

Cy Lakes draws in community to ‘Catch the Dream’

Program opens doors for students to opportunities available after graduation

CFISD began phase two of the *Preparing to Dream* initiative by hosting their second community-wide event on Feb. 21 for parents and students affiliated with Cypress Lakes High School, and Thornton and Watkins middle schools.

As a continuation of *Preparing to Dream*, a program uniting school districts with Texas higher education and national experts, CFISD hosted *Catch the Dream* from noon to 5 p.m. at the Cypress Lakes campus. The purpose of the event was to provide insight on the various opportunities available upon graduation to the approximate 500 district students and parents who attended the event.

“We want our students and their parents to share our vision of talented students graduating from Cypress Lakes High School with the skills necessary to pursue their dreams. Those dreams may include attending universities, community colleges, or trade schools, or pursuing entrepreneurial goals,” said Dr. David Anthony, superintendent of schools.

School districts were initially selected to pilot the *Preparing to Dream* program based on their commitment and desire to expand the number of students who attend college after graduating from high school within their respective districts.

“We look at this grant project with a broad view—we see this initiative as something that will



Watkins Middle School student Eduardo Hawkins and his parents receive an information packet from district volunteer Kelly Keith during the *Catch the Dream* event held to provide students and parents with insight to the various college and career opportunities available after high school.

eventually impact the whole district,” said Dr. Marie Keith, director of college and career readiness.

The four-year initiative, which began in December 2007, was established to first analyze student-level data regarding achievement and those who attend college; then use the information to make system-wide changes that improve college access and success for all students.

To initiate the program within the district, a committee of district officials, principals, teachers, parents and students was formed to analyze data pertaining to student achievement, trends in the number of students attending college, district demographics and current college access programs.

“This is an exciting opportunity to work with others in our district to enhance programs and services that help all students access post-secondary opportunities,” Keith said.

Assisted by nationally recognized data coaches and core team coaches of Texas educational leaders, the committee gathered data that was used to: (1) identify problems; (2) establish priorities; and (3) develop implementation plans for three-year initiatives aimed at improving college success for students.

The Feb. 21 event offered 50 sessions providing information on various

opportunities such as: financial aid, the college application process, choosing a college, banking, taking the PSAT/SAT/ACT, military options, paying for college, the workforce and much more.

“The *Catch the Dream* event was a wonderful event for parents and students to learn more about post high school opportunities,” said Cy Lakes

principal Sarah Harty. “Cypress Lakes is very grateful for the tremendous resources provided.”

In addition to the sessions, a mini-Health Fair and information tables were available during and after lunch.

Purchased through the grant, items such as graphing calculators, flash drives, backpacks, one iPod Touch and one laptop case were given away as attendance incentives. Hewlett Packard donated a laptop that was also given away as an incentive. This event was held in partnership with the TG (Texas Guaranteed) Grant, National College Access Network and Houston A+ Challenge, with funding from the Houston Endowment.

“We look at this grant project with a broad view—we see this initiative as something that will eventually impact the whole district.”

Dr. Marie Keith,
Director of College and
Career Readiness



Cy Lakes student Joselina Garcia checks her blood pressure during the *Catch the Dream* event held at her school. A mini-Health Fair was available to students and parents to provide useful information regarding the medical field that will help students as they prepare to choose a career after high school.

Graduation Dates and Times



Go to www.cfisd.net to find out the latest information on CFISD's graduation dates and times.

Graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2009 will be held at the Berry Center.

INSIDE Cypress-Fairbanks ISD is published six 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.

Superintendent
Dr. David Anthony

Board of Trustees
Lou Bertoli, *President*
John D. Ogletree Jr., *Vice President*
Bob Covey, *Secretary*
Don Ryan
Ethel Wolfe
Lida Woodul
Larry Youngblood

Communication Staff
Kelli Durham
Asst. Supt. for Communication
Stephanie Migl
Director for Communication
Joel Weckerly
Communications Specialist
Rosario Meehan
Translator
Gary Durrenberger
Photographer

Copyright 2009. Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.
All Rights Reserved.