



The Warrior Quill

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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THE MISSION of Hodges Bend Middle School, as a collaborative team of students, faculty, staff, parents and community, is to provide a safe and supporting learning environment that empowers all students to achieve their potential to be life-long learners in a global society.

Our vision

It is our belief...

- * That all students can learn.
- * All students learn in different ways.
- * All students will have an opportunity to develop a positive self image, self respect and self control to become productive citizens in a global society.

What you can find inside.....

- Grade Level News
- Career Day
- National Young Reader's Day
- Open House
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- Counseling Information
- Important Dates

Principal's Pow Wow

Dear Hodges Bend Parents,

As we come to the close of the first nine weeks of the 2009-2010 school year there are many accolades to be celebrated. The faculty, staff and students continue to move forward to exemplary status in our state accountability, grades, behavior and teacher preparation.

We have targeted our areas of need and will continue to make progress and move forward with a focus on Math and Science scores. Our staff and students know the high expectations of our campus and continue to meet the demand daily. We are committed to becoming a "Community of Promise".

I encourage you to get involved with your child's education and become a partner with their teachers. Get involved with your child's studies at school and at home. Encourage them to stay focused and to attend school every day. Student attendance is a must because when they are not in school students lose valuable instruction and information

If you see that your child is struggling contact the teachers, counseling department, or administrators so that interventions can be put in place to help your child stay focused and prepared. We will make every effort to give them the support needed for their continued success.



Photo by Oebra Ekins

Get your student involved with after school tutorials, clubs and sport activities. Research indicates that when children get involved with after school activities they become high achievers in life.

Visit our campus and join PTA to become the partner needed to move our campus to an Exemplary status. Get involved as a volunteer and

attend the various learning opportunities being provided to our parents through our Parent Center.

I wish each and everyone a great successful school year and look for exciting things to occur at the Bend!

We are the Warriors!

Lillie Vega
Principal-Hodges Bend Middle School

The Warrior Quill's Inaugural Issue

The administrators, faculty and staff are proud to present to you, our stakeholders, the inaugural issue of the Warrior Quill. A quill is an old fashioned pen that is made from the shaft of a feather. We choose this as part of our publication's name because it is a combination of old fashioned ideals and modern day instruction and technology that will result in

the success of obtaining an exemplary campus. We must provide our students the foundation needed to build on their futures and we know that you, our community, will help empower us to get there. It is through this publication that we hope to communicate with you the exemplary things that are occurring here at the Bend....The Warriors

are doing great things and we look forward to sharing it with all stakeholders. Welcome to The Warrior Quill.

"We are off to a great start and the counseling office is always here to support you."

The Seventh Grade Counselor is Ruth McMahan. She can also help you with GT and 504 information. She can be reached at 281-634-3008.

Eighth grader Charleen Baarlan and her family, the winners of the bicycle raffle. Congratulations to them.



Photo by Debra Elkins

Counselor's Corner

While the first nine weeks are behind us, your students are well under way with getting accustomed to their teachers, schedules, and just getting back to a routine in school.

As parents, please help and encourage your child to use his/her planner wisely. Each core subject should have daily assignments written down. This will be a good way to check your students' daily progress. Should you have questions or concerns about a particular class, a direct e-mail to that teacher could be a solution. Log onto the FBISD web site, then schools, HBMS, and staff. Your student's teachers all

have e-mail access. This tends to be an easier method to contact the teacher.

As counselors, we would encourage you to talk to your students. Check to see how their day was; check their planner, and keep communication open between you and your child. They will seek others out to talk about personal issues, mostly their friends.

Remember there is a change this year. In December prior to the winter break, your student will take semester exams in all subjects. Prior to the exams review packets will be distributed for students to study.

Please encourage your student to complete and study the reviews before taking exams. These exams are 1/7 of the semester average. Most classes are year long classes with a final average in the Spring to determine pass or fail.

We are off to a great start and the counseling office is always here to support you and our students. We can be contacted at 281.634.3000.

Seventh Grade News

Ms. Cortez, Assistant Principal, will be meeting with all Seventh grade advisory classes to discuss relevant topics including academic expectations, tutorials, dress code, tardies, bus and cafeteria conduct and expectations for behavior. It is important that all students know and follow the rules, so that there are limited interruptions in the school day.

Students, remember our campus goal is to be an Exemplary campus. With the help of all stakeholders: students, teachers, parents, staff, and administrators, we will reach our goal.

Reminder about Attendance:

When a student must be absent from school for any reason, the student must bring a note no later than the second school day upon returning from the

absence. Handwritten notes must be signed and dated by the parent. All notes must describe the reason for the absence and include parent's contact numbers. The aforementioned parent notes may be sent via e-mail, but must come from a verified parent's e-mail account and be sent to the child's teachers), as well as the school's daily attendance clerk. If the student fails to bring a note or the parent does not send an e-mail note as noted above within the two (2) school-day period, each day of absence will be coded as an unexcused absence and will negatively impact the student's official attendance record. It is important for parents to know that once coded as an unexcused absence, the coding will not be changed, unless the absence was found to be marked in error at the campus level. Unexcused absences may result in a

truancy warning letter or citation.

We have a great group of children and we are looking forward to a great year for our Seventh graders at The Bend.

Sincerely,

Rachel Cortez
Assistant Principal
Seventh Grade



Photo by Debra Elkins

ELA/Social Studies Night, A Warrior Event!

Thank you to all of our parents who attended ELA/Social Studies Night. The administration, faculty and staff were so pleased to see so many parents and their students in attendance.

The sessions presented were meant to give students and parents a chance to experience together what students are doing in the classroom. Whether it is Video Conferencing or Quizdom, the use of technology in

the classroom is vitally important to reaching our generation of students.

Events like these will be held throughout the year, included one for Math and Science in the Spring semester. We look forward to seeing you out at events in the future.

The Bend would also like to thank PALS for providing the babysitting services to our parents as well as the National Junior Honor Society for assisting our parents in getting to

the right classrooms.

Congratulations to all of our raffle winners. Due to kind contributions from our community we were able to raffle great prizes. A special congratulations goes to Charleen Baarlan who was the winner of the top prize, a bicycle.

See you at the next Warrior Event, at the Bend.

Sixth Grade News



Photo by Debra Eliaz

It has been a very good start of the year for our new Sixth grade students at the Bend. They are adjusting to many experiences here including making new friends, carrying books to classes, opening lockers and traveling from classroom to classroom on their own. The students are finally feeling at ease and the adjustment period has been

reached.

Ask your child how things are going each day and ask questions. We know that as parents you can not be with them always, but there are many opportunities for you to be part of their education.

When you have a chance, come and eat lunch with them, attend school functions with them and join PTA. Ask them about the clubs that they can be a part of and encourage them to join one or even two.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact their teachers. Usually an e-mail is the best way. If you need to contact anyone by phone, our number

is 281-634-3000.

As we approach the holidays, we invite you to attend the activities coming up like our band and orchestra concerts, and attend with your children. They do not have to be a member of these groups to come and enjoy. I hope that the upcoming holidays are special for your family and I hope to see you or meet you soon.

Sincerely,

Rick Gonzalez
Associate Principal

The Sixth grade counselor is Mary Jane DelaRosa Burke. She can be reached at 281-634-3006.

"All the teams worked diligently and should be proud of their accomplishments", said Coach Elitzky.

Career Day is Coming to the Bend

How can students learn about what career/college and other vocational opportunities are available to them? At the first Annual Career Day at the Bend. This Eighth grade event will be held on Thursday, January 28th and more details will be coming soon. Eighth grade students will have the opportunity to speak with professionals from all career areas and ask questions about those areas that interest them the most.

Your PTA, Administration, and faculty are already working diligently on this great day.

Fall Open House

Thank you to all our parents who were in attendance at the Fall Open House. With over 500 parents in attendance, the positive comments that were shared with our staff were tremendous. Comments such as the improvements in instruction, improved TAKS scores, 58% decrease in discipline and the decrease in failure rate were just some of the major events highlighted during Open House. "Seeing the increase in parent attendance this year was extraordinary," said Ms. Vega, Principal. We hope to exceed this number at our Spring Open House. We know that with your support our campus will become an Exemplary Campus.

Congratulations Warrior Football!

The coaching staff at the Bend would like to congratulate all football team members for a great season. There were so many great moments and the effort put out each day at practice and at all games was tremendous. We appreciate your hard work and congratulations on a great season. The team records were:

Seventh A 3-4	Seventh B 2-4
Eighth A 5-1	Eighth B 1-5

You have done an outstanding job. We wish all of our outgoing eighth graders good luck in High School Football and welcome our incoming eighth graders next year.

National Young Readers Day—November 12

Hundreds of schools across the country celebrated reading by participating in National Young Readers Week on November 12, 2009. Set aside as a special day to recognize the joys and benefits of reading, schools recruited local "celebrities" to read aloud a favorite children's book to their classrooms.

Local reading role model "celebrities" included local officials, sports figures, public safety officers, parents and other guests from the public and private sector. Our community had an opportunity to share their love of reading with our community. If you are interested in volunteering next year please contact Delia Johnson at Delia.Johnson@fortbendisd.com or Bridgette Evans at Bridgette.Evans@fortbendisd.com.



Photo by Debra Eliaz

Easy as A-B-C, Spelling Bee!

HBMS is proud to announce that the Spelling Bee began its first round of competition beginning with classroom Spelling Bees the week of October 22, 2009. "We look forward to beginning this year's Spelling Bee and finding those outstanding spellers at HBMS", said Erica Kouros, coordinator of the Spelling Bee.

The second round, will be another written spelling test, which will be held after school on November 19th with transportation provided. From there, 25 students will be chosen to compete

for the top prize December 9, 2009, during Advisory and Eighth period.

Letters will be going out to those students who are advancing to the second round the week of November 16, 2009. Good luck to all our wonderful spellers.



Photo by Debra Ekus

Holiday Giving-HBMS Yearbooks On Sale

Thinking of a special holiday gift? Yearbooks for the 2009-2010 year are on sale. You may reserve your copy now.

The "Early Bird" cost is \$40 and you may pay at the front desk with cash, money order, or online at myYear.com.

Important Dates Coming Up

11/18/2009	District Assessment—Science
11/19/2009	Second Round—Spelling Bee
11/25-11/27	Thanksgiving Holiday
12/09/2009	Final Spelling Bee
12/10/2009	District Assessment Reading Pre AP Only
12/17-12/18	Early Dismissal at 12:45
1/05/2010	Second Semester Begins
1/28/2009	Eighth Grade Career Day

What's Happening Around the Bend!

11/10/2009	District Assessment Social Studies
11/10/2009	Mix It up Lunch
11/12/2009	National Young Readers' day



Eighth Grade News

Our Eighth grade warriors are off to a great start in their last year at Hodges Bend Middle School. This is a year with many activities and planning for their futures in high school. There are many activities planned for our Eighth graders, including Career Day, High School Academy Visits and Course Selection. While there are a lot of exciting things coming on the horizon, we need to remind our 8th graders of a few things as well.

As the role models in our school we want our Eighth graders to constantly be aware of the Student Code of Conduct that we uphold here at the Bend. Mr. Burton, Assistant Principal, recently completed his AP talks with all 8th grade students and spent some time reminding the 8th graders of this Code of Conduct.

Also discussed was the need for students to get to class on time. Remember that we have a tardy policy in place. Students have plenty of time to get to their classes, therefore please encourage your child to use their passing period wisely and to get to class on time. Among the many things discussed was the importance of the TAKS tests that will be administered this year. As we work towards our goal of an exemplary campus, our Eighth grade students need to be aware that in order to move on to the Ninth grade, they need to successfully pass all four content TAKS assessments, Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. Our instructional staff is working hard to ensure they have the tools

and instruction in class, however students need to be in class and engaged in their learning. Remind them that tutorials are available to them. Talk with your students about what they are learning each day, if they can explain it to you, they are more apt to retain it.

Remember that your child's teachers are always available as well as the administrative staff. We look forward in preparing your students for high school. We have a successful year ahead of us and we look forward to working together to achieve our goals of reaching an exemplary campus.

Sincerely,

Sam Burton
Assistant Principal



Photo by Debra Ekus

*The 8th Grade
Counselor is
Christina Carson.
She can also help
you with ESL
information. She
can be reached at
281-634-3007.*