

## **Council Rock's Most Used Asset - The Pool**

Citizens For Education applauds the Administration and School Board for initiating and approving the long overdue renovations to the community's most utilized Council Rock asset - the school district's one and only pool. The Council Rock pool, housed at Council Rock North, will resume providing education to students, important programs to the community and value to those of all ages, in late November.

### **The Pool as an Educational Station**

It is a little known fact that the Council Rock pool is the most used teaching station in the district. It is an integral part of the Physical Education program for students at CR North, and special education students from every school in the district. For educational purposes, the pool is in continual use from 7:30am until 2:15pm everyday.

North students are required to take a swimming course for one marking period during their four years. This is designed to improve skills in those who know how to swim and to introduce the basics of swimming and survival skills to those who are beginners. North Students can also elect physical education classes in Lifeguarding, Water Games and Adaptive Aquatics. Students who elect and pass the Red Cross Certified Lifeguarding Class can use their school learned skills to save a life or for future employment.

The elective, Adaptive Aquatics, gives high school students an opportunity to be a mentor to students with developmental disabilities. North students benefit from interaction with special needs students, who are bused from almost every school in the district including CR South. The pool's buoyancy provides mobility for the special needs students, some of whom, during the rest of their educational day, are confined to wheelchairs. The new ramp being constructed into the pool will facilitate pool use for special needs students.

### **The Pool as an Extra-Curricular Site For Both High Schools**

The pool is also the site of Council Rock North and South's extra-curricular team use, for Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams. This takes place during the school year from 5:45 am until 7:00 am, and again after the regular school day.

Since Council Rock South was built without a pool, both schools teams have to split available practice time and lane space. This means sometimes there are as many as 10 swimmers doing laps in one lane. South's Aquatic Teams are bused to Council Rock North for practice, and both high schools use the pool for their home meets against other high schools.

## **Community Aquatic Usage**

In addition to hosting educational programs during the school year, Council Rock's pool is the site of a variety of valuable programs for varying abilities. Classes are available for swimmers, from toddlers to seniors, in the evenings, on the weekends and during the summer. The community aquatics program provides a funding stream that not only covers the cost of coaches, lifeguards, instructors, CPR supplies, and community lesson textbooks, but it also takes in some surplus revenues to offset other operational expenses.

Children ages 2-11 can take lessons to learn to swim, or better their swimming skills. Lessons are offered on Saturdays in the fall and spring and at varying times in the summer. Competitive Swimming Stroke Clinics and Diving Instruction are offered in the spring to children in the entire community.

Adult beginner lessons and adult lap swimming sessions are offered on Monday and Wednesday in the fall and spring. Lifeguarding & Water Safety Instruction is held in the fall and spring, and provides an important resource to those who are interested in getting the Red Cross certification necessary to obtain a pool job in the community.

Council Rock's Swimming and Diving Club teams, where swimmers and divers compete against other school district's club teams, practice September through March from 7-10pm. This is the feeder program for the Varsity Swimming and Diving teams.

Inexpensive recreational swimming is open to the entire CR community on Friday nights from February to May. The pool is also in continual operation from 7 AM – 3:30 PM four days a week during the summer.

## **Visit The Web Site**

It is because Council Rock's pool is the busiest facility in the district that Citizens For Education is pleased to see it getting the attention it so richly deserves!

For more information on Council Rock's Community Aquatic Programs with detailed schedules, registration information and cost, visit the website at: <http://www.crsd.org/50340111101715/site/default.asp>. At the same website you can click on "Council Rock North Pool Renovations." to get updates and see pictures of the pool's construction.