

RRISD shows off new high school

Cedar Ridge meant as prototype campus

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- Daniel Bramlette

ROUND ROCK (KXAN) - Round Rock ISD is set to open up a new high school this school year. Cedar Ridge will welcome 2400 students to a state-of-the-art campus when classes begin August 24.

The 375,000-square-foot facility is on a 97-acre campus south of Gattis School Road at Meister Lane. It's the largest building under a single roof in Round Rock.

Cedar Ridge is meant as a prototype for all future Round Rock ISD schools.

It features sustainable design, with special materials meant to cut down energy use, and lots of natural daylight wherever possible.

"Because we know natural light stimulates the brain just as movement does," said Cedar Ridge Principal Danny Presley. "Every room also has mounted projectors, every teacher will have a laptop. There's a lot of innovation and technology in the building and of course technology excites kids."

Officials said Cedar Rige is also innovative in its structure. The school is split into four career academies to start guiding students towards a specific college path sooner.

The academies are the

- Academy of International Business and Economics
- Academy of Professional Studies
- Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Academy of Visual and Performing Arts.

"They get all the advantages of a comprehensive 5A high school, while still being in a smaller academy where teachers, faculty, and counselors all know them," said Presley.

Cedar Ridge features 18 new science labs, 74 classrooms, and one Cyber Cafe. RRISD officials said 3,800 tons of construction waste was diverted from landfills during construction, and that low-flow plumbing fixtures will save 2,000,000 gallons of water.

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