



Irvine Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IUSD's newest elementary school aligns with district's efforts to go green *Stonegate, which will open Sept. 10, is energy efficient and student-centered*

IRVINE, Calif. – The Irvine Unified School District's newest elementary school will also be its greenest, featuring environmentally friendly fixtures such as skylights, dual-flush toilets and recyclable carpeting.

Stonegate Elementary School, named after the Irvine village in which it's located, will officially open for business on Thursday, Sept. 10 – the first day of classes for all IUSD students on the traditional calendar.

Located at 100 Honors, the new campus will serve approximately 500 students, including those who previously attended Westwood Basics Plus Elementary School as well as children from the Portola Springs community. IUSD officials staged a ceremonial groundbreaking for the site one year ago this month.

“Stonegate was envisioned and constructed as a student-centered, energy efficient school, fully supportive of 21st century instruction,” said Principal Mark Brown. “This is simply a beautiful environment for learning. Best of all, these classrooms and facilities will be occupied by our talented staff from Westwood Basics, as well as five outstanding new teachers, and nearly 500 exceptional students who are eager to learn.”

PJHM Architects Inc. designed the new Stonegate campus, which was built by CW Driver. At a cost of approximately \$20.5 million, the school includes 57,000 square feet of building space on 10 acres.

In addition to having a strong technology focus, Stonegate was diligently planned in conjunction with the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), which helps create energy efficient campuses that are healthy, comfortable, well lit and conducive to learning. IUSD worked with the CHPS program to incorporate a number of environmentally friendly features, including inverted-pyramid skylights to minimize the amount of electric light fixtures needed, a “cool roof” made with reflective materials that absorb less heat, an air-conditioning system that powers off when exterior doors are opened, waterless urinals for boys, dual-flush toilets, recyclable carpeting and the use of durable and sustainable wheatgrass components in cabinetry in lieu of particleboard.

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Even as it was being built, Stonegate was distinguishing itself as a “green” school. Of the 914 tons of debris generated during construction, 677 tons were diverted away from landfills to recyclers for reuse.

“Stonegate Elementary extends the Irvine tradition of quality schools to the newest Irvine village, while aligning perfectly with this district’s campaign to explore and pursue conservation, sustainability and environmentally sound strategies,” said Dr. Gavin Huntley-Fenner, President of the IUSD Board of Education. “Over the past 18 months, we developed strategic partnerships with The Energy Coalition and the Irvine Coalition for Energy Management while promoting greater energy conservation awareness among students and staff. Stonegate Elementary School represents a new type of advancement in the promotion of academic excellence and sound fiscal and facilities management.”

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