

a message from the
SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Parents and Patrons:

Throughout my five years in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, I have often referred to us as "the smallest big district in Texas." I am continually impressed with the familial bond we share in CFISD, despite being the third-largest school district in the state.

Without that sense of unity, it would be hard to fathom a school year like 2008-2009 going as smoothly as it did. The past year a number of obstacles were thrown in our path—Hurricane Ike, flooding and the H1N1 Virus, to name a few—but we emerged from all of the challenges as a stronger and more viable educational organization. I credit resilient attitudes and unparalleled teamwork for our ability to withstand such challenges.

I am looking forward to 2009-2010 and am confident that we will be able to address issues that await us when our doors open on August 24. Our enrollment has continued to grow by thousands of students each year, and though the economic downturn has tapered this growth somewhat, we surpassed the 100,000-student mark last year and are expecting almost 104,000 in 2009-2010. The passage of the 2007 Bond Referendum has allowed us to open new campuses, when needed, to accommodate student growth. Swenke Elementary School, Smith Middle School and the second alternative learning center will bring our campus total to 81 this school year.

“Despite CFISD’s increased number of students and budget challenges, we continue to operate effectively, as demonstrated by the academic performance of our students.”

Despite CFISD’s increased number of students and budget challenges, we continue to operate effectively, as demonstrated by the academic performance of our students. During the 81st Legislative Session, we communicated the need for a state funding system that was fair for large, fast-growth school districts like ours. Unfortunately, the new formula, which did not meet our expectations and address the needs of our growing student population, resulted in a \$14.2 million-deficit in the operating budget. The school finance bill, HB 3646, does provide a small salary increase for teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses and

speech pathologists, but the budget does not support any increase in benefits for all of the district’s employees.

The current economic environment and the state’s school finance bill did not provide an easy answer to the budget needs for CFISD, so it is necessary to reduce the budget by \$14.2 million in order for it to be balanced. More explanation of the services that have been eliminated or reduced is in this issue of the district newspaper. The reduction in services will likely continue over the next several years until the legislature changes the funding formulas. Hopefully, that will be addressed during the 2011 legislative session.

Our mission remains unchanged, as we focus on developing every student into an effective communicator, competent problem-solver, self-directed learner, responsible citizen and quality producer prepared to take the next step after graduation. As more families move into the school district, our teachers and staff members should be commended for the increased performance of all of our students. State assessment data indicate that our students earning Commended Status, high performance on the high stakes test, increased and the achievement gap between the student populations determined by the Texas Education Agency has decreased. Our student performance has continued to increase in each of the past several years, and the increase in 2008-2009 was significant.

I urge each of our students to excel in the classroom as well as in co- and extra-curricular activities. CFISD has boasted excellence in education for decades and it is up to each student to seize those opportunities this school year. Success is a personal choice!

Lastly, I appreciate each one of you for being a part of this large yet close-knit family, working together to prepare your children and all of the CFISD students for the future and maintaining the tradition of success in Cy-Fair ISD.

Sincerely,

David Anthony, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

New Schools 2009-2010

Three new schools will open for the 2009-2010 school year. To find out more details about each of the schools, go to www.cfisd.net.



Smith Middle School



Swenke Elementary School



Alternative Learning Center - West

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.

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