



The News Reporter

Columbus Charter School to break ground Tuesday

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Staff Writer

With its official start of school just four months away, Columbus Charter School will break ground on its new campus facilities Tuesday, March 20 at 9 a.m.

The 100-acre site, at 35 Bacon's Way, is just off J.K. Powell Road, a few hundred yards west of the intersection of the Old Lumberton and Peacock roads, also known as Collier's Crossroads.

The new entry road into the school has been named Bacon's Way and the circle containing all the classrooms will be Learner's Lane.

Parents and guests are invited to meet with the staff and trustees and share refreshments that will be served in the main quad.

The new school gives parents in Columbus and Bladen counties a new option on where to send their kindergarten, first grade and second grade children.

Columbus Charter school is tuition-free and was approved by the State Board of Education last year. The school will grow by advancing one grade level annually until it serves kindergarten through eighth grade.

The board of trustees that runs Charter Day School in Brunswick County will also govern the Columbus school.

Charter Day School, a 700-student K-8 Honor School of Excellence that has been designated as a

Top 25 school in the state, serves as the model for the new school.

The school will bring its successful behavioral policies, teaching methods and curricula that have proven so effective in neighboring Brunswick County to Columbus County, said Board Chairman Beth Quinn. "The Roger Bacon Academy will operate and manage the Columbus school. Their experience in creating a top-level, traditional learning environment within caring, yet results-oriented classrooms will ensure a strong program for the students."

"We are currently accepting applications to Columbus Charter School for kindergarten, first grade and second grade students," said Headmaster Steve Smith. "We are planning for 150 students."

There will be an on-site daycare for early drop-off and late pick-up to accommodate working parents, according to school officials. While there is no charge for anyone to attend the school, there will be a nominal charge for the day care service.

"We are looking forward to becoming a partner with the other schools in the community and contributing to the overall pursuit of educational excellence that is so vital to the economic health of the area," said school trustee Baker Mitchell.

The sizable campus will give the school plenty of room to meet its expansion goals.

Parents interested in the school can call Smith at (910) 655-1214 or register online at www.ColumbusCharterSchool.org. More information can be obtained about the Brunswick campus through its website at www.CharterDaySchool.org.