

The Middle School MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER

Rigor • Relevance • Relationships • Results



Volume 8—Issue 1
September 2008

Welcome Back!

Welcome Back Everyone!

It has been another great start to the new school year!

The Middle School Team is very excited about beginning the new school year with the implementation of the Middle Level Education Plan. This plan will help middle school students embrace high academic achievement, confidence, and self-esteem.

Year 1 implementation of the 5 year plan has begun with the support of the community, parents, students, Board of Trustees, and campus faculty and staff.

Middle School Team supporting Middle School Campuses and the implementation of the MLEP:

Dr. Paul Cruz, Associate Superintendent for Middle School

Debra Hester, Director of Middle School Operations

Kevin Brackmeyer, Executive Principal

Paul Zevallos, Executive Principal

Julianne Gula, Administrative Supervisor

Humberto Torres, Administrative Assistant



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IMPORTANT DATES



MS Principals' Meeting

September 18
Webb
8:00—5:00

MS Assistant Principals' Meeting

September 23
Webb MS Library
8:00—12:00

OR

September 24
Webb MS Library
12:00—4:00

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Welcome !

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Bailey—Dr. Julia Fletcher

Burnet—Dr. Antonio Medina

Dobie - Carol Chapman

Garcia—Dr. Helen Johnson

Lamar—Eleanor Duncan

Mendez—Connie Barr

O'Henry—Pete Price

Pearce—James Troutman

Small—Amy Taylor

Rosedale—Elizabeth Dickey

Bedichek—Dan Diehl

Covington—Candace Hughs

Fulmore— Lisa Alexandra Bush

Kealing—Lynda Redler

Martin—Susan Galvan

Murchison—Kimiko Cartwright

Paredes—Raul Moreno

Ann Richards—Jeanne Goka

Webb—Rey Garcia

Names in RED are new principals in AISD.

Middle Level Education Plan

WORLD CLASS CURRICULUM

Science and Math Professional Development

Middle School teachers among all campuses are attending Laying the Foundation training in all content areas to raise the rigor in classrooms.

Middle School administrators joined science teachers in Kilgo training on August 5, 2008 to address the achievement gap in the science performance data. The Office of Middle Schools will be hosting Kilgo training for math on September 30, 2008.

QUALITY EDUCATORS

Professional Learning Communities

On August 1, 2008, each middle school leadership team analyzed campus data and identified major issues and concerns. The middle school administrators will develop Professional Learning Communities to focus on the five major issues impacting middle schools:

- English Language Learners
- Positive Relationships
- Science
- Math
- Achievement Gap

The PLCs will meet twice a month and present their findings, resources and tools with one another in December 2008 and June 2009.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Campus Advisory Council

The Office of Middle Schools will be hosting a special meeting with all middle school CAC members to discuss the expectations and implementation of the Middle Level Education Plan on **September 25th at 6:00 p.m.**

This meeting is an important step of our initiative to implement the Middle Level Education Plan in our middle schools. I will send an email this week to include the agenda and location.

Parent Support Specialist

The Middle School Parent Support Specialists met on September 8, 2008 to review the Middle Level Education Plan and develop strategies to increase community engagement. The Parent Support Specialist will conduct a book study on Understanding Youth to deepen their understanding of academic and social development.

Covington Middle School

Covington Middle School Ready to Start a Great Year!

After many improvements this summer, the Covington Middle School campus was bright and shiny for the 2008-09 school year. When teachers and students returned from the summer break, they found improvements in classrooms and common areas, including many funded by AISD bonds. The incredible custodial staff worked around the clock to make sure everything was ready to go.

In addition, the staff welcomed several new teachers and one assistant principal, Andrew Cook. Said Mr. Cook, "I am excited about being part of the Covington Middle School family and community. Before accepting the job at Covington, I heard glowing remarks about the students, parents, and teachers. I think this will be a great school year at Covington!" Another new face to the campus, math teacher Danielle Keenan, said she felt very welcomed by the staff at Covington, but "it's been so hard to get to know everyone's names!" There are a lot of people to get to know, and they don't mind repeating their names to the new folks, or those who've just had a long summer.



Looking Ahead

September 15—First CIP Draft due to Debbie Hester and Nancy Phillips

September 25— Middle School CAC Members (MLEP)

Laying the Foundations: (attend only one session— one day)

- ◆ English—September 8-12, 15
- ◆ Math—September 8-12, 18
- ◆ Science—September 17-18, October 14-15, 21-22

Kilgo Math Training—September 30