

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Patrons:

In a few weeks, the 2007-2008 school year will begin, and we will open the doors to almost 99,000 students. Due to a legislative mandate, school will start later than usual; however, district and campus staff members are already focused and preparing for the first day of school—Monday, Aug. 27.

While families are enjoying their last days of summer vacation or spending some quiet moments before school starts, district employees are in a full swing of activities including participating in staff development, readying buildings and grounds, hiring teachers, delivering supplies, coding textbooks, servicing buses, arranging for payroll and benefits for more than 12,000 employees, and a multitude of other responsibilities that most of our CFISD stakeholders may not consider critical for beginning the year smoothly and event-free. Every task is essential and must be completed to ensure a smooth transition from one year to the next.

Schools are complex organizations and CFISD is one of the largest businesses in Houston. However, we are different from other mammoth infrastructures due to one reason—we are responsible for the safety and the education of your child. And, we take our business seriously. Every student is important and we are committed to each one.

Families continue to move into our district at an unprecedented rate. The result of student enrollment growth is the need for additional classrooms. You may have noticed the 265 portable buildings that are utilized throughout the district. In addition, three more schools will open this year bringing our total to 74: Hopper Middle School, Warner Elementary and McFee Elementary.

Our district is one of the largest and fastest growing districts in the country, and as a result of our exponential growth, we must continually monitor our facilities and their capacities, together with the need to maintain them for our students. For this reason, the Board appointed a committee of 70 members, including parents, patrons and staff members, to review and analyze the needs of the district to accommodate student growth, maintain instructional support facilities and evaluate technology needs. In June, the Bond Steering Committee made a recommendation to the Board for a bond referendum. The Board is currently studying the recommendation and is expected to make a decision as early as August about the need for a bond election this year. Every parent may stay informed about the issues by reading the district newspaper, visiting our website at www.cfisd.net, listening to district podcasts and watching the Board meetings on CFTV Channel 16 or CFTV Online on the website. In addition, I encourage you to subscribe as a district key communicator by emailing us at info@cfisd.net.

A new year, new students, new schools, new challenges and a new beginning! As we approach Aug. 27 and the traffic increases with 874 school buses back on the road and all of our students back in school, let us all remember that it takes everyone working together to ensure a successful school year. Student learning is not the responsibility of teachers alone. The responsibility is ours—students, parents, campus and district staff and community members. Together we will make a difference in the lives of almost 100,000 children; what a legacy!

Sincerely,



David Anthony, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



ANTHONY

7-period day to begin in 2008-2009

CFISD high schools will move to a seven-period day for the 2008-2009 school year as a direct result of the State Board of Education's decision to require 26 credits for the Recommended High School Program (RHSP).

Currently, CFISD high schools are on a six-period daily schedule. However, beginning in 2008-2009, high school students will have 28 total class periods during their four years of high school, which will allow those on the RHSP to earn the required 26 credits as well as two optional electives.

In preparation for the transition to a seven-period day, administrators are currently considering issues that include:

- daily schedule/length of class time, transportation schedules and lunch schedules;
- teachers' schedules; and
- changes in individual six- and four-year plans and high school schedules.

The first group of students to graduate under the new 26-credit graduation requirement (RHSP) will be the 2007-2008 ninth-grade class.

Patrons can provide public input regarding the seven-period day via District News, "Seven period high school schedule for 08-09," on the district website at www.cfisd.net.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD offers career and technology education programs in trade and industrial education, drafting, computer-aided design, welding, ag-science, office administration education, health occupations, apprenticeship, family consumer science, culinary arts and Business Computer & Information Systems. Admission to these programs is based on student interest, age and grade requirements specified by the Texas Education Agency. It is the policy of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services, activities and employment as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission to and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Nadine Fidler at 281-897-6416.

ACBM REMOVAL AND COMPLIANCE

In accordance with Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR 765 regulations, all parents and district employees are hereby informed that a third-year re-inspection of asbestos containing building material (ACBM) in Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District facilities was recently completed.

This inspection confirmed that the district's buildings are in compliance, and that the district continues to provide a safe environment for its staff and students. The individual building re-inspection reports are on file in the Management Plan books located in facility administration areas.

Additionally, during the past 12 months, ACBM was removed from: Arnold Middle School, Bleyl Middle School, Campbell Middle School, (old) Carlton Center, Cypress Creek High School, Cy-Fair High School, Dean Middle School, Francone Elementary School, Hancock Elementary School, Lieder Elementary School, Matzke Elementary School and Yeager Elementary School. For more information, contact Martin Anding, senior director of special services, at 281-897-4065.

INSIDE Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is published five times per year to inform citizens about district programs, accomplishments and policies. Please direct inquiries or comments to the CFISD Communication Department, 10300 Jones Road, Houston, Texas, 77065, or call 281-807-8939.

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Dr. David Anthony

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