**Yates High School**

**groundbreaking ceremony today**

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| **What:** | Yates High School will hold a groundbreaking ceremony to officially mark the start of construction on the school’s new $59.4 million facility. The three-story building designed to accommodate up to 1,500 students is being built as part of HISD’s 2012 Bond Program.  The new school will be built adjacent to the existing building facing Alabama Avenue. Students will attend classes in the current building during construction, which has a target completion of the first quarter of 2018. Once complete, the exiting building will be demolished to make room for athletics fields and additional parking.  Design plans call for a grand entryway with large windows that connect the front and back entrances and flexible learning spaces designed to accommodate the school’s communications and maritime magnet programs. Additional features include a performance wing with auditorium, spaces for fine arts and JROTC, and a gymnasium and athletics area.  Yates is among 40 schools across the district being renovated or rebuilt as part of HISD’s voter-approved 2012 Bond Program. Construction is currently underway at nearly two-dozen campuses, which is more active construction projects than at any other time in district history. One school already has been completed, and six more are planned to open for the 2016-2017 school year. |
| **Who:** | Yates High School Principal **Ken Davis**, HISD Board of Education District IV Trustee **Jolanda Jones**, District 18 U.S. Rep. **Shelia Jackson Lee**, District 13 State Sen. **Rodney Ellis**, District 147 State Rep. **Garnet Coleman**, District 131 State Rep. **Alma Allen**, Houston District D Council Member **Dwight Boykins**, HISD General Counsel **Elneita Hutchins-Taylor**, Yates High School Project Advisory Team Member **Arva Howard**, Yates High School 2016-2017 Student Council President **Amber Felder**, and Holman Street Baptist Church Pastor **Manson Johnson**, as well as other dignitaries, school stakeholders and community members |
| **When:** | **Thursday, June 2, at 9 a.m.** |
| **Where:** | Yates High School, 3703 Sampson St., 77004 |

