



Rattler News

May 25, 2009

12900 Dessau Rd.
Austin, TX 78754
Phone 512 594-2600
Fax 512 594-2605

Principal's Update

Dear Diamondback Family,

The countdown begins.....only 8 more days until the end of the 2008-2009 school year! As I reflect upon the school year, I find that we have much to be proud of ...a diamond mine of successes:

- A Kick Start program that is off to a great start;
- An Academic U.I.L. team that earned the top spot in the district;
- One of the first three schools in PISD to earn a No Place For Hate designation by the Anti-Defamation League;
- A band program that earned top ratings in several U.I.L. competitions throughout the Central Texas Area;
- A Robotics Team that earned top honors in the area of research;
- A Geography Bee contestant who represented PISD and competed at the State Level; and
- A quality academic program that challenges our students and has earned our school official AVID certification.

Despite our many successes, the journey is not over! There is much to be done as we continue to move Dessau Middle School from Good to Great!

Progress reports went home with students on Thursday of last week. If you have not seen your child's 3-week grade report please ask them for it. Below is information on promotion requirements at the middle school level. In addition, I encourage you to visit the counselor section of the website for information about summer school.

- An overall average of 70 percent on a scale of 100 for all subject areas combined, including electives;
- A grade of 70 or above on both mathematics and language arts;
- A grade of 70 or above in either science or social studies;
- Compliance with the attendance policy; and
- Proficiency on the state assessment for grade 8 - reading and mathematics, beginning in the 2007-08 school year.

Sincerely,
Diana Sustaita

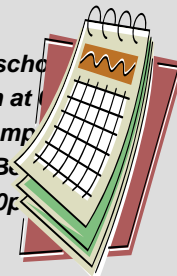
A Night Under the Stars

This event will be held on May 29th from 6:30 - 9:00 for the 8th grade class. There will be a catered dinner and music with prizes, photos etc. just like the real Oscars. Invitations went out 2 weeks ago and reservations have been collected. Get the glam on!



A schedule of events for the last two weeks of school is listed below:

5/27	5 th Grade visits during the school year
5/27	Musical Theater production at the school
5/27	8 th Grade CHS and HHS camp
5/28	PRIDE Field trip – Volente B.
5/28	Choir Spring Concert – 7:00pm
5/29	All class Field Day
5/29	8 th Grade Dinner & Dance
6/1	PTO Meeting 6:00pm DMS Library
6/2	6 th Grade Field Trip
6/2	7 th Grade assembly – 9:20am
6/3	6 th Grade Awards Ceremony – 8:30 a.m.
6/3	8 th Grade Awards Ceremony - 10:00 a.m.
6/3	7 th Grade Field Trip
6/4	Last day of school - Early Release



PTO Update

The last PTO meeting of the year will be on Monday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the DMS library. DMS PTO welcomes all parents to join the PTO and become involved in your student's middle school experience. If you're interested in serving on the PTO Board, officers will be elected that evening as well. Your involvement really does make a difference in your child's education. For more information please contact Sylvia Harris, DMS PTO President at sylvia_harris@dell.com.

DMS is a No Place for Hate School ®!

Dessau has been officially named a No Place for Hate School® by the Anti Defamation League! On May 26th, Dessau will be presented with a banner that proudly announces this honor. To earn the designation, students and teachers participated in many school-wide events that promoted tolerance and allowed for diversity education. To learn more about this program, please visit the website. <http://regions.adl.org/southwest/programs/no-place-for-hate.html>



Visit us online at: www.pflugervilleisd.net/DMS/index.html

Nurse's Corner

Before school registration all incoming 7th graders must meet the new Texas requirements for immunizations. To help meet these requirements individual letters with copies of shot records were mailed home to all 6th graders in April. The district is offering a FREE shot clinic on Wed, June 3, at the Admin Bldg from 1:30-4:00pm. All district wide students are encouraged to come! Bring shot records and a parent/guardian to sign consents.

NEW REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR INCOMING 7TH GRADERS:

- Two Varicella
- One Meningococcal
- One Tdap (must be current within 5 yrs)

Thank you, *Linda Miller, RN* 594-2635

Math News

What an exciting year 2008-2009 has been! Dessau Middle School's math students have achieved great TAKS scores which show a year to year improvement and gain. If you would like an opportunity to enhance your students learning, please visit the Texas Education Agency's website for an Interactive Study Guide:

http://perspective.pearsonaccess.com/perspective/appmanager/tx/family?nfpb=true&windowLabel=par_stguide&wsrp-urlType=blockingAction&wsr-url=&wsrp-requiresRewrite=false&wsrpavigationalState=action=/portlets/studyGuides/processReRender&next=/portlets/study

or do a search for "TAKS Study Guide Interactive" with your favorite search engine. As we wind up the year, please remember to have your student bring in their textbook to their math teacher. We look forward to working with your student next year here at DMS!



The Yearbooks are Here!!

The "Living Like a Diamondback" edition of the Cage Rattler Yearbook arrived on campus May 15th. Students that purchased yearbooks before May 8th were invited to a free signing party during 8th period on May 21st and 22nd. At the signing party students enjoyed snacks and their friends with music creating a relaxing atmosphere.

We still have yearbooks but supplies are limited (at the time of publication there were less than 100). We will continue to sell until supplies are gone. Parents may purchase a yearbook for their child for \$30.31 (\$28 + tax which we are required to charge on direct sales). No Checks Please. Money Order made payable to Taylor Publishing, cash or credit card. Contact Ms. Kaiser or Ms. Kamper for any question or to make a purchase.

We are already planning new features for next year's book. We'll have internet payment options and will offer many other ways to preserve the memories of the year. Our favorite new feature is student ads in which students or their parents will be able to buy a space to put a special picture and message. Look for order forms in the beginning of the year paperwork packet.

6th Grade Update

Pre-AP ELA Students: Why not read and relax at the same time? Remember to complete your Summer Reading. You may find all of the information on PISD's website: <http://www.pflugervilleisd.net/DMS/documents/PreAPSummerRdgMS.pdf>

7th Grade Team Update

7th Grade End-of-Year Field Trip

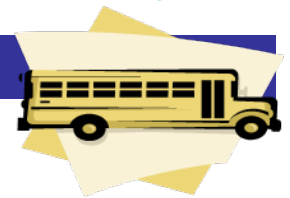
Where: Inner Space Caverns in Georgetown

When: Wednesday, June 3rd

Cost: \$7.00

What to Bring: ~ Comfortable clothing/shoes to explore a cave! ~ A sack lunch and appropriate toys/balls to picnic and play!
~ Students receiving free lunch will be provided a sack lunch.

Permission Form Due: May 22



8th Grade Team Update

The 8th grade Dinner/Dance

When: May 29th from 6:30 to 9:00

Where: DMS cafeteria.

Theme: "A Night under the Stars" (Hollywood).

Dress: Nice clothes - slacks and dress shirt for boys, dresses, dress slacks or skirt and blouse for girls. All attire must be school appropriate.

Dinner: Will be catered and will be served by student wait staff.

More info will be communicated once finalized.



Athletics News



Girls Athletics: Coaches will be at DMS on Wed., August 12th from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. to issue out lockers, work-out clothes, and collect paperwork. Information sheets will be sent home with the girls next week.

Choir News

The choir's end of the year program will be May 28th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Please come everyone and enjoy our musical play called "S'Cool". Free admission!



Band News

On Saturday, April 18th, the Dessau Band students competed at our annual Solo and Ensemble Festival. 159 students received a first division rating. 30 students received a second division rating. Students were rewarded medals and ribbons for their achievements.

Band students nominated for Best Soloist were Christopher Velasquez, trumpet, 6th grade; Lisa Saba, clarinet, 7th grade and Danny Vo, euphonium, 7th grade; Richard Clore, Euphonium, 8th grade; Gabrielle Landeros, bassoon, 8th grade; Christopher Friesen, piano, 8th grade. Honorable mention went to Felix Palacios, Rachel Powers, Oscar Lignons.

Band students nominated for Best Overall Ensemble are Phuong-Nam Mai, Daisy Cantera, Gabrielle Landeros, and Jonathan Friesen for their rendition of Ching a Ring Chaw by Aaron Copland and Anahi Hernandez, Andrew, Hill, Eric Le, Chris Friesen, Oscar Lignons, Greg McDade for their rendition of Danielle's Cha, Cha, Cha by Mark Wessels.

The John Philip Sousa Award for Service to the Band Department was awarded at our Spring Concert on May 19th to Eric Le and Samantha Wooster.

On Saturday, May 9th, the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Bands participated in the Buccaneer Music Festival at the Texas A&M, Corpus Christi Performing Arts Center. Both Bands were awarded first division trophies for their participation in this event.

The Band Department would especially like to thank the parents who have dedicated their time and efforts to help us this year. Our morning helpers.... Mrs. Poznich, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Risby and Mrs. Clore. These ladies came every week so that we could teach our sectionals. Our field trip helpers.... Mr. and Mrs. Meza, Mr. and Mrs. Zielinski, Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, Mr. Schmidt, Mrs. Palacios, Mrs. Bethel, Mrs. Owens, Mr. and Mrs. Mendez, Mr. and Mrs. Landeros, Mr. Sanchez, Mrs. Rickelman, Mrs. Klein and Mr. and Mrs. Lopez.

On Friday night May 15th, the Band Department sponsored our Lock-in. The students participated in an Amazing Race, Pie Eating Contest, played video games and everyone's favorite....Country Karoake!! The students munched down on chicken and beef fajitas. Our Band Dad's and Mom's that helped were Mr. McDade, Mr. Palacios, Mrs. Klein, Mrs. La Porte, Mr. Mendoza, Mr. Bethel, Mr. and Mrs. Friesen, Mrs. Hisey, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Meza, Mrs. Dealing, Mrs. Pham, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs, Lignons.

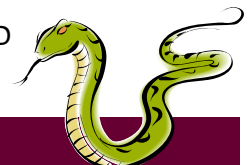
And we would especially like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Clore, Mr. and Mrs. Wooster, Mrs. La Porte and Mr. and Mrs. Palacios for coming to our aide when ever we needed help at a moments notice!!

Parents you are AWESOME!!!

Technology Club News

The DMS SnakeBots, our Competitive Robotics team, participated in the Robofest tournament April 4th. It was our best experience ever at this event and the students learned a lot while having tons of fun.

Two videos produced by our Video Technology for High School credit students were featured in the PISD Showcase held May 15th at Hendrickson High School.



Counselor News

Awards Ceremonies: 6th grade: June 3rd at 8:30 a.m. / 7th grade: June 2nd at 9:30 a.m. / 8th grade: June 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

Summer School: Registration will be held at Pflugerville Middle School on May 27th and June 1st, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and June 12th 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Required Summer Reading: All ELA Pre-AP classes require summer reading. Please check the D.M.S. counseling website for the required reading list.

Summer Camps: Parents if you are looking for summer camps, check out the D.M.S. counseling website for this years Summer Camps options.

Have a wonderful and safe summer, see you next year,
Your counselors



Science News

It has been an awesome year for the science department at Dessau Middle School. Leading the highlights is the wonderful job the 8th grade students and teachers did on the TAKS test. The overall score for the Science TAKS test increased by 9 points.

Other highlights in the science department are:

8th Grade

- Due to the swine flu outbreak, the students where interested in doing a research project on different diseases that effect humans.
- Oobleck Lab-What state of matter is this? In this experiment, students observe and experiment with a strange substance in an attempt to classify it. Students had a great time trying to figure out what state of matter this substance was in by testing the substance in different ways.
- Students worked in pairs to create a dragon from the random mixing of genetic traits. Each student was a surrogate dragon parent. They picked a complete set of dragon chromosomes and create a dragon.

7th Grade

- Students dissected a frog in order to observe the external and internal structures of frog anatomy.
- Students used a variety of chemistry principals to make ice cream and observe how adding solute (ice cream salt) to a solvent (ice) changes the physical properties of that solvent. In this case the freezing point of the ice is lowered allowing for the milk to turn into ice cream.
- Students investigated the phases of the moon using simple material such as styrene ball and a lamp to make a model of the moon and its phases which is an abstract concept to teach.

6th Grade

- Student extracted DNA from their cheek cells by rinsing their mouths with a saline solution. The saline solution keeps the cells from splitting open, too soon. Students where able to observe the strands of DNA in a test tube.
- Students designed different types of blades for a windmill to see which type would produce the most amount of power.
- Students create a model of the solar system that showed the relative distance and size of objects in space.



Have a
Super
Summer!!

Administration:

[Diana Sustaita](#) - Principal
[Lisa Coston](#) - 6th grade Assistant Principal
[Charles Hunt](#) - 7th grade Assistant Principal
[Kevin Bryant](#) - 8th grade Assistant Principal
[Raquel Landeros](#) - 8th grade Counselor
[LaShanda Lewis](#) - 7th grade Counselor
[Alma Rodriguez](#) - 6th grade Counselor

