

Dear Amana Community Members:

As I mentioned in my last communication to the community, Amana's success, and the increased interest of families wanting to join the Amana community has prompted us to aggressively pursue options to relocate our school to a campus that can better accommodate Amana's success and growth.

On Friday, April 27, 2007 the Board reached conceptual agreements with different parties to lease a property that is currently housing a private school with an enrollment of approximately 450 students. When the agreement is completed, Amana will take control of that property on June 1, 2007. This campus will provide Amana with a very comfortable home in the interim while we complete the process of developing and building our own campus. This move will allow most prospective students who are now on a wait-list to join the Amana family.

WHERE IS AMANA'S NEW CAMPUS?

When the lease transactions are completed, our new campus will be off Highway 9 (S. Main Street), a few blocks south of downtown Alpharetta. This facility is currently serving a campus for a private school, that will move out as of May 31, 2007. The campus is adjoining Wills Park, and Amana will be able to use the sports facility and playground at the Park during school hours. The campus has enough classrooms to accommodate Amana's growth over the next three years. It also has ample office space, conference space, two rooms fit to serve as science labs (as needed), cafeteria, media center, a large multi-use room, a small Gymnasium, and private access to Wills Park facilities. The facility has been very well maintained, and is in great "move-in" shape.

IS THERE GOING TO BE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?

This new campus is a little further north than what would have been ideal. The Board and the Administration realize that the current car-pooling arrangement may be too challenging for some families with the location moving several miles north. Therefore the Board and the Administration are committed to develop a transportation plan to include other options for families. The details of the transportation plans will be developed over the next few weeks. Many options will be evaluated including providing service through a private company, using the Fulton County Schools' system, and purchasing our own busses. Principal Mohler will be conducting surveys, her staff and some parent volunteer will analyze the options and communicate the plans to the community as soon as they are developed.

WHEN WILL THE MOVE TAKE PLACE?

Over the next two weeks the Board will be finalizing the transactions with the different stakeholders to make the move possible. The Administration will be coordinating all the activities necessary to make the move happen as seamlessly as possible. Principal Mohler has already met with a "Transition Crew" last night.

Many parent volunteers and all the staff will be working together to make sure the transition is successful. The goal is to complete the move during the month of June, so that by the time our faculty returns from summer break, everything will be in place for them to start planning and setting up for the new year. All communication systems, security plans, transportation plans, will be in place.

WHEN CAN I SEE THE NEW CAMPUS?

A group of staff members and volunteers will be organizing tours for the new campus over the next few weeks. Please look for a communication over the next week or two for details regarding the opportunity to visit and see the new campus. Since the facility is an operating school, we ask parents not to go individually and potentially interrupt the school day of the current operators. Several tours will be scheduled and all parents will have the opportunity to see the campus before the end of this school year.

WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SCHOOL YEAR?

This is a very exciting time for Amana. We will soon have a campus that will better facilitate implementation of our charter, and accommodate Amana's success. Before the end of this year all staff and parents will have the opportunity to view the new campus. You will also be receiving communications regarding food service, transportation service, and other operational matters. Before the next school year starts all families will have an opportunity to visit the new campus with the students, meet the teachers and be familiar with their new classrooms and surroundings.

Last, I would want to thank all the volunteers and staff who are working hard to close a very successful year at Amana, and finding the time to make sure the transition is a success. Please feel free to direct any questions to the Board to my email address mbudeir@amanaacademy.org or to give a call directly at 404-944-0058.

Maher Budeir,
Board Chair,
Amana Academy