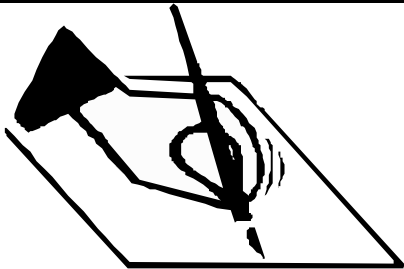


INSIGHTS



September, 2010



Message from AISD Superintendent Telena Wright

AISD is off to a great start for the 2010-2011 school year! In July 2010 state accountability ratings were released for the district and four campuses. The district and all four campuses received exemplary ratings by meeting the absolute standard. No projection measures or exceptions were used. Only 72 districts in the state received the exemplary rating by meeting absolute standards. This accomplishment challenges the students and staff to do as well this year.

There are several new programs in place that are all running very well. In the five year strategic plan presented to the Board in Fall 2009 there was a strategy for improving SAT and ACT scores by offering a prep class at the high school. The SAT class has started with 22 students in the day class and 17 in the night class. The class will be offered again in the

spring semester. Prep materials are from Revolution Prep.

Spanish classes have been implemented at Hilltop for the first time. One day a week each student in Grades K-4 has a 45 minute lesson from a cadre of Spanish teachers. At AIS students will receive Spanish instruction using Rosetta Stone in the computer lab. The benefits of early foreign language learning are supported by extensive research: better brain development, higher test scores, and cultural understanding. National security and economic prosperity have also been considered benefits. Young learners have an edge when it comes to pronunciation. Children who learn a language before adolescence have the ability to develop native-like pronunciation. A second pre-kindergarten class was started at HT this year.

Much maintenance work was done in AISD during summer 2010. Painting was done at Hilltop and repairs were made to the front sidewalk and entry. Since HT opened in 2005 there have been issues with the flooring product on the lower corridors. In late summer all the flooring was removed by CORE construction. The replacement floor has been

ordered from Germany. The product is the same Nora flooring that is in the rest of the building; installation is planned to take place during the December-January break.

AIS has new fencing around the drive and the football field. MS/HS is on a carpet replacement cycle. This summer six rooms of carpet were replaced. Painting in rooms, gyms, and hallways was completed. Some renovation in coaching offices off of the gym was completed. The special education area was enhanced with a restroom and shower. A new sound system was installed in the competition gym. For maintenance and athletics a storage building is currently under construction.

All five gyms and the intermediate school were retrofitted with light fixtures. CoServ gave a rebate to the district for the gyms that are served by CoServ.

Other projects that are in progress are covered walkways for AIS and MS/HS and a bridge for passage to tennis courts and parking lot at the north end of the campus. Covered walkways will provide a pathway for students during rainy or inclement weather.

Dr. Wright Continued...

One particularly strong benefit for students this year was splitting bus routes into two separate routes. Elementary and intermediate students are now transported separately from the MS/HS students.

Challenge Day will be provided for new seventh graders and students new to the district this year. The time will be early December. Challenge Day is a program designed to break down barriers among students. Last year all MS and HS students along with many faculty members and community members participated.

AHS was second place in 3A for the Lone Star Cup. This year athletics, marching band, and UIL all count.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions.



Chris Daniel
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum and
Instruction

Each school year, all campuses and districts in the state are rated by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) as Exemplary,

Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically Unacceptable. For this school year, Argyle ISD is rated **Exemplary**, Argyle High School is **Exemplary**, Argyle Middle School is **Exemplary**, Argyle Intermediate School is **Exemplary**, and Hilltop Elementary is **Exemplary**. These ratings were acquired by meeting the absolute standard which is set by TEA. These are great accomplishments and we are proud of the effort of the students, parents, teachers, and administrators in ensuring success in our district.

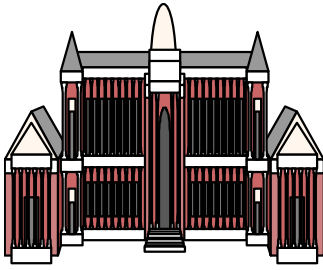
Not only are we rated by the state, we also receive an accountability rating from the federal government. Under the accountability provision of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), all public school campuses, school districts, and the state are evaluated for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). It sounds simple, you are either getting better each school year or you are not. Specifically, districts, campuses, and the state are required to meet AYP criteria on three measures: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and either Graduation Rate (for high schools and districts) or Attendance Rate (for elementary and middle/junior high schools). **In Argyle, we met AYP during the 09-10 school year.**

Beginning next school year, TEA will begin phasing in the new state exams that will replace TAKS. The **State of Texas Assessments of**

Academic Readiness (STAAR) will replace the current TAKS testing system. Beginning with the class of 2015, students must meet the new end-of-course testing requirements and pass all classes to earn a diploma. Students in grades 3-8 will continue to be assessed, but the assessment will be more rigorous and will no longer be called TAKS. You will be hearing more about the new STAAR system this school year.

Finally, last school year we were able to designate some of our teachers as **curriculum coordinators**. The coordinators were Jennifer Fischer and Jamie Tomlinson (English/Language Arts/Reading), Gayla Burnett and Linda Creamer (Mathematics), Sharon Romero and Susan Greer (Social Studies), and Kimberley Kass and Misty Whitworth (Science). These teachers were responsible for keeping their respective vertical teams up-to-date with all that is going on in their content area. They also led vertical team meetings, attended local and state content specific conferences, and provided professional development. These leaders did an excellent job and we look forward to their leadership this school year.





Argyle High School
Principal
Mr. Jeff Butts

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the first six weeks of the 2010-2011 school year. "My how time flies when we are having fun". We are looking forward to a great and exciting school year. Our students are doing well. A large part of this great start is due to the great leadership our seniors are exemplifying. They are stepping up and continuing the great tradition that was left to them by previous graduates.

There are several events that are going on at AHS. We are into our 5th week of our SAT Prep class. We have about 21 students who are enrolled in the class during the school day and around 17 students who are enrolled for the Thursday night class. We are looking forward to improved SAT scores in the spring. We have just completed our second annual college day fair. There were around 75 colleges from all over our nation who were represented. We had a well attended homecoming parade and bonfire. I would like to thank all of our community who participated in this great event. We had our first Drug and Alcohol Summit sponsored by

the PTSA. We had a speaker from Keller ISD speak to us about the dangers of abusing drugs and alcohol. She also spoke to us about the signs of someone who abuses drugs and what the slang words that are being used. I would like to thank the Argyle Secondary PTSA for putting on this event. It was well attended with over 90 parents and community members attending this great event.

We will be having our Challenge Day event December 8th. This is in conjunction with Argyle Middle School's Challenge Day that will be held on December 6th and 7th. We will be sending out information very soon asking community members to participate.

I would like to thank our staff, students, parents, and community for making AISD a great place to work. It is my privilege to come to work each day and participate in the great experience of educating students. As a community, we have an enormous amount of pride in our young people. We have four campuses at AISD full of great kids and staff. I do not take for granted the opportunity to witness the great accomplishments that our students bring to the table each day.

As I have said before, I continue to believe that we have the best students in the State of Texas. Each one of them has a gift that they bring to our high school that makes our school the best in the State. Please

keep in mind that each of our students plays a huge roll in how successful our school will be in 2010-2011. They are all highly valued and are very important to our school. At Argyle High School, we believe that all students deserve to be respected and valued. Please let us know if there is anything that you feel we can do for your child.



From the desk of...
Scott Gibson,
Middle School Principal

It is hard to believe we are several weeks into the 2010-2011 school year. Argyle Middle School continues its work at challenging students in a safe atmosphere. Three new faculty members join the AMS staff. Kimberly McCage will teach 7th and 8th grade English and coach girls athletics. Abby Leija has 7th math and pre algebra as her assignment while Trevor Baker will have 7th science and pre AP science.

Our counselor, Ms. Shobe, has continued Character education lessons into our Activity period one day a week. A new character trait will be emphasized each six weeks. This six weeks students have been learning about Respect with Responsibility being the target beginning in October.

Mr. Gibson Continued...

Challenge Day will return to AMS on December 6th and 7th. We look forward to our 7th grade students and any new students having the opportunity to participate in this great program. Challenge Day is a one day program designed to break down barriers and stereotypes so that students can appreciate each other as individuals.

Career Day has been set for Friday, November 19th. Last year was a huge success with close to 40 parents and volunteers sharing their work experience with the students of AMS. If you would like to volunteer your time or know someone with an interesting job that would be willing to share that knowledge, have them contact Ms. Shobe at tshobe@argyleisd.com.

Middle School UIL academic team competition dates have been set for the beginning of January. Therefore, practice for these competitions will be starting soon. I have placed a point of emphasis on the UIL academic meet for us to improve upon our very close second place finish last year. We are hopeful success will follow AMS into our new district that now includes Aubrey and Pilot Point. Competitions range from art to calculator applications, and are an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate academic achievement outside the classroom.

Argyle Middle School inducted seventy-five new members into the National Junior Honor Society. This brings total membership in NJHS to 125 students. Seeing a large number of inductees shows the desire in our students for excellence in both scholarship and citizenship.

As you can see, there are many things happening at Argyle Middle School. It is a privilege for the faculty of AMS to serve the community of Argyle.



Argyle Intermediate School Principal, Conrad Streeter

Fall is quickly approaching and we are close to finishing the first six weeks of the new school year. The year has started off really well and I am very proud of our students and teachers. Our 5th grade students have made the transition from elementary school very smoothly and they appear to be enjoying their new school. The 6th grade students have settled in and are doing a great job of leading by example. So far, we are off to our best start in three years.

Last year the Intermediate School was rated as an

Exemplary Campus by the Texas Education Agency, and I am confident our students and teachers will reach that benchmark again this year. We added four new staff members to AIS this year and they are fitting in very nicely with our faculty. With our new additions we are now able to offer music and art as semester long classes for our 5th graders. Thus far, the kids seem to really love both of these classes. The district also added a new dyslexia teacher that serves our students as well as middle and high school students. This addition will give students with dyslexia more instruction time and the opportunity to continue the program into MS and HS if necessary.

I want to thank our new PTA president, Kim Couch, for developing and organizing a great team to help continue the tradition of amazing parental involvement on this campus. The school is very fortunate to have a strong and dedicated PTA. As the year progresses I hope that all students and parents support the PTA through memberships, fundraisers, or donating time to help us here at school or with PTA functions.

As the school year moves into the first semester, students will continue to be pushed academically as teachers raise the bar. The campus will continue to promote citizenship and respect throughout the year. The fall will be filled with many exciting events to include: Red Ribbon Week, Run Club, UIL,

Mr. Streeter Continued...

and the Book Fair. Please encourage your child to get involved with school-wide activities. The more students are connected with the school the more likely they are to perform well academically and to also feel happy about coming to school.

Finally, I want to thank all of the parents that support our school. We could not create a great place for kids if we did not have your help and dedication. Please feel free to visit our campus anytime and see the great things your kids are doing!



***From: Lisa Lyles,
Elementary Principal***

What a great start to another great year! Thank you, students, parents, and staff for following our new arrival and dismissal procedures. Most mornings, all students are seated and working on morning work at 8:00AM. This allows for a great start to the day.

We had a wonderful turn out for our "Meet the Teacher Night"

as well as our "Curriculum Nights". We appreciate your attendance and hope both occasions were beneficial. September has been a busy month. We have reviewed rules and procedures with every grade level, enjoyed our Grandparent Week, taken individual student pictures, donated food for Argyle Cares, weeded the garden, admired the special art exhibit brought to us by our PTA and Mrs. Ruestmann, and more!

Our PTA, lead by Hesper Matzo, has been so supportive throughout the beginning of our school year. If you have not yet joined PTA, please do so. Supporting PTA with membership dues, directly supports our students.

On October 6th, we will host "Parent Conference Day". This will be a student holiday. Please sign up for a time to visit with your child's teacher. Teachers will share with you your child's progress and strengths and weaknesses that they have observed these first few weeks.

We started a new Bullying Campaign/Program at Hilltop this school year called Soaring Eagles. One facet of the program opens children's eyes to situations they may face. Each Wednesday, during school announcements students listen to a two minute clip describing an incident in which a child will choose to act as a bully or a hero. In classrooms, students discuss the choices and what they would do. They also

describe what bullying looks like and how it feels to be bullied. We are continuing with our Random Acts of Kindness Chain that is displayed in the cafeteria. We hope it reaches all the way around the cafeteria by the end of the school year! We also have "The NED Show" coming to our school Thursday, September 30th.

Thank you also for your patience and support on September 10th when our electricity went out. Our crisis team met and improved our emergency system to allow you to pick up your child quicker, yet assure us that we know exactly where each student is. Our first priority is always student safety. We know our new plan will continue to assure security, and also allow parents to reach their child sooner.

Thank you for allowing our staff to teach your children. I feel Hilltop is an Exemplary campus because of our students, staff and parents. It takes all of us to have a successful academic community! Please know, Mrs. Pels as well as myself are always here to listen and help with any situation you feel needs our input.

Thank you so much for a great start to another great year!





Argyle Band News

***Kathy K. Johnson
Director of Bands
Argyle High School***

This fall has been fast and furious! The high school band has been rehearsing since the summer and is performing their UIL Contest Show at the football games. The middle school is working towards their football game performance and fall concert and the beginners are learning to play their first notes! All is well in the land of music!

Good luck goes out to Michael Lemish and the Argyle High School Drumline for a successful Plano Drum Line Competition! Argyle will compete against other high schools in our category on Saturday, September 25th! Go all the way AHS Drumline!!!

The Argyle High School Wind Ensemble has been selected as a Commended National Winner in the National Wind Band Honors Project. Rich Yancey, the Managing Director of the project wrote "The Argyle Band continues to prove that they are the finest in the State and in the Nation"!

The High School Marching Band begins its competitive season on Saturday, October 2, with a performance at the GT Classic Marching Festival. The next competition, Classic Marching Festival on the Lake, is the following Saturday, October 9, at the Little Elm Stadium. The Little Elm Festival will be a meeting of the top four 3A bands in the state. We will round it off with our UIL Region Marching Contest on Saturday, October 16, at Collins Stadium in Denton. You can see the band's contest show, "Inside Out", during half-time performances at the Varsity Football Games.

High School students will audition for the Region Jazz Band on Saturday, September 18 in Decatur. Argyle had 7 students audition and placed 6 students in the Region Jazz Band and had one alternate. Students who auditioned were AJ Ramirez, Sam Ramirez, Key Bennett, Kyle Harrison, Trey Spratlen, Troy Hirschhorn, and Colton Kayfus. Of those who made the jazz band, AJ Ramirez, Sam Ramirez, Key Bennett, Kyle Harrison, and Trey Spratlen moved on to the Area level. Congratulations to Mr. Hilley and the Jazz Band students for such a great accomplishment.

Region Band is on Saturday, December 4, in Bridgeport. Area auditions will follow on January 8, 2011 here at Argyle. The high school Winter Concert will be on Sunday, December 12.

The Middle School 7th and 8th grade bands will be performing at the middle school football game on Thursday, October 21 and with the high school band for middle school night at the varsity football game on October 22. The middle school Fall Concert is on Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Argyle High School PAC.

Middle school band students will be auditioning for Region Band on Tuesday, November 16 in Sanger.

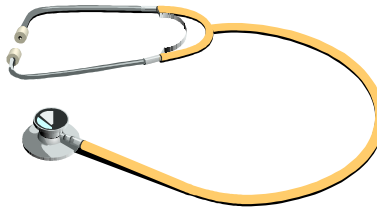
All middle and intermediate school bands will be performing a Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 14, at 7:00 pm.

OUR THANKS:

Thank you to our Band Boosters and Serene Griffin for their efforts in raising funds for the band. Hearty thanks go out to Ann Athey, Dorthy Torno, Lori Schinske, Laura Bruton, Donna Loper, Angela Hirschhorn, Alanna Sommer, Tammy Klir, Melissa Ramirez, Jill Burns, Tina Strelke, Denise Jenkins, Ellen Pourzan, Lynda Taylor, Dana Ratcliff, Barbara Hayden, Kathy White, Denise Bennett, Kathy Kline, Celia Hawk, Julia Albenezi, Sue Santone, Danita Lanning, Laura Roberts, Sheri Allen, Mary Harrison, Donna Wright, Jennifer Sanders, and Traci Stiles for taking on the daunting task of marching uniform fittings and alterations. Another big thanks goes out to Yolanda Taylor, Celia Hawk, and Denise Jenkins for all the work they have done with organizing

Ms. Johnson Continued...

our concert uniforms. Thank you to our 'snack queens', Suzanne Filhart, Dianne Davis, and Elaine White, for taking care of the 'sweet and salty' cravings of the band students and directors. Many thanks to Steven Moore, Bobby Hawk, and Kevin Spratlen for driving our trailers and for all of the 'grunt work' that you do for the band. Susan Spratlen, thank you for organizing the bleacher parent volunteers. Thanks to Ellen Pourzan, Pamela Peak, and Traci Stiles for organizing meals before away games. Special thanks to Amy Radford for the stellar job she is doing with publicity and to Melissa Ramirez for her work on the Argyle Band website and with the middle school bands. Thank you Deena Kayfus and Jennifer Sanders for the great job you are doing organizing the concession stand volunteers and to all those dedicated parents who have volunteered their time to work concessions! Thank you to the community of Argyle for your undying support. Finally, thank you to all of the parent volunteers from 'pit pops' and prop helpers, to 'bleacher creatures' to drivers....without you, we couldn't do our jobs nearly as well!



FROM THE NURSES' OFFICE Kris Wildeveld RN

We are seeking your cooperation in helping to promote a healthful school environment. The control and prevention of communicable diseases in your child's class is of concern to us, as it is to you. The following offers means of preventing the spread of disease and may be of help to you in deciding whether or not your child should come to school.

Keep your child home if he/she has a fever over 100 degrees, diarrhea, vomiting, red draining eyes, draining ear or undiagnosed skin rash or skin condition (draining sores, bumps, constant itching, etc.) Keeping your child at home and notifying the school by telephone, if your child is ill or if they have a communicable condition (chicken pox, mumps, measles, infectious hepatitis, impetigo, herpes, scabies, lice, strep throat, etc.) will help control and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Your telephone call is important because certain measures can be taken at school with regard to the spread of diseases.

If a student becomes ill at school or is observed with a

questionable condition, every effort is made to contact the parents. It is important to keep the school notified of changes in home, work or cell numbers and persons to contact in case the parent cannot be contacted. This is important for the protection of the student in the event of an emergency.

After your child has recovered from an illness, he/she should be free of symptoms and the child's temperature should be normal for **24 hours** before returning to school.

Your cooperation in this matter is very important to maintain a healthful school environment for all the children at Argyle. We hope you have a wonderful, healthy school year. Please feel free to call your building nurse with any concerns you may have about your child's health.



Free Style, the New Choir

Marla Warden-Holm

Free Style Choir Director

With the start of a new school year, choir took on a new look. We now have two choirs that are more student-led and with

Free Style Choir Continued...

me only advising and directing when assistance is needed.

1. Free Style, the New Choir has open enrollment to all high school students, and also to middle school students by audition only. This group meets every Wednesday after school.

2. Free Style Select Choir is a group for the more advanced, trained singer and is by audition only. They meet every Friday after school.

You may have heard Aubrey Spasic perform the National Anthem at the bon fire during Homecoming week or Kimmy Phillips sing at the pep rally before the Burkburnett football game, while Madi Cvar, Morgan Morrison, and Ms. Warden-Holm sang the National Anthem at the Homecoming game between Argyle and Burkburnett. Be looking for more awesome singers to be singing at pep rallies or sports games and events throughout the year.

Our calendar is filling up, so be looking for Free Style to be performing at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner in November, The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Pilot Point's "Christmas on the Square", Christmas Caroling through Highland Village, and more. Dates for these events are to be announced at a later date.

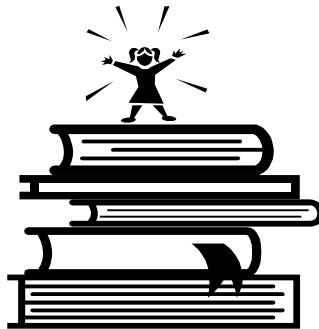
Both choirs are currently selling The World's Finest Chocolate after school or at extra-curricular events. All profits go back into the choir by providing students the opportunity to take

private voice lessons in order to help them improve their vocal techniques and performance skills.

Our student-led board consists of Sam Mayfield, Kimmy Phillips, and Ty Luce. They are responsible for the recruiting, fund raising, and helping with the training and directing of the choir. With the energy and contagious excitement these students possess, the new year brings promise and anticipation for awesome things to come.

The new year has also brought some new faces to the Argyle Free Style groups. We are all looking forward to an awesome year of performances, learning voice techniques, having fun and making new friendships along the way.

Come out and support FREE STYLE as they perform throughout the year.



Attention Hilltop Parents Pre-K - 4th

Does your child love to read? Do you find it difficult to squeeze in your child's daily reading assignment? Are you looking for a fun way for your child to earn their AR points?

Then TumbleBooks will be a great resource for your family!

TumbleBooks are online, automated story books that your children will love and they can be easily accessed at school or home. Some books are available in Spanish and French, some come with puzzles and games, and some even have practice AR quizzes. You've got to check it out. You can install a desktop icon on your computer, which will allow your child instant access without signing in.

Instructions on how to install the TumbleBook icon onto your desktop.

1. Copy and paste the url below into your browser.

www.tumblebooks.com/SWAP/icons/tumblebooks_Argyle2.exe

2. A File Download box will pop up. Click on Save

3. Save it onto your desktop.

4. Once it is on your desktop, double click the icon to launch.

5. You may get a security warning pop up. Before you click on Run, remove the check mark from the box. Always Ask Before Opening This File (then the pop up will not appear the next time you click on the icon).

6. The TumbleGuy will jump around your desktop and then

Tumblebooks Continued...

open right into your TumbleBookLibrary collection (it may take 3-4 seconds).

If you are not at your home computer, you can always go to www.tumblebooks.com/. Click on TumbleBooks Library ebooks for ekids. Then sign in using user name: argyle password: eagles.

If you are working towards an AR goal, before reading, please check to make sure that the book has an AR quiz and that the reading level and book level are in your range.

An Education Foundation grant has made this two year subscription possible. Should you have questions, please email your child's teacher.

Let's TUMBLE!



Terra Lyon

**Argyle High School
English I Pre-AP &
Yearbook Adviser**

In previous years the Argyle High School yearbook has been delivered to the students in the fall of the following year. Comments have been made to AHS staff that changing to a spring delivery might be a good idea. Since this seems to be a possibility and the desire for AHS parents and students, a survey is being prepared to get district wide feedback. The survey will be available soon on the website and parents will be encouraged to take the survey through a wingspan message. Parents will be asked to vote to either leave things as they are or to change to a May delivery. In former years, the yearbook included all events through the end of the year and was delivered in August. The other option will be to change the delivery date to May where the book will cover through spring break and those that purchase the book will receive an insert in the mail to add to their book that will include sports that do not end until the end of May, prom, graduation, and other senior events. Again, as soon as the survey is available, a wingspan will be sent out. AHS simply wants to make sure that

we are delivering a fully covered book, in a timely manner, and that students get a book of memories that they can enjoy with their friends. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Terra Lyon at the high school or email her at tlyon@argyleisd.com.

ChooseToCare

If you know about something that could harm you or someone you know, report it to your school officials now. But if reporting what you know in person is not an option, provide your information anonymously online.

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Call toll free:**

877-277-3812