

**CELESTINO MAURICIO SOTO JR.
DEDICATED VOLUNTEER**

Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. was born in Dallas in 1953. He graduated from Crozier Tech High School in 1970, earned a degree from Mountain View College, and attended The University of Texas in Arlington.



Soto then enlisted in the United States Navy. During American conflicts in Vietnam and Cambodia he served aboard the *USS America*, *USS Independence*, and *USS Eisenhower*. When he returned to Dallas in 1980, he joined the Naval Reserves, serving four years, and then joined the Army National Guard, serving 12 years. Friends and family say he was “military down to his fingertips.” In fact, when the first Gulf War erupted in 1990 he packed his bags and was ready to go.

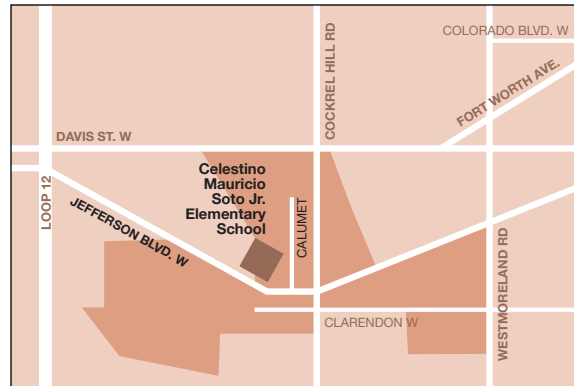
Soto and his wife had eight children. Three of his children are autistic, which led Soto to learn about the effects of autism and get involved in the lives of many children with special needs. Soto believed in service to others. He loved his family, and he loved reaching out to those in need, especially children.

Following his military career, Soto worked as a security specialist but dedicated his life to serving as a volunteer in Dallas ISD programs and with organizations that help children, such as Special Olympics. He also spent a great deal of time teaching religion and mentoring teenagers in his church. He was a deeply religious man and believed that was the source of his strength and determination. Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. died in July 2002 at the age of 49.

FEEDER PATTERN

Grades PreK–5	Grade 6	Grades 7–8	Grades 9–12
Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. ES	Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. ES	L.V. Stockard MS	Moisés E. Molina HS

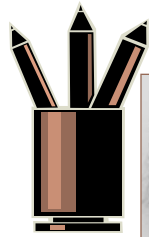
Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. Elementary School is receiving students from Mary McLeod Bethune, L.O. Donald, Anson Jones, and George Peabody elementary schools.



Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. Elementary School
4510 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75211

CELESTINO MAURICIO SOTO JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Serving students of the Dallas Independent School District in District 7



CELESTINO



MAURICIO SOTO JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



INTRODUCTION

Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. Elementary School will serve about 775 students in the neighborhood near Cockrell Hill, just east of the city of Dallas' Arcadia Park. The school is located on Jefferson Boulevard just west of Cockrell Hill Road. The community, infused with a strong volunteer spirit, shares Celestino Soto's belief in gaining strength through challenges.

FeaturesFeaturesFeaturesFeaturesFeatures

SPECIAL FEATURES

Celestino Mauricio Soto Jr. Elementary School is a two-story building that uses **natural light throughout the public spaces** to give students, staff, and visitors a welcome feeling. The two-toned brick facade and geometric patterns create a **shadow effect**, giving a distinctive look and personality to the building. The north elevation of the building features **large brick arches** that address the traffic coming from Jefferson Boulevard. The building has **three entrances**: the front door, the west classroom door, and the cafeteria door, which **provide the neighborhood easy access for after-hours use**.

The building has about 90,000 square feet and includes **33 core classrooms** plus a **music room, art room, science lab, computer lab, auditorium, and two conference rooms**. **Two large workrooms** give teachers and school volunteers a place to prepare materials for classroom instruction and special projects.

The **gymnasium** and **cafeteria** are separated from classroom areas so students and visitors can gather and meet at the school without disturbing classroom instruction. The **library**, located on the second floor, also is isolated from noise.

Outside, a **playground** and **baseball and soccer fields** will give students and neighborhood children many opportunities for structured physical activity and play.

ACADEMIC FEATURES

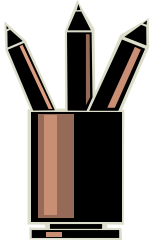
In addition to the core curriculum, students are given many opportunities to explore their creativity in the school's **science lab** and through **music and art programs**.

The school offers **all-day prekindergarten classes**, where students are prepared to enter elementary school **ready to read and to learn**.

After-school programs include a **soccer club, basketball, art, a student newspaper, choir, and spirit club**. Students will be given the opportunity to **volunteer to assist** with the **Special Olympics** in May. A **student recognition banquet** will be held at the end of each school year to celebrate student achievement and leadership.

As part of the school's **parental involvement program**, a **club for parents and volunteers** meets and holds activities monthly, and the school offers **adult English-as-a-second language classes**.

Administrators and teachers periodically **walk the neighborhood** to introduce themselves and the school to the neighborhood and recruit **volunteers to tutor and mentor students** and **to help with school and classroom projects**.



Grade levels
Prekindergarten
through sixth grade

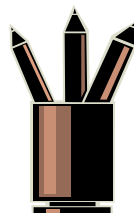
Enrollment
775 students

Size
90,000 square feet

Number of classrooms
33

Construction cost
\$12 million

Opened
August 2006



FACTS & FIGURES