

**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:**

Feb. 26, 2014  
Principal

Dr. Kristofer Sippel,  
San Tan Learning Center  
(480) 222-0811  
[ksippel@santanlc.com](mailto:ksippel@santanlc.com)

**San Tan Learning Center unveils plans for new 50,000-square-foot site**

*Gilbert K-8 changing name to San Tan Charter School, will break ground in Morrison Ranch Feb. 28  
New site to open for 2014-15 school year*

**GILBERT, Ariz. (Feb. 26, 2014)** – San Tan Learning Center, a public (tuition-free) charter school with 500 K-8 students in Gilbert, today unveiled plans to build a brand-new, 50,000-square-foot school in Morrison Ranch, a master-planned community also located in Gilbert. The groundbreaking is scheduled Feb. 28 with plans to complete construction in June and open the doors for the 2014-15 school year in July.

The school also is undergoing a name change as part of its move to Morrison Ranch. San Tan Learning Center now will be known as San Tan Charter School.

At its new site, San Tan Charter School will house up to 700 K-8 students, and school administrators plan to hire additional faculty and staff to accommodate the larger student body.

"We are absolutely thrilled with our beautiful new site and the promise it holds for our students for years to come," said Dr. Kristofer Sippel, founder and principal, San Tan Charter School. "Since 2006, we have poured our time, energy and passion into building academic and specials programs of the highest-possible quality. Now we will have a space that truly reflects our quality as well as our dedication to provide the very best for our students."

"Morrison Ranch welcomes San Tan Charter School to the community," added Howard Morrison, partner, Morrison Ranch. "Morrison family members are products of the Gilbert Public Schools of the past and are strong supporters of education in its many forms and at various levels. We anticipate it will be a beneficial relationship to STCS as well."

San Tan Charter School will be built on 6.5 acres of land at the southwest corner of Elliot and Recker Roads, less than three miles from the school's existing site at Higley and Ray Roads. Plans call for a 35,000 square-foot classroom building featuring 30 750-square-foot classrooms, an expanded library and media center and a computer lab. The school also will house a 15,000-square-foot gymnasium complete with a full-size basketball court, physical education classroom, music room and a full stage for students' music and arts performances.

Outdoors, students will enjoy two large playgrounds, three basketball courts, four tetherball courts, and 1.5 acres of grassy fields for organized sports and play.

San Tan Charter School, which currently houses San Tan Montessori Private Preschool onsite, also will expand the preschool program. The preschool currently serves 48 students ages 2.5 to 5 years; San Tan Montessori will add a program for children 18 months to 2.5 years, bringing its total student body to 100. The preschool will feature a brand-new, secured-entrance building separate from the K-8 school.

San Tan Charter School entered into a contract in October 2013 with Morrison Ranch – administrators’ top choice after visiting dozens of other Gilbert sites. After a formal bid process, Accelerated Technologies was selected to design and construct the new school. San Tan Charter School is the first school-choice option to open in the vicinity.

#### **About San Tan Charter School**

[San Tan Charter School](#) is a public (tuition-free) charter school in Gilbert serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The school and its staff have received numerous distinguished honors including Arizona Outstanding Gifted Educator 2010, Top 10 Charter School Teacher 2011 and 2012, *Go Gilbert!* Top School 2010-2013, certified Arizona Environmentally Healthy School, *East Valley Tribune* Best Charter School 2013, Gilbert Chamber of Commerce’s Large Business of the Year 2013, and 2013 Best of Gilbert Award.

The K-8 school is well known for its self-contained gifted program, daily physical education, rich music curriculum and Love and Logic® classroom management system. San Tan Charter School strives for excellence in academic and character education by fostering the curiosity, creativity and imagination born within us all. For more information, visit us [online](#) or call 480-222-0811.

#### **About Morrison Ranch**

Morrison Ranch is 2,000 acre, fully integrated, master-planned community developed on family land, designed to encourage orderly growth and preserve Gilbert’s proud agricultural heritage. The community is located in East Gilbert.

###