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it's back to school time

by lauren bechen

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT CONCEPTS FOR NEW RESIDENTS to get used to is how early our school year begins. Nationwide the start date has slowly crept up from the traditional after Labor Day start, but North Texas, in particular, shortens summer by returning to school in early-to mid-August. Frisco has several school districts overlapping the city limits ready to open their doors to a new school year. Fall enrollment for school is right around the corner and parents of new students should have the following information available for registration (check with your individual school district for specific requirements):

- Child's birth certificate or passport
- Child's Social Security card
- Immunization records
- Proof of residence (e.g., utility bill, lease agreement or closing papers)
- Last report card, transcript or standardized testing scores
- Driver license of person completing enrollment

FRISCO ISD

As the city of Frisco grows, so has its school district. FISD serves residents not only of Frisco but also portions of surrounding cities such as Plano, Little Elm and McKinney with an enrollment of 13,400 plus. Classes for the 2004-2005 school year begin August 16. New student enrollment takes place on the following dates:

Elementary: August 2 at individual school campuses
Griffin Middle School: July 27-28

Clark Middle School: July 29-30, 9 am. to noon
Pioneer Heritage Middle School: Schedule pick up for 8th grade, August 4, 5-7 pm; 7th grade, August 5, 5-7 pm; and 6th grade, August 6, 5-7 pm.
Staley Middle School: New student orientation takes place on August 6, 9-11 am.
Wester Middle School: 6th grade schedule pick up and parent/student orientation takes place August 3, 9 am to noon; 7th grade, August 9, 7 pm; and 8th grade, August 10, 7 pm.
Centennial High School: July 27-August 9, by appointment (call 469/633-5600). Walk-ins August 11-13, from 1-4 pm.
Frisco High School: Registration/enrollment by appointment takes place July 27-August 4, 8 am-4:30 pm and August 2-3, 6-8 pm. New student orientation takes place August 10, 9 am to noon. Contact FISD at 469.633.6000, or visit the web site at www.friscoisd.org.

LEWISVILLE ISD

The Lewisville district serves 45,090 students, a portion of which is in Frisco. School begins August 12 for the schools located in Frisco. Hicks Elementary will register students August 9, 10 and 11 from 9-11am and 1-3pm; Arbor Creek Middle School will hold registration August 2, 8-10am and 2-4pm. New students at Hebron High School are asked to make an appointment with the registrar by calling 972.862.1600. For more information regarding Lewisville ISD call 972.539.1551 or visit the website at www.lisd.net.

MCKINNEY ISD

McKinney ISD serves more than 11,000 students. Classes for the 2004-05 school year get underway August 17. New student enrollment takes place on the following dates:

Elementary: Registration takes place July 26 and August 2, 8 am-4 pm at the MISD administration building, #1 Duvall Street in McKinney. Middle school: Registration for all campuses takes place, July 26 and August 2, 8 am-4 pm at Scott Johnson Middle School, 3400 Community Drive. High School: July 19-22, July 26-29, August 4-5 and August 9-13, 8 am to noon and 1-4 pm, on individual school campuses. Contact McKinney ISD at 469.742.4000 or visit the web site at www.mckinneyisd.net.

PROSPER ISD

Prosper ISD serves 1,424 students with one elementary school, one middle school and one high school with classes beginning



August 16. Contact Prosper ISD at 972.346.3316 or visit the web site at www.Prospersisd.net.

CELINA ISD

Celina ISD covers 99 square miles in northwest Collin County and a small area in Denton County. The district schools are divided into K-3 grade, 4-6 grade, 7-8 grade and 9-12 grade and serve 1,340 students. Classes for the 2004-2005 school year begin August 17. Secretaries return to individual school campuses on August 2 for enrollment. Call 972.382.2751, or visit the web site at www.celina.k12.tx.us.

In addition to public schools, many opportunities in private schools are available. Registration and admission requirements vary by institution.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Frisco also offers education opportunities for adults at the Preston Ridge campus of the Collin County Community College District (CCCCD), located north of Highway 121 and east of Preston Road in Frisco.

CCCCD offers more than 100 degrees and certificates in a wide range of disciplines, from fine arts to high tech. The Preston Ridge campus focuses on the latest in technology and computer

programs, including electronic engineering, semiconductor and manufacturing technology, computer networking, computer-aided drafting and design, and telecommunications technology. CCCCCD is one of only nine Cisco Certified Training Centers in the United States; Preston Ridge serves as the primary site of Cisco training. The Frisco campus will open a new 103,000 square feet of space, including a library, art studios, music labs, lecture hall, and science and technology classrooms in January 2005.

CCCCD courses are delivered onsite at area businesses, via the Internet and on campus. In addition to Preston Ridge, other campuses include Spring Creek campus in Plano, Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development in Plano, Central Park campus in McKinney, as well as classes in Allen and Rockwall. For more information about CCCCCD, call 972.881.5790 or visit the web site at www.ccccd.edu.

Lauren Bechen is a freelance writer living in McKinney.

