



Manor Independent School District
“Achieving Excellence Through Innovation”

Hoof Prints 2011-2012



September 2011

Manor ISD Board of Trustees



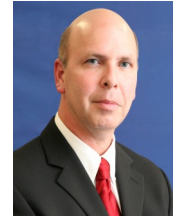
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Superintendent's Message

The month of September is an exciting time for Manor ISD. We are into the swing of daily routines; teachers and students are engaged in meaningful learning; and, our extracurricular activities are already having success!

This school year will challenge us all as we prepare for the new STAAR testing and accountability system. This is a much more rigorous system than TAKS, and we are working to adjust our curriculum, instruction and assessment systems to ensure that students will be successful.

This task is not easy given the budget situation that is currently facing us. We have cut approximately \$4 million this year and will most likely see another decrease for next year. Because the latest legislative session did not correct the structural deficits associated with school finance, it is likely that cuts will continue to happen for several years. However, our commitment is to limit the impact these cuts have on our core area: classrooms.

Our central mission is to ensure that *we teach to the highest level of quality*. We are continually investing and improving how our teachers teach in the classroom. Our children will be required to collaborate, critically think, understand technology, embrace hard work, and communicate effectively. Join us as we ensure every child an opportunity to be successful in the 21st Century!



Manor ISD Middle School Students

Breaking through Barriers, Building for the Future

This summer 60 middle school students got up every morning and did something most of their peers wouldn't do for weeks-went to school! But, this wasn't just another day at school. These students were part of the founding class of the Breakthrough Austin program that has expanded to Manor ISD. A \$250,000 donation from the Applied Materials Foundation made the expansion possible. The future Class of 2018 has started preparing for their journey to graduation early; they are all entering the sixth grade at either Decker Middle School or Manor Middle School. Despite their young age, these students definitely have BIG plans...doctors, engineers, teachers...just a few of the future vocations they have set their eyes on. And, Breakthrough will help them get there. The program specifically works with students that will be first-generation college students. This year's summer program, an integral part of the support system, was the first to be held in Manor ISD. For five weeks students participated in academic classes designed to combat "summer learning loss," one of the factors that makes it difficult for some students to stay on track during the school year. They also participated in "Explorations" classes centered around their own personal interests such as foreign languages, environmental issues and creative writing. During the school year Breakthrough will closely monitor the students' progress and intervene when necessary with tutoring, mentoring and collaboration with school and community partners to ensure the success of each child.



Decker MS student, Alex Castillo, speaks about his experience with Breakthrough.

Alex Castillo, a sixth grader at Decker Middle School, reflected on his summer. "Some kids are sitting on the couch and eating chips all day instead of coming to Breakthrough and learning new things. I'm not saying that I don't like chips or sitting on the couch, but I did want to do something during the summer that would help me get ready for sixth grade and college in the future."

Manor ISD students weren't the only participants in the summer program. Richa Muhammad (Decker ES teacher) and Laura Krcmar (Presidential Meadows ES teacher) served as mentors to the Breakthrough teachers, who are all outstanding college students. Richa and Laura demonstrated the same excitement about the summer as the middle school students. At the conclusion of the program, Richa shared the following, "If I had to sum up my summer



Future Members of the Manor ISD Class of 2018

experience with Breakthrough in one word, it would be HOPE. Hope for our students, our district, our profession and myself. Having this program in Manor ISD adds another feather in our cap to show the community that this is where students need to be. Being a part of Breakthrough has rejuvenated my educator's spirit and has reminded me that I am on the right track and am making a difference in children's lives." For more information about Breakthrough

Austin please visit www.breakthroughaustin.org.

Great Things are Happening on Decker Lane!

What I did on my summer vacation...

While the students of Oak Meadows Elementary were home for summer vacation, their principal went to school! Alejandro Gongóra spent seven days attending the Art of Leadership Institute held at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Over 120 leaders from 26 states and 8 countries were present. Through courses such as "Adaptive Leadership," the focus of the institute was on helping school leaders to develop their knowledge and skills to positively impact student achievement. Mr. Gongóra's attendance was sponsored by Raise Your Hand Texas, a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization committed to improving student achievement in Texas.



Alejandro Gongóra, Oak Meadows Elementary Principal, poses at the statue of John Harvard on the Harvard University campus .



Dr. Jay Banks presents a bully-prevention program to students and staff at Oak Meadows Elementary School.

Oak Meadows Owls are "S.T.A.M.P.ing-Out Bullying"

On August 29, Oak Meadows was visited by Dr. Jay Banks, who presented the S.T.A.M.P program, emphasizing bully-prevention, self-esteem building and respect. S.T.A.M.P. stands for: **S:** Stay away from bullies; **T:** Tell someone; **A:** Avoid bad situations; **M:** Make friends; and **P:** Project confidence. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade participated in an interactive assembly that helped them learn the principles of the STAMP program. Oak Meadows staff were educated and entertained by Dr. Banks during professional development held later that day. Dr. Banks, an educator and entertainer for over 30 years, has presented programs to students in schools and universities across 44 states. He has collaborated with Disney Productions, Nickelodeon, YMCA, Special Olympics and The United Way, developing character education programs that incorporate music, comedy and important messages for students. Dr. Banks has also created character education programs for organizations such as D.A.R.E., "Just Say No", S.A.D.D. and M.A.D.D. The campus will continue to work with Dr. Banks throughout the 2011-2012 school-year.

Great Things are Happening on Decker Lane!

Big Changes for Little Kids

Students at Decker Elementary arrived on campus this fall to find some changes to their building. Part of the walls in each classroom have been replaced by windows that look out into the hallway. The windows on the classroom doors have also been enlarged. In November the students will see more changes after the walls of the school are painted a new color over Thanksgiving. These changes are part of the efforts to transform DES into the elementary site for the Think Forward Institute, which trains teachers on project-based learning. Teachers from around the country will begin attending the training in December. Project-based learning is part of the larger vision of Manor ISD's, "Achieving Excellence Through Innovation" initiative as laid out by the school board last year. Decker Elementary School teachers (and teachers from other campuses) have implemented project-based learning into their classes since the spring of 2010. Now that DES will be a training site for Think Forward, more elementary teachers from across Manor ISD will continue to receive the training as well.

Changes to the physical building are not the only transformations taking place on campus. The teaching and learning within the classrooms has been transformed as well. Teachers have seen that the students are taking more ownership of their learning. When asked whether the windows cause the students to be distracted, principal Leslie Whitworth points out that "what's going on in there is more engaging to them that what we are doing out here (in the hallway)."



Changes made to Decker Elementary School will help the campus become a training site for the Think Forward Institute, which trains teachers around the country on implementing Project-based Learning.



A Great Partnership: United Way Capital Area & Decker Middle School

As a part of a network of organizations with the goal of keeping students on track to graduate high school, United Way Capital Area (UWCA) is rolling out intensive support services at Decker Middle School for 2011-2012. UWCA is investing in more than \$1 million to fund programs at three Central Texas middle schools as part of *Middle School Matters*, the organization's youth education initiative. UWCA and its partners will deliver a wide-range of support services including mentoring, tutoring, behavioral health, parent education and quality afterschool programs to students at the middle school. UWCA's plan includes careful integration of the programs at each school with the goal of setting up students for success and making each campus more conducive to learning. Expected results include increasing attendance, test scores and parental involvement and decreasing behavioral referrals. The UWCA goal is that by 2015 95 percent of Central Texas students will graduate from high school on-time. Today, that number is 81 percent.

“Would you like a salad with that?”



Manor ISD Food Service is pleased to be offering a salad bar at Decker MS, Manor MS, Manor New Tech High and Manor HS this year. The salad bar will be available on Monday and Wednesday every week. Students will be able to build their own salads which can include spring mix lettuce, cucumber, tomato and either cheese or the meat option offered that day. Fresh fruit, milk and a bread serving will also be offered with the salad bar. You can find campus menus, nutrition information and much more on the Food Services department website: <http://www.manorisd.net/inside/departments/foodservice>.

September Events at Presidential Meadows Elementary

PME is getting active each late start Monday with our **“Moving Mondays.”** It is a great opportunity to volunteer at your child’s school. Contact Mitzi Krueger at 278-4225 if you are interested.

Come with your dancing shoes on! PME’s **Fall Dance** will be on Friday, September 23rd from 1:35-2:35 pm and cost will be \$1.00.

Browse and buy at PME’s **annual garage sale** on Saturday, September 24th from 8:00-12:00 pm. If you have any items to donate to the school to sale, please let Sandra Turner know at 278-4225.

“Fit Friday” is September 30th and will cost \$1.00.



Presidential Meadows Elementary students help load donations they gathered to be delivered to families of recently deployed military personnel whose homes were destroyed in the Bastrop County fires.





Manor High School News & Resources

Travis County Sheriff's Office and Manor High School Partner for "No Place for Hate" Campaign

"No Place for Hate" (NPFH) is a year-long program that empowers schools to challenge discrimination and bullying and create respectful, safe and bias-free learning environments. MHS celebrated the kick-off to the second year as a NPFH campus during its Open House Night on September 12th. To earn the distinction as a NPFH campus Manor High School will pledge to create an inclusive school environment, implement activities, lesson plans and projects that promote respect for differences, facilitate inter-group dialogue and promote harmony.



New for 2011: Parent Center

Manor High School is excited to announce the opening of "The Parent Center" located in G-221. We will offer parents and families a friendly place to go to use computers, attend classes, volunteer, participate in school activities such as PTO, access community resources, understand notes written in English, discuss situations and meet other parents.

Come to us for anything! We are here for YOU!

MHS Newcomer Academy

The Newcomer Academy is opening its doors to provide individual support, as well as programs and services to enhance the Manor High School experience for ALL newcomer students; offer opportunities for individual student engagement and development for each newcomer student; work collaboratively with parents propelling students in our pursuit of excellence. Please contact the school at 278-4800 for more details.



2nd Annual 5K Fun Run

Saturday, October 1, 2011
Registration 7:00 AM
Race begins 8:00 AM
Manor ISD Athletics Stadium
14832 FM 973

Registration/Payment Deadline (for guaranteed T-shirt): September 19, 2011
On-Site Registration Available: No T-shirt Guarantee

**Come Join Us for the Manor ISD
ZUMBA Fundraiser!**



The Manor ISD Student & Family Support Services Department needs your support to raise funds for families in need.

ZUMBA is the hottest new craze -- a style of intense dance-aerobics workout that fuses hypnotic musical rhythms with pulsating Latin music. It is designed for everyone at ANY level!

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Stay as long as you can stand!

Zumba Instructor: Ana Alaniz

Manor Mustang Stadium

14900 North FM 973

Manor, Texas 78653

\$10.00 Participant Fee
\$5.00 for any MISD Student
(Collected at Gate)

No fee for non-participants, although canned goods would be greatly appreciated!

The stadium bleachers will be open for your family to watch as you ZUMBA on the 50-yard line!

Funds raised will allow Student and Family Support Services staff to purchase basic needs items for MISD students. The canned goods will replenish the MISD Food Pantry.

If you have any questions, please call 278-4095.

MANOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENTS AS SUPPORTERS (PAS) PROGRAM

There are many good reasons for you to get involved in your child's education. Research shows that the more parents are involved, the better their children do in school. Did you know that when parents and educators work together, students have higher grades, better attendance and fewer behavioral issues?

The Parents as Supporters (PAS) program is an incentive program for parents who volunteer at their child's school throughout the year. In order to participate in the PAS program you must comply with the following guidelines:

- Parents must first register to volunteer through the MISD on-line application under the tab, **COMMUNITY**.
- Each campus has different volunteer needs. Consequently, parents must follow the guidelines specified for each campus or department.
- On a yearly basis, parents must complete at least **five volunteer hours per child enrolled in MISD**. If you have more than 4 children, the maximum number of hours is 20 with the exception of hours noted under additional incentive opportunities.
- These hours will be recorded on a time sheet, which will be turned into the Student & Family Support Services Department at Central Administration or to the registrar at your child's campus.

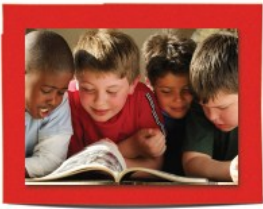
Incentives

After completing the total number of volunteer service hours required for children enrolled in MISD parents will receive:

1. A yard sign or a window decal to proudly display in front of your home or your vehicle. Yard Sign: I proudly served my time for Manor ISD, Parents as Supporters Program, 2011-2012
2. Parents whose children are in need of school supplies will receive an special invitation to receive school supplies 2012 - 2013. As long as supplies are available.
3. Each completed Time Sheet Card will be entered in a special drawing for ONE iPad2 at the end of the school year.



Oak Meadows Elementary
“Parents Engaged in Excellence”



Date: Saturday, October 1, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Oak Meadows Elementary

Please come join us for some exciting workshops,

lunch, free babysitting and great door prizes

(HEB and Walmart Gift Cards)!



Sample of Workshops Offered

Discover Math at Home

Strategies to Improve Your Child’s Reading

Strategies to Improve Your Child’s Writing

Setting Limits

Family Access Portal

Resources for Immigrant Families

Sponsored by OMES, Student and Family Support Services and the ACE After School Program.



It is never too early or too late to explore a child’s educational opportunities. If you suspect a child of having a developmental delay or disability, school can open a window of hope for a brighter future for that child. Special services are available to eligible infants, children and young adults identified with a disability. They may be experiencing difficulties in one or more of the following areas:

Deaf or Hard of Hearing
 Physical Disability
 Traumatic Brain Injury
 Autism

Visual Impairment
 Deaf/Blind
 Learning Disability

Developmental Disabilities
 Emotional Disturbance
 Speech and/or Language Difficulties

Each child is unique and some have special needs, but ALL have the right to an education and the ability to learn. Learning experiences encourage intellectual, social and emotional growth. Children develop self-confidence and the ability to get along with others. Every child has the capacity to learn, to develop and to grow to his or her full potential. Do you know a child who may be in need of special services? Your school can provide needed educational/related services if there is an identified disability and an educational need.

Contact Manor ISD Department of Special Education office at (512) 278-4400 if you have any questions.

Manor ISD Volunteer Program
***“STRONG SCHOOLS,
STRONG COMMUNITIES”***

The district is grateful to all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of our students.

The Manor Independent School District’s Volunteer Program creates many opportunities for individuals to partner. We welcome you to share your time, talents, and become actively involved in the district. **This list of volunteer opportunities includes but isn’t limited to the following:**

- Mentor or tutor
- Help in your child’s classroom
- Become a chess partner
- Expand library resources
- Help in the school office
- Support special projects
- Serve on a committee
- Coach college entrance exams
- Help students apply for college
- Be a guest speaker
- Host faculty and staff interns
- Judge academic competitions
- Sponsor scholarships
- Provide technical resources
-

How do I become a Volunteer or Mentor?

Individuals interested in becoming a volunteer/mentor must complete the online volunteer application: <https://jobs.manorisd.net/winocular/volunteer/>



National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day: October 12th

This event is a joint effort by Kiwi Magazine, MyHealthySchool.com, and the School Nutrition Association. The event is part of “School Lunch: Let’s Grow Healthy,” a campaign from the School Nutrition Association in support of National School Lunch Week (October 10-14). Manor ISD is very proud of our efforts to make school meals healthy and we look forward to hosting our special guests on that day.

Project Mentor



The Manor Independent School District has an immediate need for school-based mentors to support students during the 2011-2012 school year. One hour of your time each week could be a tremendous gift for any student.

For some, it may be a life-altering experience.

Please take a moment to reflect back on how much of a difference it made to have caring adults during your childhood, and consider becoming a mentor. And, don't be surprised if it changes your life for the better.

If you are interested in becoming a Manor ISD mentor, please contact:

Becky Lott, Project Mentor Coordinator,