

# THE *Current* Shadow Creek Ranch

NOVEMBER 2015  
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## First Ever Parent Academy for Technology a Success

Librarians from Marek, Wilder, Duke and York Elementary came together for the very first Parent Academy for Technology. Their hope is to help parents learn to navigate the online resources that these campuses and the district have to offer.

Parents, all sitting at their own laptop, got to see what they can take home and utilize immediately to help their child flourish inside and outside of the classroom as well.

"I get lots of the emails, but actually getting to see how user friendly these resources really are is awesome and very helpful," said Kendria Poydras, counselor at Marek Elementary and 1st grade parent.

Parents came with questions, and left with answers and much more as they got a hands-on experience with each of the campuses' online resources.

"The online resources are really helpful, we need to know how

to use these tools to help us guide our children through school," said Norma Munoz, a 3rd grade parent from Wilder Elementary.

At the end of the event, a survey was conducted to see really what parents might like to learn about at the next Parent Academy.

"I'm excited to see what the parents want to learn about," said Wilder Librarian, Sheri Howard.

Each of the librarians expressed their excitement after the event, and all feel each event will only get better.

Upcoming Sessions: November 17th at Duke Elementary  
January 19th at York Elementary

February 16th at Wilder Elementary

April 12th at Marek Elementary

Parents from all campuses welcome!

To stay informed of all things Alvin ISD, visit [www.alvinisd.net](http://www.alvinisd.net), or follow us on Twitter @AlvinISD.



# SHADOW CREEK RANCH

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# Alvin ISD Expands Career and Technical Education Program

Today's economy demands a better-educated workforce than ever before, and jobs in this new economy require more complex knowledge and skills than the jobs of the past. Over the past few years, a goal of Alvin ISD has been the expansion of Career & Technical Education opportunities available to students. A significant step in this direction has occurred with the approval of the 2013 Bond. The Bond included Phase 1 of a centralized Career & Technical Education Center that serves students from all Alvin ISD high schools. The centralized facility allows for growth of new programs of interest to the students as well as programs already in place such as auto tech, auto collision, HVAC, welding, computer maintenance, and cosmetology.

With the change in high school graduation requirements due to Texas House Bill 5, students are allowed to complete career and technical education courses as a part of their graduation requirements.

"The new Texas Graduation Plan (House Bill 5) allows students to earn endorsements and performance acknowledgments. The change in graduation plans by the state allows more flexibility for high school students to pursue either higher education or a career pathway. Endorsements are earned by taking a coherent sequence of courses (pathways) in one of the five endorsement areas. Performance acknowledgments are earned by obtaining a nationally recognized business or industry certification or license upon completion of a pathway. Within the CTE program, students can work toward a certification or license that makes them work force ready when they leave high school for example, Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant, welding, HVAC, construction management, EMT, CNA, cosmetology, etc. The goal of CTE is to have students ready for the workforce and/or further education," said Kathy Windsor, Executive Director of CTE.

A few years ago, Alvin ISD repurposed the former Manvel Jr. High Annex into a temporary location to begin growing programs that will ultimately be expanded with the completion of the Career & Technical Education Center.

Phase 1 of the new Alvin ISD Career & Technical Education Center, constructed on the site of the original Manvel Jr. High on Lewis Lane in Manvel, opened this year. Students from all Alvin ISD high schools returned to find the former practice gymnasium renovated to now contain instructional spaces for Auto Tech and Auto Collision courses.

"In addition to the CTE courses already offered such as welding, computer maintenance, construction technology, cosmetology, and

HVAC/Refrigeration, we have added Auto Tech and Auto Collision and have opened a state-of-the-art auto shop. This program currently has 93 students enrolled," Windsor said.

Phase 2 of the CTE construction is contingent upon the passing of the 2015 Alvin ISD Bond Election, which will be held on November 3, 2015. The centralized facility will allow for the addition of new programs of interest to the students, which may include programs such as veterinary science, health science, culinary arts, criminal justice, construction management, computer graphics, and more. The courses that will be offered at the CTE Center will be more advanced practicum courses that are typically taken during the last two years of high school. Introductory courses will take place at the junior high campuses, and/or the high school campuses. Many of the advanced courses require equipment that is a standard in the applicable industry; however, often times these required items are quite costly. Centralizing the programs eliminates the need to purchase the same costly equipment for multiple high schools, and will ultimately expand the number of course offerings available to all students. Students opting to take courses at the centralized facility will remain enrolled in their home high school campus; however, half of their instructional day will be spent at the CTE Center.

"Students will have the opportunity to learn from local industry professionals in classrooms that mirror real world facilities, such as a room set up as a pharmacy, classrooms with dental stations, and even a medical center set up," said Christina Rice-Wiltz, Career and Technical Education Director. "We want to bring the job sites and practitioners to the students in an effort to prevent any undue hindrances for our learners without transportation."

"Our goal is to build the comprehensive CTE Center to accommodate 800-1000 students from all of our high school campuses," said Jeff Couvillion, director of Building Programs. "The footprint will be designed in such a way that as the District grows to the projected build out of 57,000 students, the facility can be expanded."

"As we move forward, our facilities must have the capability to be modified as interests and industry changes," added Couvillion. "The intent of the new facility and the CTE program is to allow our graduates to enter high paying industry jobs; keeping in mind that industry changes every couple of years."

To find out more about the 2015 Alvin ISD Bond, please visit [www.alvinisd.net/bond2015](http://www.alvinisd.net/bond2015).



## Alvin ISD's newest elementary already above capacity

Just one year ago, Dr. James "Red" Duke Elementary opened its doors as Alvin ISD's newest elementary school. Right in the center of a growth hotspot, Duke Elementary increased student enrollment by 14% at the start of the 2015-16 school year, as compared to the previous year. Temporary buildings were put into place this summer to accommodate the rapid growth.

The campus was originally built with a permanent capacity of 800 and currently has nearly 1,000 students enrolled.

"With all of the new students, we have to get creative with our use of instructional space to meet their needs," said Fulvia Shaw, principal of Duke Elementary.

The district has hired new teachers to accommodate the growing enrollment and during the September 8, 2015 board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the hiring of a second assistant principal for additional administrative support at Duke Elementary and Don Jeter Elementary.

"No matter how many students we have, we must continue to build meaningful relationships, provide engaging standards based work and keep the main thing, the main thing; for each student that walks through the doors of Duke Elementary," Charles Bagley, assistant principal, Duke Elementary stated.

Dr. Red Duke Elementary parents have different opinions on the growth.

"The school has only been open for a year and it's kind of disheartening when you have this fabulous new campus that is already over capacity. You start to think, 'Are our children going to be at a disadvantage because we are busting at the seams?'" said Duke parent, Becky Singleton.

"This is why I feel it's important for our community members to be informed about the November bond election. It's essential that the school district continues to have the resources available to ensure that our students are given the best opportunities possible," Singleton continued.

"Alvin ISD does a great job of predicting the number of students who will be in our schools, based on the homes being built and the area is growing extremely quickly," said Duke parent and Alvin ISD Trustee, Julie Pickren. "This growth is the main reason that the Alvin ISD Trustees approved a November school bond election."

There are five new campuses proposed on the 2015 Alvin ISD Bond, four of which are elementary schools.

"Mrs. Shaw and Mr. Bagley have done a tremendous job in keeping up with the growth, but we are glad there is help on the way," said Pickren.



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