your student is interested in pursuing one or more of these opportunities, I would encourage you to talk to your high school principal and/or counselor.

On May 12 we will be asking for the continuation of the \$16,000,000 bond which will NOT raise property taxes. This will allow us to continue our 8-year plan to remodel and update our schools. Never, in the history of RISD, have we totally renovated all schools. The state has ranked 13 of our 19 schools as "most in need of remodeling and updating." Currently the state will pay 70% of the cost if the local district can provide a match of 30%.

Please go to the polls and vote in May.

Mike Gottlieb