



October 2011

Stafford Spotlight



Stafford Middle School Mission Statement

In partnership with its families and community members, Stafford Middle School will be a diverse community of learners who value individuality, demonstrate the relevance of learning, perform under a rigorous curriculum, and celebrate the whole child.

Administrative Corner:

Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Duffey, and Mr. Westby

Dear Stafford Students and Families:

The 2011-2012 school year is off to a great start! If you have not heard the news yet, Stafford is very proud of our TEA rating as an Exemplary school as well as Frisco ISD's overall rating of being an Exemplary district. We worked very hard last year but none of that would have been possible without the hard work of our students and the support of our parents. Thank you for all you do on a regular basis for our students, staff and school.

Monday, Oct. 10, is a student holiday but our teachers will be here hard at work to conduct Student Led Conferences. If you are not currently scheduled for a conference but would like to schedule one, please contact one of your child's teachers. Space is limited at this time.

As you probably have heard, we are embracing technology to teach our kids in the ways in which they learn best. Please be sure to check grades on HAC regularly and join your child's Edmodo page if you have not already done so. It is also a good idea to check the new policies regarding mobile devices for this year.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help make this year another great one.

October SNAPSHOT...and beyond!

10/10— Student Led Conference Day
(9:45am — 6:00pm)

Volleyball:

10/13 vs. Griffin

10/20 vs. Hunt

10/27 vs. Cobb

10/31 vs. Pioneer Heritage

Football (7th grade is the first date listed and 8th grade is the second date):

10/11 and 10/12 vs. Griffin

10/17 and 10/18 vs. Hunt

10/24 and 10/25 vs. Cobb

10/31 and 11/1 vs. Pioneer Heritage

10/12— Choir Concert at 6:00pm

10/14— Frisco Nation

10/18— Fall Picture Retakes

10/19— Band Concert at 6:00

11/10— Veteran's Day/Curriculum Night

11/11— "Annie" at 7:00pm

11/12— "Annie" at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

Doing Whatever It Takes!

October 2011

Counselor's Corner



We hope all the students are transitioning well and you have received resources if you needed anything!

College Week:

The students really enjoyed College Week and the activities we planned to help them make decisions about college for the future!

Watch Dogs:

We had Watch Dogs Pizza Night on September 28th. If you missed being here for the evening, you can still volunteer to be a Watch Dogs dad. Please call the front office or pick up a Watch Dogs volunteer form from Stafford.

College Education:

During the month of October, we will be talking to all the 7th graders in regards to college education and the importance of college.

Red Ribbon Week:

Red Ribbon Week is October 24th-28th. This is a fun week filled with activities each day for students to become aware of the dangers of drug use. We promote abstinence and drug awareness during the week. Please check the Stafford counseling website for the events of the week.

Healthy Relationships:

We will be talking with all three grade levels about Healthy Relationships. We will base our information on what is grade specific and the needs for each grade level.

Counselor Stafford Website:

Please check the counseling website for upcoming events.

Front Office Staff News

Attendance Notes

By notifying the front office when a student is absent, the attendance system notifies all of your child's teachers that he/she will not be in class and the reason for the absence. Please let the office know when your child will not be at school.

A note with the reason for the absence should be turned in any time that a student misses all or part of a day of school. Three school days are allowed to submit a note to the office.

An email from the parent is acceptable as an attendance note. Sending an email on the morning of a student's absence will notify school staff that your child is not going to be at school and will be printed and filed fulfilling the attendance note requirements. Three school days are allowed to submit a note to the office.

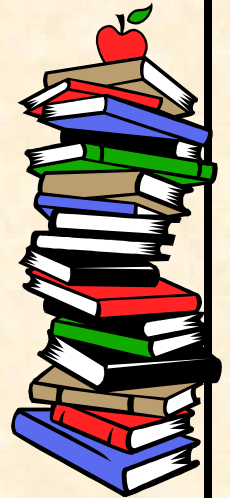
When a student misses school for an appointment, a doctor's note must be received for the absence to be marked excused. Three school days are allowed to submit a note to the office. Doctor's notes may be faxed to 469-633-5110

Call in absences to 469-633-5100 or 469-633-5107.
Email attendance notes to woods@friscoisd.org.
Doctor notes may be faxed to 469-633-5110

The Stafford Library Buzz

The library has been a busy place the past two months. All students have been in the library to check out books and have been introduced to Overdrive, our new eBook checkout system. 7th and 8th grade have been in for research and I know that 6th grade will be doing this soon.

In the next couple of weeks we are looking forward to students coming back in to check out their next set of books. We are also going to start preparing for our author visit in December by Jordan Sonnenblick.



FROM THE NURSE

On September 14, 2011 we had our 7th grade hearing and vision screening.

Our 6th grade spinal/scoliosis screening will be on November 7th during English. All 6th grade parents will receive a reminder notification a few weeks before the screening. During the screening, a trained examiner inspects the student's spine as he or she stands and bends forward. The girls will need to wear an exercise bra, halter top, tube top, or a two-piece bathing suit under their shirt, and shorts or pants. The boys will be screened without their shirt, so the spine can be visualized & properly assessed. Privacy will be provided.



Gentle Reminder

Please remember that if your child has a fever, do not send him or her to school. If a student has a fever, he or she must stay home until fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication (such as Tylenol or Motrin).



English as a Second Language

We are up for an
Amazing year !!

Kelly Maxey ESL Teacher

Marjorie Palomo ESL Aide

October 2011

6th Grade News

Math (Coach Black-Alpha/

Mr. True-Delta)

In the first six weeks we hit the ground running and covered several topics including: integers, divisibility, prime factorization, GCF and LCM. The Pre-AP students also completed their first round of enrichment problems that were very challenging. The On-Level students also had their first project over GCF and LCM. We had a lot of creative projects and they were a lot of fun to grade! For the next six weeks, we are moving into fractions, fractions and more fractions!

Additionally, we also want to make sure that your child is completing their weekly Practice Packets. They are going to be the key to their success in math this year. HAC and edmodo should be checked daily for updates and important information.

English

(Mrs. Mughal, Alpha/Mrs. Rios, Delta)

In the first few weeks of school, we have been writing in a variety of ways. To begin the year, students told us about themselves in a Friendly Letter. Then we focused on aspects of the 6 Traits of Writing, and we wrote responses that included character traits. Students also related their own life to a character in a short story called, "Eleven" and in Pre-AP English, connected to a character from "The Westing Game" novel. Also, we reviewed five different kinds of nouns & the students are also learning Greek and Latin roots to gain meaning to unknown words. In the next marking period, we will compose a Personal Experience Narrative. On-level English will connect writing activities to "Where the Red Fern Grows" from reading class. Pre-AP English will begin the novel, "Stargirl". We are continually impressed with our sixth graders! Continue to check HAC and Edmodo online for grades, due dates, etc.



Science (Mrs. Harvey / Mrs. Koenig)

We have completed our Safety—Physical Properties unit. Students were introduced to the formula of Density. We LOVE Density! Sixth graders had a fabulous time exploring density with Coke, oranges and various liquids. We worked with water displacement to find the volume of irregular solids. Triple Beam Balances were used to find the mass of liquids and solids. Students discovered that physical properties do not change the chemical nature of matter (like color, smell, density..).

We are headed straight for the Chemical Properties and Chemical Changes unit. Get your Periodic Table of Elements ready!

Element # 16, 15, 18, 73, 7, 16

... S P A R T A N S ...

Social Studies

(Coach Jackson—Alpha/Mrs. McKinnis-Delta)

In the 1st 6 weeks we reviewed and learned some new map skills. We also began our look at the 5 Themes of Geography.

We are currently moving into the 7 Elements Of Culture where we will look at things that shape culture, such as, Government, Religion, Arts, Customs and Traditions, Economics, Social Organization and Language.



Reading

(Mrs. Greggains/ Coach Harvey)

We're off to a great start! We've worked on characterization, plot, and theme during these first six weeks. We are currently learning about figurative language and how to identify it while reading literature. Looking forward to the second six weeks, we will be doing a novel study of *Where the Red Fern Grows* (always a tear jerker!).



Doing Whatever It Takes!

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7th Grade News

MATH~

Wow! It's hard to believe we are $\frac{1}{6}$ or .166... of the way through school already. During the first eight weeks of school the regular math classes discussed integers, fractions, decimals and the coordinate plane, while Pre-Algebra (PAP) classes learned about the above referenced concepts along with scientific notation and irrational numbers! Before you know it, we'll be $\frac{1}{3}$ or .33... of the way through school! Thanks for sending us such great students!

ENGLISH

This first six weeks, English students were busy working with their new workbooks and curriculum. Regular English classes were introduced to the Writing Coach workbooks which we will utilize with our grammar activities and the Pre-AP classes are finding out about Springboard, the first curriculum for Pre-AP programs we have used. Technology is dominating us with Edmodo, Google Docs, and textbooks online. Know your codes! In Pre-AP, we are looking forward to our Folklore and Mythology unit while Regular English will continue to develop their writing skills as we prepare for STAAR.



Hope to see everyone at the Student Led Conferences on October 10th!

SOCIAL STUDIES

Time continues to fly by in TX History! We have discovered how TX was explored and settled by Spain. We have learned the different regions, resources, and climate of Texas. We look forward to Mexican rule of TX, colonization of TX, and on to Independence and the TX Revolution. Should be very exciting and interesting!



READING

We've started off the year wonderfully! We're studying the Hero's Journey and used "Shrek" as an example to study. We just started *Freak the Mighty* and will be focusing on the Hero's Journey, as well as reviewing characterization, plot, and theme. Next six weeks, we'll be finishing *FTM* and then starting *The Outsiders*. We're very excited about working with your children.

SCIENCE

This year, science starts off Unit 1 with Lab Safety and Procedures, including how to use the Lab Tools and the steps to the Scientific Method. Students will now be jumping into the study of the human body, focusing on the parts and functions of the cell.

We look forward to a great year!

October 2011

8th Grade News

MATH

ALGEBRA I students have been working hard on functional relationships and learning all the new algebra language. They can look forward to writing, solving and graphing linear functions (with and without graphing calculators), and applying them to real world situations.

Pre-AP students have been working on developing critical thinking skills on enrichment days as well as mastering the on-level curriculum. They have been working with operations of rational numbers as well as proportional relationships. During the next six weeks they will continue proportion relationships and begin working with algebraic patterns.

8th grade math students have been learning how to be their own learning advocate while working with operations of rational numbers as well as proportional relationships. Next six weeks they will continue proportion relationships and begin working with algebraic patterns.

READING

8th graders have already read two stories, started their first novel, and annotation has begun! "Raymond's Run" and "Flowers for Algernon" definitely set the tone for our Challenges and Choices unit, which continues next six weeks with the Colonial times novel, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Students will be working on chapter vocabulary in context.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We are off to a great start in 8th grade Social Studies! We have just completed a unit on American Colonization and will be starting the American Revolution. The unit on the American Revolution will consist of an extensive study on the causes of the Revolution, the writing of the Declaration of Independence, and the battles and events of the war. Please be sure to join us for Curriculum Night and enjoy our revolutionary tavern!

ENGLISH

Writing has been the focus of our first unit in English, with students writing Short Answer Question responses, kernel essays, request letters, and their own definitions of heroism. We also began some challenging grammar and they'll be using their new skills to write narration for multimedia timelines of their own lives.

In our next unit, students will write a short story and an expository essay about Voices of Courage. We look forward to sharing with each other as we grow in our writing this year!

SCIENCE

8th grade Science
(August 22-September30)



In science for the last six weeks we have been studying the Characteristics of the Universe. In this unit we have also incorporated the Lunar Cycle and Tides. The final chapter test for this unit was on October 5th and that grade will be recorded in the next six-week reporting period.

October 3-November 4th)

In the next grading period we will be studying Weather, Ocean Systems and the Water Cycle.

What's New

*Pre-AP classes will have a special project every six weeks relating to each unit. These projects will be used to create a portfolio at the end of the year.



October 2011

Stafford Fine Arts

Stafford Sound Machine

The Back-to-School-Get-to-Know-You-Extravaganza was a HUGE success. Thank you to everyone involved including our brave chaperones for making it the best party ever at Stafford!

Upcoming:

Oct. 4th & 11th - Football Game Performances
 Oct. 19th - Fall Concert @ STMS
 Oct. 22nd - All-Region Clinic @ STMS
 Oct. 25th - STMS Pep Rally during the school day
 Oct. 28th - High School Night with the Lone Star Band

All band parents - please make sure Mr. Holzer has your most up-to-date contact information.

Bookmark our website www.staffordsoundmachine.com

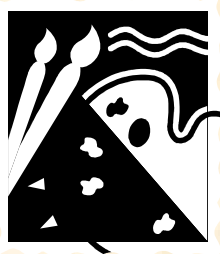


Orchestra

We're off to a great start in orchestra. Our beginning students have already had their demo concert and did a fantastic job. In the second six weeks the beginners will be learning how to use the bow and left hand combined as well as new rhythms. Our symphonic students will be learning great music for the Veteran's Day performance in November. We will be treating this as our fall performance rather than trying to schedule a fall concert. I'll be keeping you posted with details. If you have any questions, check the orchestra website or email me at:

boemera@friscoisd.org

-Amy Boemer



Art

HELLO spARTans!! We are really getting creative in Art class this year. Here are some projects we have worked on : Summer Activity/Vacation Brochure, Oil Pastel Self Portraits, Black and White VALUES self portraits, Pinwheels for Peace –world wide Art installation!, Art T-shirt contest (CONGRATULATIONS to winners Dontre Ingersoll & Kaitlyn Davis!), and we have built artist portfolios and painted on them with themes of "fantasy landscapes", Sonia Delauney "orphism, and Henri Matisse style designs. We are working on Zentangles pattern designs, Line abstractions and Complimentary Cityscapes. Art Mania (art club) started off with a bang and we created some Rockin' Splatter Paints! Wooooooh was that messy!!! (BUT FUN)! Next meeting on Oct 19, bring a white t-shirt and we will make tie dye t-shirts for art club yearbook photo! Don't miss out! We are going to have some fun in the computer lab soon studying computer aided art along with our Elements & Principles of Art.

CHOIR



Choir is off to a wonderful start! We are sight-reading pitch and rhythm, singing with proper vocal technique, and rehearsing some great music. Our Ice Cream Social and our first night selling volleyball concessions were a great success. The Stafford Choir Association (booster club) has officially been established, and students have elected class officers and earned lots of Choir Bucks! All are welcome to attend our Fall Concert on Wed, Oct. 12 in the Stafford Cafetorium. ~ Mrs. Bond (BondAm@friscoisd.org or 469-633-5125)

Theatre

We have a lot happening in our wonderful world of Theatre! The 6th grade classes studied Pantomime and Stage Combat! In Theatre I, the students studied Characterization and learned how to really BECOME a character. In Technical Theatre, students learned about Advertising and Propaganda. In Theatre II, students are studying the professional acting method Viewpoints. The 2nd 6-weeks are sure to be just as exciting!



Don't forget to check the Theatre Edmodo page for your class, and keep up with the website, too!



Upcoming Dates:

November 3 & 4: Children's Theatre Performances at Robertson and Boals Elementary (Theatre I Students)
 November 11 at 7 P.M. and 12 AT 2 P.M. & 7 P.M.: school wide production of *Annie, Jr!!*

Doing Whatever It Takes!

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Stafford Electives

Skills for Living-Mrs. Gosselin



The first six weeks we discussed topics such as goal setting, communication skills, and personality types.

For the second six weeks, we will focus on child development. The students will learn the skills needed to care for a newborn by caring for a "Flour Baby." They will carry a 5 lb bag of flour dressed as baby to all of their classes and at home for one week. They will learn how to hold a baby, how to change its diaper, and many other skill needed to care for a baby.



Spanish-Mrs. Saldivar

Spanish IA- Students began the first six weeks learning classroom expressions, greetings and goodbyes. We also learned songs to help them memorize Spanish pronouns and the verb ser (to be). The students will need to study their vocabulary words every day to be successful in class.

Spanish IB— Students are currently reviewing all concepts learned last year. We are still reviewing all the infinitive verbs and continue to practice the pronunciation of vocabulary words.



Teen Leadership

Teen Leadership students are laying the foundation as they become future leaders. This foundation includes developing relationships, looking at ourselves, and understanding ourselves. Our first speech of the year was just completed with all TL kids doing an outstanding job!

Health

Health classes are currently working on Health Skills and Consumer Health. We have completed our first Health Behavior Contract in an effort to improve our overall health. We will be looking at nutrition during the second Six Weeks.

6th Grade Computer Literacy

Students have most recently been working on typing skills, proper posture while keyboarding, and typing accurately in the program *All The Right Type*. We will continue working in this program as we explore other areas such as Hardware, Copyright Laws, Social Networking and Privacy, and Internet Searches. Please remember that students may *not* take work home to finish. They may come in for tutorials, offered every morning and afternoon, if additional time is needed.

Sabrina Redwine, redwines@friscoisd.org

Yearbook

On sale now! Visit the Stafford website to order.

Sabrina Redwine, redwines@friscoisd.org

Broadcasting

This year's Broadcast teams have been busy! We started the year by creating review presentations covering topics from Video Production 1 that will be used throughout the year. We also created Broadcast passes and are currently designing T-shirts! Our first unofficial broadcast was our College Week Broadcast interviewing Stafford teachers and staff about their colleges, and it was a huge success! The class is also finishing up their This is My School video project which will be shown on the FISD television channel. The students have learned how to use Final Cut Express, the difficult software we will use for all their broadcasts this year, and now we are ready to go! Our first official broadcast will air at school on Wed, Oct. 19 during school and will be posted on the Broadcast website soon after. After that you can expect new broadcasts about every 2 weeks.

We hope you will check it out!

~ Mrs. Bond
BondAm@friscoisd.org
469-633-5125



Doing Whatever It Takes!

Athletics

Boys' Athletics

Football season is in full swing with all four of our Stafford teams enjoying very successful seasons so far. 7th grade plays Monday nights and 8th grade plays on Tuesday nights so come out and enjoy a game!

Cross Country practice will begin Nov. 2nd for anyone who is interested. Any 7th or 8th grade student can run cross country. They do not have to be in athletics.

Basketball tryouts will be Nov. 9th, 10th and 11th. Students must be in athletics to tryout for basketball.

It has been a great start to our year!



Girls' Athletics

Girl's are working hard this season, and started playing games the second week of school. Come and support our volleyball teams on Thursday night and cheer on your Spartans to victory!

Those girls not in volleyball have been working extremely hard in the off season program to prepare for the upcoming basketball season.



Parent Involvement News!

Please join us for Picnic with the Parents the 2nd Friday of each month. Your kids would love to have you here to eat lunch with them!

We have lots of opportunities to volunteer at school. Please contact us to see how you can get involved.



PTA NEWS

Come & join us for Spirit Night all day on October 19th, at Cane's Chicken on Eldorado Parkway.

Be sure to let them know you are from Stafford Middle School!

Thank you for your support!