

Publication: The Dallas Morning News; Date: Nov 25, 2011; Section: neighborsgo : Frisco-Allen-McKinney; Page: 7NF

IN THE CLASSROOM

County charter school breaks ground for building

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Contributor

The Imagine International Academy of North Texas, a public tuition-free charter school scheduled to open in the fall of 2012 in McKinney, recently hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the school's permanent home.

"It is gratifying to see all of our work over the past five years coming to fruition," said Ann Carrell, academy board president. "Our future students and their parents will now play a very important role in developing this school into a community."

Operated by Imagine Schools, the academy plans to serve about 950 students in grades K-9 for the 2012-13 school year. It will offer college preparatory curriculum based on the International Baccalaureate educational framework.

State Rep. Ken Paxton, Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes, McKinney Mayor Brian Loughmiller, Imagine Schools Founder and CEO Dennis Bakke, Texas Charter Schools Association vice president Denise Pierce and Texas IB



Photo submitted by JULIA BRADY

Alan Olkes (from left), Imagine Academy Executive Vice President for Texas; Collin County Commissioner Joe Jaynes; McKinney Mayor Brian Loughmiller; Imagine Academy Founder and CEO Dennis Bakke and state Rep. Ken Paxton break ground on the Collin County charter school.

Schools Executive Director Karen Phillips attended the groundbreaking.

Paxton presented the school with a

resolution on behalf of the state of Texas.

Loughmiller shared his belief that the school's program will help attract addi-

tional global businesses and their employees to McKinney.

Dallas-based property developer, Donald Gaskins, has partnered with Imagine Schools to provide the school with a facility of about 60,000 square feet containing classrooms, multipurpose space and a library. The board of the academy recognized Gaskins and his efforts by presenting him with a plaque to be placed inside the school building once completed.

The school began accepting applications for admission on Nov. 1 and has received more than 500 to date. Applications will be accepted until March 1 from residents within the school districts of McKinney, Allen, Frisco, Prosper, Celina, Melissa, Princeton and Lovejoy.

The academy is scheduled to open in August 2012.

For more information, visit imagine-northtexas.org or email info@imagine-northtexas.org.

Julia Brady contributes to neighborsgo on behalf of Imagine Academy.