

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On the coldest day of the season, Normandy School District administrators, board members, community leaders, parents, students and staff, gathered to break ground on the district's new elementary school. The school is being built in the City of Pine Lawn at the intersection of Jennings Station Rd. and Vetter Ave.

"This is symbolic of the restructuring that is taking place in the district," said Dr. Stanton Lawrence, Normandy's superintendent of schools. "This is our testimony – we're not just talking, we're doing."

In April 2008 voters approved a \$23 million, no-tax increase bond issue which led the way to building the district's new school. The 65,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility will house up to 400 students in grades kindergarten through sixth. Based on the community school concept, the new school is designed to provide inviting and highly accessible community spaces including a cafetorium, library, gymnasium, computer lab and several meeting rooms. These public spaces are located at the front of the school for convenient access from parking and drop-off areas. The cafetorium is a general use room equipped to support large group community banquets, meetings, musical and dramatic performances, dances, etc. The library will provide a quieter location for meetings of small to medium sized groups. The gymnasium is equipped with a basketball court and volleyball court. A 30 station computer lab will be available for adult education or general use as programs allow and are developed by the district and participating community organizations.

"When you build a community, you have to go on faith in making choices," said Pine Lawn Mayor Sylvester Caldwell. "I think we made the right choice in accepting Normandy's proposal to build their new school in Pine Lawn. In order to have a great community, you must have great schools."

Educational areas of the school are adjacent to the public areas and are housed in a two-story classroom wing. Kindergarten through second grades are on the ground floor with direct access to an outdoor classroom and playground. Third through sixth grades will be on the second floor, along with two science labs and an art studio. Special education spaces are provided on both floors. Music education includes a vocal rehearsal room and a band room. The band room is a flexible use room with an operable wall that opens up to the cafetorium for performances. Administrative and nursing offices, teacher preparation rooms, storage rooms, kitchen, utility and janitorial spaces complete the new elementary school's building program. Interior features include a two-story tall lobby and main corridor with clerestory glass to flood the area with natural lighting.

Normandy's new elementary school is expected to be completed in fall 2010.

####

PHOTO CAPTION: Normandy School District board members, administrators, community members, parents and students break ground for the construction of the district's new elementary school.

Charlene Goston
Public, Community & Board Relations Specialist
Normandy School District
3855 Lucas & Hunt Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
(314) 493-0438 Office
(314) 393-8682 Cell
(314) 493-0475 Fax