

Voter-approved bonds provide computer equipment for schools

By May 2005, 29 Northside schools will have new technology in classrooms, labs, libraries, workrooms and offices as part of a massive deployment that started in June 2004, according to Kelly Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services.

Northside voters approved technology upgrade packages in all four of the recent Bond Issues.

In addition to campus technology deployments at new schools this summer (Stevens HS, Krueger ES), five high schools will receive new technology campus-wide, and all high schools will receive new equipment for their Journalism and Photography labs. That will result in an additional 2,884 computers and 1,092 printers when school opens in August 2005.

“Along with the equipment, students, teachers, administrators and other campus end-users receive extensive education in the effective use of the technology,” says Smith who emphasizes that much effort is put into teaching students and staff best

ways to use technology.

Students must demonstrate mastery of clearly defined technological skills required to support student achievement and lifelong learning through information acquisition, critical thinking, problem solving, and communication.

Likewise, employees are asked to demonstrate mastery of appropriate, clearly defined technological skills and competencies required for performance of their jobs.

	Computers	Printers
Summer 2004	1,804	809
Fall 2004	1,374	762
Spring 2005	1,723	1,003
Summer 2005	2532	1,064
Other 2005	352	28
Totals:	7,785	3,666

Northside Parent Connection: Website allows parents access to student data

In late March, four secondary schools began testing a technical portal to create a better partnership and dialogue between Northside parents and teachers. The “Northside Parent Connection” allows parents to explore their child’s grades and attendance in the first of a three-phase deployment.

The four schools that are piloting the first phase of the technology are Stevenson MS, Rawlinson MS, Warren HS, and Clark HS. “It is important that we pilot the technology before we fully deploy it to all secondary schools,” says Kelly Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services.

“Once the school year is over, the staffs from the four schools will discuss what worked and what didn’t. We will make any adjustments and then extend the technology to the parents in all District’s secondary schools in Fall 2005,” Smith says. “We hope to add elementary schools in the future as soon as an electronic gradebook for them is implemented.”

“The Northside Parent Connection is like having a daily progress report from each teacher,” says Smith.

“This is a secure website that the parents use to contact teachers, check grades, and view attendance. We will be adding more options periodically.”

Liz Wise, a parent of a 6th grade student at Stevenson Middle School, responded after using the Parent Connection, “Thank you, thank you, thank you! The online grade report is absolutely excellent. Please make this permanent! Thanks again for finding new

ways to keep the lines of communication open between teachers and parents.”

Phase II of the Northside Parent Connection is to add the curriculum management system “outreach” module which will allow parents to view longitudinal assessment data (such as TAKS, SDAA, AP, PSAT, etc.), benchmark assessment data, demographic data, teacher web pages, and class calendars for their own student. This is expected to be launched in Spring 2006.

Phase III will allow for other school business to be conducted online. These activities will include paying for cafeteria meals, fines, fees and other sales transactions via credit cards.



NISD announces TAKS scores

In the first administration of grade 3 and 5 TAKS reading and grade 5 TAKS math, NISD student results exceed the state average while passing standards are at the highest level ever. Here is the breakdown by NISD campus as well as Texas scores.

School Name	3rd Grade Reading	5th Grade Reading	5th grade Math
ADAMS HILL	96	78	78
BEARD	95	96	97
BLATTMAN	99	93	96
BOONE	94	78	77
BRAUCHLE	95	87	91
BRAUN STATION	97	90	92
BURKE	90	69	88
CABLE	77	57	88
CARSON	96	82	88
CODY	94	76	81
COLONIES NORTH	93	92	90
COON, CARLOS	92	72	69
ELROD	92	77	91
ESPARZA	89	77	82
EVERS	90	80	82
FERNANDEZ	95	93	94
GALM	96	89	94
GLASS, COLBY	92	71	71
GLENN	83	63	83
GLENOAKS	89	83	78
HATCHETT	86	79	75
HELOTES	100	90	93
HOWSMAN	90	74	72
HULL	86	67	72
KNOWLTON	89	71	76
LACKLAND CITY	89	78	87
LEON SPRINGS	100	93	92
LEON VALLEY	83	88	83
LEWIS	93	76	90
LINTON	95	82	89
LOCKE HILL	98	83	82
MAY	92	89	93
MCDERMOTT	83	74	80
MEADOW VILLAGE	82	67	91
MICHAEL	90	67	81
MYERS	86	78	84
NICHOLS	95	85	86
NORTHWEST CROSSING	92	91	90
OAK HILLS TERRACE	89	79	87
OTT	94	84	82
PASSMORE	85	75	83
POWELL	85	78	94
RABA	91	90	88
RHODES	98	81	91
SCOBEE	90	90	97
STEUHING	94	91	94
THORNTON	93	84	84
TIMBERWILDE	94	81	72
VALLEY HI	84	74	89
VILLARREAL	89	74	77
WARD	95	87	94
WESTWOOD TERRACE	81	69	76
Texas	89	75	79
NISD Average	91	81	85