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## New preparatory school to open on Woodruff Road

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By L.C. Leach III  
 TRIBUNE -TIMES WRITER

A new school is coming to the Golden Strip.

Next spring, the Palmetto International Preparatory School will open its facility on Woodruff Road between Butler Road and Highway 14 to parents seeking a new approach to day care and early age education for their children.

"Our primary goal is to offer an alternative to the child-care centers currently available for children 3 months old through second grade," said co-founder Kathleen Gow. "And we hope to exceed (parental) expectations."

Groundbreaking for the 19,000-square-foot school occurred in late August. A dedication ceremony was held Sept. 9.

"We plan to open in March with 3-month-olds through kindergarten, and next fall we'll start grades 1-2," said Cindy Weathers, director of marketing. "We already have 10 students enrolled."

The new \$3.5 million school was financed mostly by an anonymous investor.

Gow said the origin for the school came out of a dissatisfaction by her and co-founder Ron Peterman with the level of child care offered in Greenville County.

The school on five acres will include a water park, playground and room to expand. The school building will feature a gym, language lab, computer lab, barbershop, art room, music room and library.

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Kathleen C. Gow, one of the founders of the Palmetto International Preparatory School, shows her daughter, Mackenzie, the school model during a dedication ceremony Sept. 9. GWINN DAVIS/Staff

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**More details**  
 Call 675-1002.

Teacher-student ratios are not expected to exceed 1:12, with an average ratio of 1:7.

For safety, the school will have one entrance. Only current staff and parents will have keys. Visitors will have to be screened and approved before being allowed to enter.

The school will be open from 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. weekdays for parents needing extra time to drop off or pick up their children.

The monthly costs for five-day-a-week care are \$1,175 for infants; \$1,115 for toddlers; \$1,065 for pre-schoolers; \$995 for kindergartners; and \$459 for the after-school club. Costs for students in grades 1-2 have yet to be determined.

Weathers said with more parents becoming more concerned about their children's safety and education, they expect to find a market for this kind of school.

"We hope to open with 75-100 students and to eventually accommodate 270," she said. "And then we may look at other sites, based on the success of this one."

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