

A new era: Beverly Hills makes move to former Dobie campus

Bear Country has taken on a whole new look at a different location.

Beverly Hills Intermediate School will open its doors to students at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year at its new campus, which is the former Dobie High School campus on Beamer Road. In addition, the northwest corner of the campus will house the Challenger School.

Voters in the 2000 "Make Room For Children" bond issue approved the renovations. The former Beverly Hills campus on Fuqua will now house the Billie and Kathleen Morris Fifth Grade Center. The improvements at both campuses were aimed at alleviating overcrowding.

"We're obviously very excited about the changes," said Stephanie Wright, Beverly Hills principal. "It's the beginning of a new era."

Upon entering the new Beverly Hills campus, the burnt orange and white of Dobie has now given way to Beverly Hills' blue and white, along with signs of its bear mascot. The front office is now located where Dobie's library was formerly located. Visitors must enter the building through a set of glass doors that will lead them to the main office.

The most obvious cosmetic look to the

outside of the building is a pair of windows in two upstairs and two downstairs classrooms. When the building housed Dobie, there were no windows in those classrooms.

Beverly Hills' library is a focal point at the school, as it has doubled in size compared to its old location. At the entrance to each of the classrooms are blue and white plaques with the classroom number and a bear paw logo.

In an effort to conserve energy, motion sensors control the lighting of the classrooms. When the room is empty, the lights will automatically shut themselves off. Upon entering the room, the lights will come on.

All classes for sixth grade students will be in the downstairs portion of the building, while seventh and eighth grades will attend classes in the upstairs wings.

Pasadena ISD board member and retired Dobie principal Jerry Speer toured the new building and was pleased with what he saw — even minus the burnt orange.

"This building looks absolutely fantastic," he said. "The contractors have done a great job. These renovations will create a positive climate for learning." ●



Beverly Hills Intermediate School Principal Stephanie Wright gives Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees member Jerry Speer of their new campus, which is located in the former Dobie High School. Speer, who is Dobie's retired principal, takes a glance out of a second story window, an amenity that was not featured on the campus when it was originally built. Speer said the renovations "bring new life to the building."

New principals take helm at Rayburn, Miller, Queens

The Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees has appointed new principals at Sam Rayburn High School, Miller and Queens Intermediate Schools.

Troy McCarley graduated from Sam Rayburn High School in 1987 and now he's returning 17 years later as the campus principal. He will replace Merlin Mohr, who retired earlier in July.

McCarley has served as principal of Queens Intermediate School for the past two years. Under his leadership, the school has become a Texas Recognized Campus. As an assistant principal at Jackson Intermediate, he was part of the administrative team when Jackson was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education in 2000.

In addition to serving at Jackson as assistant principal from 2000-2002, he served in the same position at



Jones



McCarley



Saavedra

Deer Park Junior High from 1998-2000. He began his career in 1993 as a speech and theater arts teacher at the same school. McCarley received his bachelor's degree in speech communications from Southwest Texas State University and his master's in secondary education from the University of St. Thomas.

Troy Jones will succeed McCarley as principal of Queens Intermediate School. She transferred to the school as an assistant principal this past school year after serving in the same position at Park View Intermediate since 2002.

Jones served as a math and reading

teacher at the Challenger School from 1996-2001. She began her career as a language arts and math teacher in Pearland ISD. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake and a master's degree from University of Houston.

After moving up the career ladder at Jackson Intermediate since he began his career as a math teacher in 1998, Joe Saavedra will become the new principal at Miller Intermediate. He succeeds Darla Massey, who was recently named an associate superintendent of campus development.

Saavedra taught math at Jackson until 2002, when he became an assistant principal. He earned his bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State University and his master's from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. ●

Challenger School relocates

The Challenger School will move into a new home at the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year as it relocates to the northern portion of the former Dobie High School campus.

With the move, the school will double its for instruction as compared to its old building located on Lafferty. The new location gives Challenger 20 classrooms, a library and a cafeteria. The classrooms will be located both downstairs and upstairs on the campus.

In addition to the building expansion, Challenger will now serve seventh grade students. In the past, the school served just fifth and sixth grade students. Challenger provides personalized instruction to these students who have a need for a positive educational environment free of grade level placement. The main objective is to provide an accelerated program that will give the student an opportunity to get back on grade level.

The new location gives Challenger an opportunity to serve more students. Challenger will be able to offer services to 165 students at the new campus, as compared to just over 90 at the former campus. The school also has added an assistant principal and a peer facilitator. The assistant principal will split time between Challenger and Tegeler Career Center.