



## *Press Release*

For Immediate Release

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### **Metro Schools breaks ground on new Cane Ridge High**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (November 14, 2006) –Construction on Metro Schools’ new Cane Ridge High School officially began today with a groundbreaking ceremony held at the school’s 50-plus acre site at 12814 Old Hickory Boulevard.

Scheduled to open Fall 2008, the new high school will help alleviate overcrowding in the Antioch cluster, which continues to see tremendous residential growth in the area it serves. Cane Ridge, designed by architects from Nashville’s Gould Turner Group, will have a capacity of 2,000 students and will contain 41 classrooms, 16 science labs, six career and technology rooms, a complete administration suite, a 600-seat auditorium and a 2,000-seat gymnasium. Other unique features of the school will be a “Cyber Café” with direct access to the main dining room, graphic arts classrooms and studios and an outdoor sculpture court. The building itself will include 309,512 square feet and will be constructed using materials and systems that incorporate energy conservation and environmental protection – following current Green Building and LEED components. The estimated construction cost is expected to exceed \$40 million.

“Antioch has needed this high school for quite some time,” said Pedro E. Garcia, Ed.D., Director of Schools. “ We are excited about the positive impact this school will have on the lives of its students and this community and look forward to the day when we are dedicating the new building into service.”

While Cane Ridge will include all the amenities needed in a high school, including athletic fields, classrooms, offices and science labs, it is the academic plans for the school that are particularly exciting for its principal. Dr. Lora Hall, current principal of Glencliff High School, has already been named principal of Cane Ridge and will spend next year planning every detail of the school’s opening.

“We don’t want to assume we know what the community wants,” Hall explains. “I intend to conduct small meetings, beginning in May or June 2007, to meet with parents and students and hear their opinions and see where interests are.”

Hall said Cane Ridge High will offer smaller learning communities to create small schools within the larger school setting. To do this, Cane Ridge will have a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy where freshmen will receive additional help transitioning to high school. The school will also have separate wings for each grade level served and students will be paired with an advisor who will develop a personal relationship with every student. Students will also be able to participate in career academies for those sharing similar interests.

Tuesday's ceremony began at 10 a.m. and included remarks from Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell and Joe Edgens, Metro Schools' executive director for Facilities and Operations. Among those attending were members of the Metro Board of Education and Metro Council, school district staff, community leaders and former Board member Mebenin Awipi, who worked for more school facilities for Antioch during his tenure as a member of the board.

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Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to nearly 74,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit [www.mnps.org](http://www.mnps.org).

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