

INSIGHTS



March, 2006

Long Range Facility Planning

Carolyn Pierel
Superintendent

A very important presentation was made to the AISD Board at a recent workshop. Paul Trautman, a consultant from Texas Association of School Administrators recently conducted a facility study for AISD. He gave his preliminary report to the Board on February 6, 2006. The presentation can be accessed by going to www.argyleisd.com. Pull down the tab listed as district information and click on facility study. I urge everyone to review this report. The district will receive a more detailed written document in the next few weeks.

While there is a great deal of important information contained in the report, Mr. Trautman did summarize what he believed are the critical points that the stakeholders in AISD need to begin to consider and take action on in the coming months.

First, as the author Steven Covey emphasizes, it is time for us to “begin with end in mind”. Within the next five or six years the district will most likely need

to begin construction of a new high school. Even if it were possible to open a new middle school next year and leave our current middle school/high school as a high school only, by 2013 or 2014 that facility will no longer be usable as a high school due to projected student growth.

At build out, the district is expected to have about 20,000 students with around 5,000 high school students. That translates to three high schools of about 1,750 enrollment or two high schools of about 2,500 enrollment or one very large (mega) high school of 4,500-5,000 students. Because the size of a school determines the amount of land that needs to be acquired, this decision must be made prior to purchase of land for the new high school(s). The current stadium/athletic facilities will not be adequate as our high school begins to expand. So also to be decided is the question “Does the district build one off site facility such as Denton has done or build multiple facilities with each new high school in the event that one (mega) high school is rejected”?

The second very important issue that needs to be addressed immediately is the current overcrowding at our middle

school/high school facility. According to Mr. Trautman that campus is now at 120% capacity for its intended instructional purposes. Until a separate facility is provided for middle school, this situation will continue to escalate. The district will need to place portable classrooms on this campus beginning in the 2006-2007 school year. Both middle school and high school students will be using portable classrooms.

Third, the new Hilltop Elementary is growing quickly. It was built with a capacity of 750 students. As of today, the student enrollment has grown to 694. It is obvious that a second elementary is needed as soon as possible.

Mr. Trautman concluded by saying that the district is already three to five years behind our growth curve. While this is not unusual in fast growth districts there are several things that have contributed to this in AISD.

The greatest challenge to the district is being able to raise money fast enough to keep up with student growth. In order to meet the 50 cent test, the district can only sell bonds at a rate that allows the district to charge tax payers a maximum of fifty cents

Long Range Facility Planning Continued...

per one hundred dollars of value for interest sinking funds. Most of the tax value in Argyle comes from residences and land. Therefore, each time we experience an increase in tax values, we also experience an increase in student growth. Until we have more commercial property within the district, it will be hard to keep pace with student growth.

Because AISD is a Chapter 41 or "Robin Hood" district, we receive no state assistance for building new facilities. All of our building projects are financed through local tax payer dollars.

Additionally, our most recent bond election, April of 2005, failed. At this time the district cannot move forward with any plans to relieve overcrowding at the middle school/high school or future overcrowding at our other locations. Because the amount of money authorized in the 2002 bond election was designed to cover only the projects needed at that time, there is very little money left from that authorization.

Currently the district is working with Dain Rauscher, our financial advisor, to determine what our present and future potential to raise bond money will be. Soon a citizens facility study committee will be formed to look at all these issues. The district would like to involve a large number of people. If you have an interest in serving

please contact Tami Barthel at 464-7241, ext. 4. If you would simply like to attend a meeting to become better informed that is fine also. After Spring Break the district will be posting meeting times and places on its Web Site www.ArgyleISD.com and through the telephone tree. In late spring a survey will also be made available to all registered voters in the district. The decisions reached in the oncoming months will be critically important. I hope you will choose to become involved in some way.

Estimated Construction Times

The following are times generally considered to be needed for construction of a school once design and land acquisition are completed:

- * elementary school 18 months
- * middle school 18-24 months
- * high school 24-36 months

These times can vary greatly depending on conditions during the period of construction.

About the UIL

Dr. Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent

UIL member schools are divided into five conferences according to enrollment. Conferences, in order of enrollment, are AAAAA, AAAA, AAA, AA and A. There is more equitable competition on a state-wide basis when schools compete

with other schools of comparable size.

Argyle ISD is moving up from 2A UIL classification to 3A classification. Every two years schools go through a reclassification and realignment process. The determination of classification is based on high school enrollment.

Here is the breakdown for classifications:

- 1A 194 and below membership
- 2A 195 to 414 membership
- 3A 415 to 949 membership
- 4A 950 to 1984 membership
- 5A 1985 membership and above

Participation in UIL academic and athletic activities teaches that it is a privilege and an honor to represent one's school. Students learn to win and to lose; to take as well as to give. Self-motivation and intellectual curiosity are essential to the best academic participants. Physical training and good health habits are essential to the best athletes.

Interscholastic competition is a fine way to encourage youngsters to enrich their education and expand their horizons. Leadership and citizenship experiences through interschool activities help prepare students for a more useful and wholesome life. And it's fun!

The roots of University Interscholastic League began in 1904, when Dr. S.E. Mezes, president of The University of Texas, decided the university

UIL Continued...

needed to be of service to the entire state. Mezes dispatched William Sutton, dean of the school of education, to visit Wisconsin, which had the nation's premier extension department. On June 7, 1909, Sutton described the "Wisconsin Plan" to the UT board of regents, which promptly allocated funds for the creation of the UT Extension Bureau.

The next year, Dr. Mezes created the Debating League of Texas High Schools as part of the Extension Bureau. Twenty-eight schools joined the League, which came under the direction of Dr. E.D. Shurter. He also appointed Professor Charles Ramsdell to investigate the need for a high school athletic organization. After talking with public school officials, Professor Ramsdell suggested organizing an Interscholastic Athletic Association. The proposal was approved and the UIL's two parent organizations, the Debating League of Texas and the Interscholastic Athletic Association became operational.

In 1913, the Debating League and the Athletic Association merged to form the University Interscholastic League, which was centered in the Bureau of Public School Services, then a part of The University of Texas Extension Division. Today, the League operates as part of the University of Texas, under the auspices of the [Vice President for Community and School](#)

Relations.

Since 1910, the records and achievements of state high school participants have justified the decision of the University to support this program of public school service. The UIL has grown into the largest interschool organization of its kind in the world, and is the envy of similar groups nationwide. The voluntary membership, non-profit organization exists to provide educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests. So successful is the program that one of every two high school seniors has participated in a UIL event prior to graduation. The initials "UIL" have come to represent quality educational competition, administered by school people on an amateur and equitable basis.

The University Interscholastic League believes:

- that participation in extracurricular activities motivates students to place a high priority on attending school and making better grades. that most students enjoy the pursuit of excellence and seek opportunities to test themselves against their own accomplishments and the accomplishments of others, that such opportunities are best provided through properly conducted and equitably

administered competitive activities, and

- that the classroom is enriched by the flow of student energy into the more intensified arena of competition and back into the classroom,

Therefore, we reaffirm that students are the focus of our endeavor and deserve an opportunity to:

- refine physical and mental skills, nurture self-realization and build self-confidence, feel a sense of pride and dignity, experience teamwork and develop a sense of fair play, develop the ability to lead and the willingness to follow, foster self-discipline and perseverance, appreciate that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline, learn to accept graciously the decisions of judges and officials, affirm self-worth in times of disappointment as well as adulation, cultivate lifetime skills, complement their classwork with practice and performance, have fun, experience the joy of achieving their potential in a wholesome environment, and discover that ultimately

UIL Continued...

- the true meaning of winning is doing one's best.

What does the UIL do?

- Provides students with educational experiences through competition. Promotes good sportsmanship and cooperation among member schools. Works to prevent exploitation of students by special interest groups. Publishes the monthly Leaguer newspaper, sent to sponsors and administrators of all member schools, UIL adjudicators and officials, and interested news media in Texas. Provides the use of speech video tapes and athletic tournament and rules films through The UT-Austin Film Library and the National Federation of State High School Associations. Works closely with associations to provide better officiating and adjudication for UIL contests. Sponsors regional conferences and clinics for athletic, music, drama, and academic contests. Provides materials to schools for use in UIL contests. Seeks to safeguard the health and welfare of students by requiring physical examinations for participation in athletics.

Seeks to keep awards for achievement on a sensible basis by restricting the cost and type. Sponsors district, regional, and state tournaments or meets in athletic, music, drama, and academic contests. Provides drama teachers with an extensive Drama Loan Library of more than 26,000 plays. Sponsors the Interscholastic League Press Conference.

- Administers the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation which provides scholarships for drama and academic state competitors.

Source: University Interscholastic League

www.uil.utexas.edu/about.html

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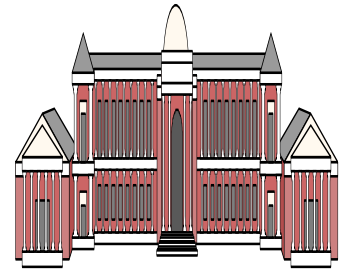
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***Argyle High School
Principal
Mr. Jeff Henry***

GREAT JOB

A special thanks to the Argyle teaching cadre, the student body and our Argyle volunteer parents. This past Tuesday (21 February) Argyle High School participated in the annual English Language Arts Reading and Writing portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) It is fitting at this time to extend a sincere thank you to those who participated and supported this effort. We often hear that all we are doing in school now days is “teaching to the test”. Research based data tells us that if we cover those high stake objectives in class we will be fine when the TAKS test rolls around. Our English faculty has done yeoman work this fall and has created awareness in our student body as to the relevance of the TAKS test and its role in the curriculum.

During the test it was rewarding to see the seriousness with which our students, faculty, parents and staff approached this effort. Testing in any arena is seldom fun for students, but if you could have been here on

High School Principal Continued...

Tuesday, you would have seen an effort that is in keeping with the high standards that Argyle ISD has always stood for. Thank you Argyle teachers and students for a great effort and thanks for walking the walk.



From the desk of...
Sonja M. Ball,
Middle School Principal

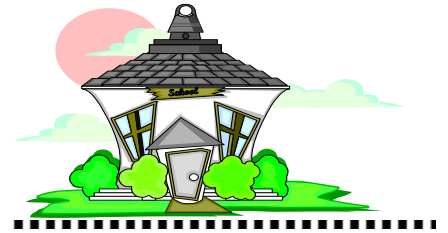
Every day I can choose to turn on the television, listen to the radio, read the newspapers, and plug into the internet and be bombarded with information concerning violence in our society at large and at our schools. Many days I find that I have to consciously remind myself to celebrate the goodness in life as opposed to focusing on the scary things. At AMS we have instituted a program for the last several years to help celebrate the goodness in life. Every two weeks we choose a recipient for the MAXimum Kindness Award.

I am writing about our MAXimum Kindness Award once again because over the last several weeks I have been keenly aware of the things in life that we do not want to focus our attention upon, such things that cause children and teachers

to want to stay home from school. AMS is a wonderful place to go to school, and our students, parents, and teachers are the best in the state. I believe that by noticing the wonderful, intentional, random, and heartfelt acts of kindness we can greatly influence the power the “scary” moments have in our lives as a campus.

Parents, teachers, and students can nominate someone for the award. Nomination forms are available in the office, in the hallway outside the office, and in our classrooms. Students demonstrating daily acts of kindness should be nominated for the award. The nomination box is hanging in the hallway outside the office. Every two weeks we will announce the winner of the award during advisory class. In addition to the bi-weekly award, we began selecting one student each year that exemplifies the spirit of MAXimum Kindness consistently throughout the school year. This person is recognized at our annual award ceremony in May and their name is engraved on the plaque in the office.

The MAXimum Kindness Award helps to focus our thoughts on that which is good, positive, and renewing for all the students and faculty at AMS. Please encourage your children to participate in celebrating the goodness of life by nominating people who have been kind to them and to make a conscious effort to perform daily acts of kindness.



From: Robin McWhorter,
Elementary Principal

For this month’s article, I want to remind you of an intervention program in place for our students at Hilltop Elementary. The Student Support Team (SST) is a committee designed to coordinate a variety of student services as well as to provide support to teachers and staff. The services this committee provides are:

- Resource for teachers who are concerned about the academic and/or behavioral needs of students
- Academic and behavioral screening
- Referrals for special programs

The committee members consist of the assistant principal, school counselor, dyslexia specialist, resource teacher, content master teacher and the principal. Other specialist as needed are asked to attend when it is warranted.

The procedures for referring students to the SST committee are as follows:

- The students have had at a minimum three weeks of various modifications in the classroom.

Elementary Principal Continued...

- The classroom teacher completes an SST referral form after conferencing with the parent.
- The SST committee meets every Monday afternoon after school. The classroom teacher attends and informs the parent of the outcome.
- The teacher brings samples of the student's work to the meeting as well as concerns she/he may have.
- The committee designates approximately 20 minutes for each student.

The SST committee has been an integral addition to our ability to best serve the needs of our students.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the elementary office or your students' classroom teacher. Thank you for your continued support of our elementary school.



At Hilltop Elementary our car line has continued to be a congested line of traffic. The visitor parking lot is to be used solely for the purpose of walking your children into the building. This lot is not to be used to watch them walk in or

for you to walk them halfway up the sidewalk. After much observation, we have concluded that the fewer cars we have using the visitor parking lot, the smoother the traffic flow. Please take time to read the reminders below:

- Pull all the way up and around the curve to drop off your child.
- Have everything ready so that your child only needs to get out.
- Form one line at the front of the building. Do not pull out in front of other cars making two lines.
- Use the visitor parking lot only if you are going to walk your child into the building.
- Have a great attitude and know we are doing all we can do to keep our drop off line safe for your child and other students.

HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK ORDER DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you haven't ordered a yearbook, you can still purchase one by going to www.jostens.com or calling 1-866-282-1516.

There will not be extra copies to purchase after the order has been placed. The deadline is April 1st. Don't miss out on the history!



Nurse's Corner

By Jan Haney and
Sherri Thompson

It's that time of the year again!

During this time of the year we see cases of flu, strep, respiratory and stomach viruses. It is for these reasons that we want to take a moment and remind our parents and students to practice "good hygiene" and use good judgment in determining whether a child should be sent to school or not. We still need to encourage the students to "wash hands, drink plenty of fluids, eat a well-balanced diet, get a good night's rest, and participate in regular exercise.

- Hand washing is still one of the most important things we can do to prevent the spread of some illnesses.
- Students should cover their nose and mouth with a Kleenex when sneezing or coughing and dispose of it **immediately!**
- Frequently touched areas should be disinfected routinely at home and school.
- If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home.

Nurse's Corner Continued...

Trying to determine whether to send your child back to school is often hard. Here are a few guidelines that should be followed for keeping your child home from school.

- If your child has vomiting or diarrhea, they should not return for at least 24 hours after the last occurrence.
- If your child is placed on antibiotics, they should be on them for at least 24 hours and be fever free.
- If they have a temperature of over 100 degrees or more.
- Green nasal discharge or coughing up green mucus.
- Severe coughing or a sore throat with fever and swollen glands.
- Rashes that can not be identified or that have not been diagnosed and/or treated by a physician.

These guidelines are just a few that are recommended by The National Association of School Nurses and Carmen Musick with Times-News. The guidelines will vary as to when a child should be kept home or how long a child should stay out of school, depending on the diagnosis and the individual. Always follow your physician's orders and complete all medications.

According to the National School Nurse Association, there are differences in a **COLD** and the **FLU**.

** If you have a stuffy nose, sneezing, sore throat and a hacking cough, you probably have a **COLD**.

If you have a high fever, severe headache, muscle and body aches, extreme tiredness and a dry cough, you probably have the **FLU.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

The Denton County Health Department is bringing the mobile clinic to give immunizations at the Health Fair. If you have a student that needs immunizations now or will need some before the start of school next year this is a great time to get your student immunized. All immunizations required by the state for school attendance will be available. The record can be given to your school nurse that day and save you time and effort.

ATTENTION NEW KINDERGARDENERS FOR YEAR 2006-07

Immunizations are available for students coming to school next year. Round up will be April 13, 2006 from 12:30 to 5:00. You can get 4 year old immunizations and have them available at the school for Round UP day.



Argyle Band News

The High School Band gave a memorable performance in San Antonio at the Texas Music Educator Association Honor Band Concert. Approximately 1500 band directors, friends and parents attended the concert. If you are interested in purchasing a CD or DVD of the performance, contact Ms. Mikel at cmikel@argyleisd.com. Also, thank you to all of the chaperones that travelled with the band. You are such an important part of our band program.

The Middle School Solo & Ensemble Contest is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th. All sixth, seventh and eighth grade band students will perform in this contest which will be held at Argyle Middle School.

The Pre-UIL Band Concert is on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m. The Middle School Red and White Bands as well as the High School Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will perform.

The Sixth Grade Band will perform a concert on Thursday, March 23rd at 7:00.

Argyle ISD Education Foundation is excited to announce the third annual GOLDEN EAGLE Teacher Excellence Awards!

Sponsorship from the Miles Foundation has made it possible for Argyle ISD Education Foundation to present a cash award to one teacher from each campus. In addition, a generous individual donor has established the Lisa MZ Endowment to recognize a District “Teacher of the Year” with an additional cash award.

Nomination Forms will be accepted from anyone willing to participate in the process – parents, peers, principals, students, etc. Upon receipt of a Nomination Form, the foundation will inform the teacher and request their participation by completing a Teacher Application with additional background information. The panel of judges chooses the Award recipients based on the information presented in the Nomination Forms, as well as the Teacher Applications, rather than the number of Nomination Forms received for any one teacher. The three Campus Award recipients will be interviewed by the independent panel of judges who will then select a District “Teacher of the Year.”

Has your student had a teacher who challenged your child? Have you been inspired by an outstanding teacher? Do you

know a teacher that meets the following criteria?

- A concern for students and the capability to inspire them.
- The ability and willingness to work cooperatively with colleagues.
- A drive to initiate activities that improve instruction for students.
- An ability to work effectively with different groups in the community.
- The desire to stay informed about current educational theories and practices.
- An ability and willingness to make meaningful contributions to education.
- Examples of innovations started in the nominees’ classrooms.

Argyle ISD has many wonderful, outstanding teachers! Honor and recognize them with your nomination. Nomination forms can be found in each campus office or complete the forms online from our website at www.argyleeducationfoundation.com.

Nomination Deadline is Friday, March 10, 2006, at 5:00 pm.

Let’s show our “**GOLDEN EAGLE**” teachers how much we appreciate them!!!



Artsonia Update

Parents can now Upload Artwork!

By popular demand, Artsonia has now created a way for parents to help create our online school art gallery!

Family members can upload any project their children do — whether it's from the classroom or from the kitchen table!

Artsonia will notify the teacher when new art has been submitted. Then the teacher will add artwork published by the parents to our school gallery or if the artwork was not created as a school project, it will be added into a child’s personal gallery.

Watch our school gallery grow faster than imagined! If you have questions, please contact Jane Ruestmann, Elementary Art Specialist, at Hilltop Elementary.

Rotary Global Interact Speech Contest

Five members of the AHS Rotary Global Interact Club recently participated in a speech contest sponsored by the Denton Chapters of the Rotary Club. The speech contest was open to all students in grades 9-12 in Denton County. Gabby Dominguez, Vickie Eads, Meredith Gosnell, Jon Dameron and Sara Pritchard wrote and delivered speeches for the contest held in Denton on Feb. 9th. The students wrote about the Rotary 4 Way Test and what it means to them. All of the students did a great job and Meredith Gosnell placed in the top 4 and moved on to the finals of the contest. Meredith, a senior at AHS, will have to give her speech two more times to a panel of judges from the Denton Noon Rotary Club and the Denton –South Rotary Club. From there the top two winners will move on to the regional competition that will be held on March 4th and then onto to the district finals in Abilene on April 30. Winners at the local level will receive \$400 for first place, \$300 for second place, \$200 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place. Students advancing to the regional finals have a chance to win from \$250 to \$1000. Congratulations to Meredith Gosnell for advancing to the finals and good luck as she continues to give her speech.

Substitutes Needed

**Argyle ISD is in
need of substitutes.
If you are interested
in applying, please
contact**

**Tami Barthel at
940-464-7241, ext. 4**

**Ryan High Invitational
UIL Academic Meet
15 Division I Schools (A,
AA, AAA)
30 Division II Schools
(AAAA, AAAAA)
2-11-06**

Science

Div I - 1st team Argyle 782
Div II - 1st team Highland Park
766
1st Aaron Anderson
1st Kevin Burnett
3rd Justin Johnson
4th Brock Spratlen
7th Heath Delka

Chemistry

1st Aaron Anderson
2nd Heath Delka
4th Justin Johnson
4th Brock Spratlen
Kevin Burnett

Physics

1st Kevin Burnett
2nd Brock Spratlen
3rd Aaron Anderson
4th Justin Johnson

Biology

2nd Justin Johnson
4th Aaron Anderson

Journalism

1st team Argyle

Feature Writing

3rd Shyla Hill

Mathematics

Div I - 1st team Argyle 748
Div II - 1st place team Hebron
568
1st Kevin Burnett
2nd Brock Spratlen
6th Justin Johnson
8th Erik Katzen
9th Thomas Quintana
10th Chris Graf
10th Hilary Krebsbach

Calculator

Div I - 1st team Argyle 660
Div II - 1st team Lamar 529
1st Kevin Burnett
2nd Brock Spratlen
4th Justin Johnson
8th Tyler Kass

Number Sense

Div I - 1st team Argyle 526
Div II 1st team Science &
Engineering 516
1st Kevin Burnett
4th Thomas Quintana
6th Justin Johnson
7th Brock Spratlen

News Writing

2nd Maggie Borders
4th Elisa Tapia
6th Kristen Eichler

Editorial Writing

3rd Rachelle Schaefer