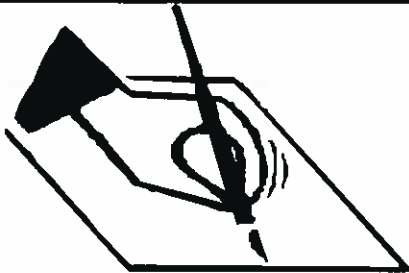




# INSIGHTS

November, 2011



## Message from AISD Superintendent Dr. Telena Wright

The 2011-2012 school year is moving along very well. The enrollment for the district is at 1805 which is less than the end of year enrollment of 1824. The graduating class of 2011 was 156 whereas the incoming first grade is only 102. This discrepancy between graduating students and beginning students is impacting AISD significantly.

There is construction going on in the district in Country Lakes and the D.R. Horton subdivision. Canyon Falls and Belmont hope to have students in homes by the Fall of 2013. These subdivisions will increase enrollment for the district.

Budget cuts were kept as far away from the classroom as

possible. It will be necessary to cut another \$400,000 from the 2012-13 budget. All seven new teachers this year replaced others; there were no positions added. The district is operating with eight fewer positions this year, 3 teaching positions, 1 clerical, 3 paraprofessional, and one maintenance.

Our volleyball team went undefeated in district and took first place in district. They begin playoffs Nov. 3-5. The Lady Eagles play with determination and focus.

As the game of the week, on Thursday, November 3, the game between the Argyle Eagles and the Sanger Indians will be televised. Both teams are undefeated in district.

Cross Country boys and girls are advancing to regional. Girls got second in district and boys got first. Regional competition will be in Arlington on November 5. MS boys got first and girls second in district. There is no competition past district for MS.

The new 53 foot band trailer has been put in service for the first time this year. This makes it possible to carry all the uniforms and equipment in one vehicle. Band received a I at UIL competition at Brewer HS October 26.

The AISD Board has three new members who were elected in May 2011. New members are Jim Haltom, Dr. Peggy Miller, and Kevin Faciane. Board members attended training at TASB in Austin in September and also participated in 8 hours of Team Building with TASB trainer Kay Douglas.

The wireless network put in place in the summer is working very well and now allows more use of mobile devices.

There will be no state accountability ratings this year as we transition from TAKS to STAAR.

The district will retain the recognized rating earned in 2011 for two years.

Please feel free to contact me at [twright@argyleisd.com](mailto:twright@argyleisd.com) regarding questions or concerns.



**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 **Recognized**, Argyle High School is **Exemplary**, Argyle Middle School is **Exemplary**, Argyle Intermediate School is **Exemplary**, and Hilltop Elementary is **Academically Acceptable**. These ratings were acquired by meeting the absolute standard which is set by TEA. We will not receive a rating this school year since we are transiting to new state assessments and a new accountability system.

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 10-11 school year.**

Beginning this school year, TEA will begin phasing in a new state exam called the **State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)**. The current freshman (class of 2015) will be the first graduating class required to meet these 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.

The STAAR assessments administered in grades 3-8 are similar to TAKS with the biggest differences being that each exam will have a **4-hour time limit** and the **Writing test will be administered over a 2-day period**.

The grade 3-8 STAAR assessments are as follows:

- Grade 3- Math and Reading

- Grade 4- Math, Reading, and Writing (2-days)
- Grade 5- Math, Reading, Science
- Grade 6- Math and Reading
- Grade 7- Math, Reading, and Writing (2-days)
- Grade 8- Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies

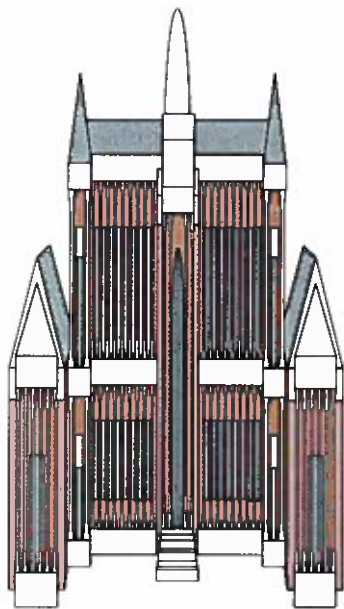
To meet graduation requirements, the freshman class will take STAAR End-of-Course exams. These tests will also focus on college and career readiness. Additionally, the EOC's will test content students studied that year, as opposed to testing content studied over multiple years. Each exam will also have a **4-hour time limit**. The STAAR EOC's are as follows:

- English I, English II, and English III (all 2-days)
- Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry
- Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
- World Geography, World History, and US History

For more information on the STAAR EOC's and graduation requirements, please visit the Argyle High School Counselor webpage at <http://www.argyleisd.com/counselor2/AHS%20STAAR%20Presentation.pdf>.

**Chris Daniel Continued...**

Students in high school who are in grades 10-12 during the 2011-2012 school year must still pass the TAKS Exit Level tests to graduate. The new STAAR EOC graduation requirements only apply to the current freshman class and all of the other students in the grades below.



**Argyle High School  
Principal  
Mr. Jeff Butts**

Can you believe that we are approaching the end of the second six weeks of the 2011-2012 school year? Our staff and students have had a great start to what I believe is going to be one of the most exciting school years ever at Argyle High School. A large part of this great beginning is due to the fabulous leadership exemplified by our seniors. They are stepping up and continuing the great tradition

left to them by previous graduates.

\*\*\*\*I want to inform you of some construction projects that will be going on over the next few months. The first project is the Braden Spratlen Friendship Memorial Garden. This special project was made possible by a generous donation from Braden's parents, Kevin and Susan Spratlen. Designed to be used as a waiting area for students to be picked up by their parents during after school hours or after a school trip, the Memorial Garden will be located on the north end of the Argyle secondary campus. Our band students can also utilize this area to conjugate during times such as summer band practices as well as throughout the year. Braden will always have a special place in the hearts of his family and the hearts of the students and staff of Argyle High School who know what a great student and young man Braden was during his time at our school.

The next project is the widening of two traffic areas on the Argyle secondary school campus. One area will be in front of the field house. The west end of the field house parking lot will be restructured in an attempt to widen the traffic lanes giving parents a drop- off and pick- up lane for their children going to the field house. Additionally, traffic should flow smoother in this area during peak traffic hours. The second traffic area to be widened is the road by the tennis courts going out to

Harpole. This area will be widened in an attempt to allow for a smoother traffic pattern on the north end of the secondary campus. There will be a drop-off and pick- up lane created on the southeast curb next to the auditorium. Both of these projects are scheduled to begin when school is dismissed for the Christmas break beginning the afternoon of December 16<sup>th</sup>.

As I have said before, I continue to believe that we have the best students in the state of Texas. Each one has a gift that he/she brings to Argyle High School that makes our school the best in the state. Each student plays a huge role in the success we achieve in 2011-2012. At Argyle High School we believe that all students are to be valued and respected. 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**

Argyle Middle School is off to a great start this 2011-2012 school year. Students and teachers have begun preparing for the new STAAR exam, the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness. Sample questions have been released by the state which show the level

## Scott Gibson Continued...

of rigor associated with this test. The AMS staff and students will continue to work to make sure we are as prepared as possible to meet these higher expectations and help our students achieve at the highest levels.

Students have participated in many events this year. Our football and volleyball teams have been showcasing their talents for several weeks. Our cross country runners braved the cold and wet weather at the district meet on Oct. 28 and brought home several honors including first place for both the 7th and 8th grade boys' teams. Basketball will begin in just a few weeks. Our cheerleaders and Excite dance team members have demonstrated their outstanding abilities at both pep rallies and games in support of our athletic teams. Argyle Middle School athletes continue to shine in all of their fall activities.

Students are also participating in clubs and organizations such as student council, National Junior Honor Society, International Thespian Society and National Junior Art Honor Society. Band students are working hard to prepare for their winter concert. Our Robotics Club provides another outlet for students to exhibit their skills. High participation continues this year at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Students Standing Strong weekly meetings. A new group, L.E.G.I.T., has begun this year for our middle school girls which teams high school

girls in mentoring roles for the middle school attendees. Our yearbook staff is working hard to prepare an exceptional book this year, and they are selling them now online at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com). Additionally, our UIL academic practices are in full swing to prepare our students to compete in an array of events at the district meet in January. Between all of these activities, our hope is that students can find multiple ways to be involved, contribute to the successes of our school and make new friends.



### Argyle Intermediate School Principal, Conrad Streeter

The second six weeks is coming to an end and we are entering the holiday season. It is hard to believe that we will be completing the fall semester in a matter of weeks. October has been a very busy month for our campus. The week of October 24<sup>th</sup> AIS celebrated Red Ribbon Week. We had Miss TX visit our campus, as well as Eddie Coker. Both guests promoted good decision making, avoiding drugs and alcohol, along with an anti bullying message. Our students dressed up each day to promote a particular theme that supported the ideals of Red

Ribbon Week. Our fifth graders also completed the Stay Safe program that culminated in their graduation ceremony early in the month.

Currently our students are participating in UIL, Run Club, and lots of extracurricular activities outside of school. Please help our kids stay organized and on top of their classroom assignments. Be sure to ask your child if they are checking their planners each night, checking the website, and paying attention in class. If we work together I am confident our students will be happy, successful and well balanced!

If you have not seen the new mat in the front entry please come inside to see it! The PTA purchased the mat this school year. It looks amazing! The PTA is also sponsoring two assemblies and Argyle Nights in the spring, and purchasing additional materials for art, music, and PE. Thank you parents and PTA members for supporting AIS!

As most of you know the state of TX has changed the testing standards that will evaluate our students this upcoming year. We will no longer be taking the TAKS test. The new test is called the STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness). The new tests will be much more rigorous and demanding. As the fall semester continues the teachers will begin transitioning our students to these new standards. The entire campus will be conducting Benchmark Testing for Math, Reading, and Science. The test dates will be December 6-8. Please help us by insuring

## Conrad Streeter Continued...

your child is at school on those days. The data we collect from these exams will guide us in our curriculum decision making for the spring semester. Argyle Intermediate School is an Exemplary Campus and we want to continue our tradition of excellence as we transition to the new state standards. We look forward to the New Year! Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's teachers if you have any questions. On behalf of the entire faculty we wish you and your family a happy and peaceful holiday season!



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

We are off to a great start this school year! Classes are starting at 7:45am and students are ready and prepared to start their day. Adding our additional car line in the morning for drop off has ensured that all students can be on time and in their seats ready to learn at 7:45am. Thank you, parents for your support! Our parent conference day on October 5<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. We had over 400 conferences

scheduled and attended that day. Communication between parents and teachers makes for a successful school year. Do not hesitate to call or email your child's teacher when you have a concern or question.

Meeting students' needs is our top priority. UIL Academic team tryouts have been completed and students are working hard after school to prepare for our UIL competition that will take place in December. We appreciate all the hard work students and staff give to ensure success. Wyvona Ulman is our UIL coordinator and she does an excellent job planning and preparing all our UIL Academic contests. This year Chess has been added to our UIL teams. Mr. Ball has willingly volunteered to coach our Chess Team. Other coaches this year are: Wyvona Ullman, Jane Ruestmann, Kristen Haynes, Keitha Warren, Patience Knotts, Dianne Chrestopoulos, Stephanie Sanchez and Joan Wittmis. We appreciate the extra time they give to coach our UIL students.

Tutoring is another way our staff has committed extra time to students to make sure they are successful and their needs are met. Thank you, parents for allowing your child to come early or stay late for tutoring. We know this extra time for reteaching makes a difference for students.

Our PTA has also been a wonderful means of support for our school already this school year! Our fundraiser brought in enough moneys for fieldtrips for each grade level, ipads, recess equipment, art, music and

classroom needs. Students will enjoy the items purchased from their hard earned money.

As we look ahead to November and December we will enjoy our Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions here at Hilltop. Our annual Veteran's Day program, Thanksgiving Feast, Holiday Decorations and programs will be here soon. Thank you for your continued support in making Hilltop a great place to be!



***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 just performed with the high school band for middle school night at the varsity football game and the beginners are learning to play their first notes! All is well in the land of music!

Congratulations goes out to Michael Lemish and the Argyle High School Drumline for a

## **Kathy Johnson Continued...**

successful Plano Drum Line Competition! Argyle competed against other high schools in our category on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and won their classification! Way to go Drumline!

The High School Marching Band began its competitive season on Saturday, October 8, placing 3rd overall at the Little Elm Marching Festival. The Eagle Marching Band placed 7th overall at the HEB Marching Festival besting eight 4A and nine 5A bands. At UIL Region Marching, the Argyle Eagle Band earned Sweepstakes ratings for the 11th year! You can see the band's contest show, Transcend, during half-time performances at the Varsity Football Games.

High School students auditioned for the Region Jazz Band in September and had 3 students placed in the Region Jazz Band. Students who auditioned were Aimee Kline, Cameron Schafer, Monica Canizares, Aric Kline, and Sam Ramirez. Of those who made the jazz band both Aric Kline and Sam Ramirez moved on to the Area level and taped for the All-State Jazz Band. Congratulations to Mr. Hilley and the Jazz Band students for such a great accomplishment.

High School Region Band auditions will be on Saturday, December 3, in Decatur. Area auditions will follow on January 7, 2012 here at Argyle. The high school Winter Concert will

be on Monday, December 12 at 7:00 pm.

Middle School Region Band auditions will be on Tuesday, November 15 in Sanger. The middle school and intermediate school Winter Concert is on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm.

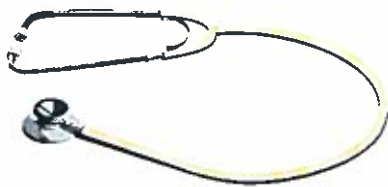
### OUR THANKS:

Thank you to our Band Boosters and Cindy Martin for their efforts in raising funds for the band. Hearty thanks go out to Ann Athey, Dorthy Torno, Elizabeth Hagan and crew for taking on the daunting task of marching uniform fittings and alterations. Another big thanks goes out to Kelly Gant and her crew for all the work they have done with organizing 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 Steve Moore, Jeff Bennett 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. Thank you to our new trailer dads, organized by John Goodpaster, for making sure our students are safe while loading and unloading equipment. Thanks to Donna Wright for organizing meals before away games, contests, and loading crew. Thank you Deena Kayfus 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!



**The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is  
presenting a  
Veterans Day  
Program on  
Thursday,  
Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, at  
7:00 p.m., at  
Hilltop  
Elementary  
School. All  
Veterans and  
friends are  
invited!**



**FROM THE  
NURSE'S 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 sch nurse with any concerns you may have about your child's health.



**Kari Frederick,  
Director of Child  
Nutrition**

Each year, the Child Nutrition Department implements changes to make our meals healthier. This year, we have switched to wheat hot dog and hamburger buns, started using cheese that is not only low fat but is also reduced sodium, and started offering only one

percent or skim milk. One of greatest challenges continues to be getting students to eat vegetables, especially at the secondary level. Not only are student meals healthier when they eat vegetables, but parents also get a better value for the money that they invest into school lunches. That is why we are sponsoring the **Vegetables are Valuable Recipe Contest**. We are asking parents and students to get together and submit their family's favorite vegetable recipe so that we can get other students enjoying fabulous tasting vegetables. Recipes need to be written to serve 10 and will be judged on the availability of ingredients, taste, appearance, and nutritional value. The contest is open to all Argyle Middle School and Argyle High School students along with their parents. Submissions should be joint submissions with both the student's name and parent's name listed. Recipes will be prepared by the Child Nutrition staff and judging will be done by the NHS and NJHS students. Entries may be submitted to **Kari Frederick** at [kfrederick@argyleisd.com](mailto:kfrederick@argyleisd.com) or turned in to the MS/HS cafeteria. All entries are due by November 18<sup>th</sup>. First place will be awarded a \$50 I tunes gift card and a \$50.00 Wal-Mart gift card. Second place will be awarded a \$25 I tunes gift card and a \$25.00 Wal-Mart gift card. Third place will win a \$25.00 I-tunes gift card. The top three recipes will also be featured on an Argyle ISD menu. Hurry and submit your child's favorite and share the

## Kari Frederick Continued...

wealth of that healthy vegetable dish with all of the Eagles in AISD.



## The Challenge Day Club

just recently sponsored a Mix-It-Up Lunch on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. The students sat with other students who shared their same birthday month. We had conversation starters at each table to help the students to get to know one another better. It was a great day and I heard many students comment on the new friends they made! :-)

Also, CDC just recently went to Bastrop High School to take the items that the community had collected for the fire victims. Our students spoke at the BHS pep rally and the students and faculty were so appreciative of our communities giving spirit. It was an amazing experience for the people that received the gifts and the people who gave the gifts! ☺

Students Standing Strong will be showing the movie entitled *To Save A Life* On Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium and we would like to invite everyone to come. This is an amazing story of 2

friends who learn what it means to be a “true” friend and the importance of loving others unconditionally. Come join us!

Thank you!  
Jeanna Sutton  
Faculty Liaison for CDC  
and SSS

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**UIL Math/Science  
Meet at Flower  
Mound High School  
Held on 10-22-11**

**Top four Argyle students  
in each contest:**

### Number Sense

1st Ross Coker  
3rd Ben Woolums  
10th Colton Katzen  
11th Jack Graham

### Calculator Applications

2nd Ben Woolums  
3rd Davis Coghlan  
6th Ross Coker  
9th Colton Katzen

### Mathematics

5th Ben Woolums  
6th Ross Coker  
13th Davis Coghlan  
23rd Colton Katzen

### Science

12th James Thorpe  
18th Kevin Fenley  
19th Hunter Monroe  
20th Carson Wells