

August 11, 2018

Dear Sugar Land Middle School Parents and Guardians,

I am writing today to make you aware of our continuing efforts to improve instruction for all students. As we begin the school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is releasing accountability results regarding student performance in the 2017-18 school year, and for many public school districts in Texas, this will mean A-F letter grades. However, because Fort Bend ISD is one of more than 100 school districts severely affected by Hurricane Harvey, our district may not receive an official letter grade. Additionally, campuses will not be rated *Improvement Required*, even if they did not meet standards. The destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey affected countless families in Fort Bend ISD – including those of our students and staff who experienced extreme hardship. In many ways, these impacts are immeasurable and we continue to recover. Together as an FBISD community, we worked to support one another and keep the focus on learning. In many cases, this was difficult, especially for our students who are already facing numerous challenges inside and outside of the classroom.

As FBISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Dupre recently communicated in his video message, Fort Bend ISD is committed to continuous improvement. With this in mind, we use the results of standardized tests as a single data source that allows us, as campus and district administrators, to review patterns and trends and develop plans to improve instruction, and when necessary, disrupt patterns with targeted interventions. Each year, regardless of whether a campus receives a *met standard* or *improvement required* rating, we know there is always an opportunity to improve and help our students achieve success. Every campus in Fort Bend ISD, including Sugar Land MS, develops a campus improvement plan each year so that we can provide the very best opportunities for our students, and allow each child to reach their full potential.

With that in mind, I would like to share more about our continuous improvement efforts at SLMS, as well as the achievements that are not included in state accountability ratings.

- Band, Choir, Orchestra, and Theatre continue to receive the highest ratings at UIL and other contests
- Art students excel at Jr. VASE and receive top honors
- Girls' 7B Volleyball Team - End of Season Tournament Champions
- Girls' 7A Basketball Team - Co-Division Champions
- Boys' Soccer Team - Division Champions
- As servant leaders and compassionate citizens, sixth grade students came together to raise funds for the Houston SPCA
- In an effort to engage students with the FBISD *Profile of a Graduate* as collaborative team members, we will conduct student-led campus beautification projects during the year
- All sixth grade students are enrolled in our new Discovery elective, which will aid in their transition to middle school
- Our theme this year is **#ReadySetGrow**, where our efforts are focused upon students' academic and social-emotional growth, as well as building adult capacity to meet students' needs

In accordance with the FBISD Profile of a Graduate, we are working to develop students who have a strong academic foundation, and who are well-rounded and equipped with skills for life. In the future, you can expect to hear more about Fort Bend ISD's development of a community-based accountability system that will measure our success with the community's goals and expectations in mind, and go beyond high-stakes testing. As Dr. Dupre has shared, our district is working collaboratively with more than 60 other public school districts in the state to develop this system, which will give a full account of what schools do to educate all students.

In closing, I want to thank you for entrusting us with your child's education, and your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Keith Fickel,
SLMS Principal