

The Eagles Express



September 23, 2009

*Booker T. Washington Senior High School
And High School For The Engineering Professions*

Mark T. Bedell, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The first grading cycle of the 2009-2010 school year is now coming to an end. We would like to thank all of our parents and guardians who participated in open house. Open house 2009 was by far the largest amount of participation during my three years as principal.

We are asking all parents and guardians to remain involved in your child's academic and social progress at Washington. Many high schools experience low parental involvement as parents tend to allow their children to have more freedom. This is the most important time of a student's life. We ask that you join our Parents, Teachers, and Students Association (PTSA). The dues are \$10.00 for the year. We also ask that our parents/guardians also join the various booster clubs or volunteer at Washington/HSEP. Your involvement will help propel our school to exemplary status.

The improved program offerings are now in effect. All students in grade 9 will have an opportunity to choose a specific career pathway offered through our Career and Technology department. The programs are Cosmetology, Technology Education, Business Education, Office Management, and the Ready, Set, & Teach career pathway.

As we embark on another school year, I look forward to working with your children and building a partnership with you. The Washington High School faculty & staff remain dedicated to building and fostering a caring, learning, and nurturing environment for the children we serve. Washington High School will only be as good as the energy, commitment, and support that we put into your child's education. With your help, we are on the way to excellence!

Yours in Education,

Mark T. Bedell Principal

Grade Speed Training will take place on September 26, 2009

Washington High School will conduct GradeSpeed training in the library on September 25th from 1pm-3:30pm and in room C110 from 8:30am-10:00am on Saturday, September 26, 2009. The official start date for parent access is September 28, 2009.

2009 – 2010 Student School Hours



Monday-Friday 8:00a.m. – 3:10p.m.

7:50am	First Bell	
8:00am-8:53am	1 st Period	53 Minutes
8:59am-9:49am	2 nd Period	50 Minutes
9:55am-10:52am	3 rd Period	57 Minutes
10:52am-11:23am	Lunch I	31 Minutes
10:58am-11:48am	4 th Period	50 Minutes
11:54am-12:44pm	5 th Period	50 Minutes
11:48am-12:19pm	Lunch II	31 Minutes
12:25pm-1:15pm	5 th Period	50 Minutes
10:58am-11:48am	4 th Period	50 Minutes
11:54am-12:44pm	5 th Period	50 Minutes
12:44pm-1:15pm	Lunch III	31 Minutes
1:21pm-2:11pm	6 th Period	50 Minutes
2:17pm-3:10pm	7 th Period	50 Minutes
3:10pm	Student Dismissal	
3:15pm-6:00pm	After School Activities	

Visitors

All visitors must report to the Main Office and check in. No visitor will be allowed to visit the facility without a visitor's pass. In an effort to protect our students and staff, our campus administrators and officers will question all unauthorized individuals without a visitor's pass as this constitutes trespassing. Please do not interrupt the instructional process without first setting up an appointment with your child's teacher. **A valid state issued photo ID will be required to enter our campus.**

Thanks for your cooperation.

seek Wisdom!

2009 – 2010

Important Dates to Remember



Parental Involvement Dates 1-3:30pm 9/25/2009, 11/24/2009, & 2/12/2010

Report Cards to Parents – Six Week Grading Periods

1 st	October 14, 2009	4 th	March 3, 2010
2 nd	November 18, 2009	5 th	April 22, 2010
3 rd	January 13, 2010	6 th	June 2, 2010

Special Note:

- Report cards are issued to students at the end of the school day in homeroom.

No School for Students: September 28, 2009 (Fall Holiday)
November 25-27, 2009 (Thanksgiving)
December 21 – January 4, 2010 (Winter Holidays)
January 18, 2010 (Martin Luther King Day)
March 15-19, 2010, (Spring Break)

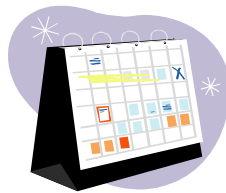
Major Testing Dates

October 20 – 23, 2009	Exit Level Retest TAAS/TAKS
January 20-28, 2010	Stanford 10/Aprena Grades 1 – 11
March 1 – 5, 2010	TAKS/SDAA, Exit Level TAAS/TAKS
March 3, 2010	TAKS ELA/Reading 9-Exit Level
April 28 – May 1, 2010	TAKS/SDAA II (various grades and subjects)
April 28 – May 1, 2010	TAAS/TAKS Exit Level Retest
May 1, 2010	Make-up 10 th Grade Math TAKS

Student Early Dismissal Dates: 9/25 & 11/24/2009; 1/15, 2/12, 3/12, & 4/1/2010
Early Dismissal time 12:15 and Lunch is 12:20-12:45pm

SAT Program Test Calendar: 10/10, 11/7, & 12/5/2009; 1/23, 3/13, 5/1, 6/5/2010
ACT Program Test Calendar: 10/24, & 12/12/2009; 2/6, 4/10, & 6/12/2010

At A Glance.....



9/25 – BTW FB vs Furr @ Delmar – 7:30pm
10/2 – BTW FB vs. Scarborough @ Dyer-7:30pm
10/9 – BTW FB vs. Worthing @ Delmar-7:30pm
10/16 – BTW FB vs. Sterling @ Delmar (Homecoming) 7:30pm
10/24 – BTW FB vs. Kashmere @ Delmar – 7:00pm
10/31- BTW FB vs. Jones @ Barnett- 6:00pm
11/7- BTW FB vs. Wheatley @ Delmar-6:00pm

Girls Volleyball

9/30- BTW vs. Jones @ Barnett 5:15pm
10/3- BTW vs. Wheatley @ Barnett 4pm
10/7- BTW vs. Furr @ Delmar 4pm
10/9-BTW vs.Scarborough @ Delmar 4p
10/14- BTW vs. Worthing @ Butler 5:15p
10/17- BTW vs. Sterling @ Delmar 5pm
10/20-BTW vs.Kashmere @ Delmar 5:15

Closed Campus Rules Enforced

BTW is a closed campus high school. Students are not allowed to leave campus without written administrative approval. Violation of this rule will result in suspension and a daytime curfew violation ticket. All students are encouraged to eat the school prepared lunch or bring their own.



Keys to Success

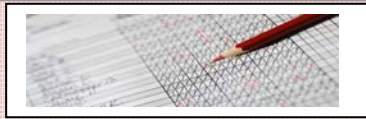
The Washington staff believes a positive relationship among the student, teacher and parents is a primary factor in a successful high school experience. Maintaining a focus on the four key concepts listed below will increase student success and build a solid foundation for learning.

Attendance - Students who attend class on time and recognize the importance of a positive daily work ethic achieve a high level of success.

Academics - Students who recognize the importance of classroom work have a higher class rank and better post secondary opportunities upon graduation.

Attitude - School and life teach us the power of a positive attitude. Listening, caring and connecting with others help to build a positive attitude.

Activities - Students who choose to become involved in activities outside the classroom broaden their high school experience. Whether it is a school activity or club, a community activity or volunteer event, **GET INVOLVED!**



ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

Teachers cannot teach students who are not present. Absences of pupils from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process. Students who miss school experience difficulty in achieving the maximum benefit from school; regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained. The contact of the students with one another in the classroom and participation in well-planned instructional activities under the guidance of a competent teacher are vital to learning. Students who are absent interrupt the educational process of other students by disrupting the teacher who must provide special attention to the student who has been absent. We expect high school students to be responsible for many of their own actions and capable of making reasonable decisions; therefore, attendance at school is the responsibility of students as well as their parents. The responsibility of the administration and faculty is to provide instruction and to inform parents of the absence from class. **Please Help Us!!!!**

Connect Ed

HISD has purchased a web-based call-out notification system to improve communication between the schools and parents at home. The new system allows the district and the individual school to record, schedule, send, and track important information to thousands of parents simultaneous. You will be better informed about school happenings. If your address and /or phone number changes during the school year, you must report that address change (and new telephone number) immediately to the attendance office. **In order to ensure the safety of our students — especially in an emergency — and to allow for timely parent and student contacts, it is critical that the school have accurate addresses and phone numbers for all its students and their families.**



Student Discipline and Dress Code

In order for all students to have a successful experience in school, we must provide an environment that is conducive to everyone having the optimal environment for learning. Student behavior and dress are two areas that can be very distracting and counterproductive to the instructional environment. We need your support in order to ensure that we provide the optimal environment for all students to learn on a daily basis. We are looking forward to a great 2009 – 2010 school year for teaching and learning. We have met with each grade level during the second week of school and expectations for behavior and dress were reviewed.

Students will sign for and receive the HISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook during the first week of school. The Parent/Student Handbook will be issued during the second week of school. I encourage you to **read and review both the Student Code of Conduct and the Parent/Student Handbook carefully with your child.** The Student Code of Conduct clearly explains the approved Code of Conduct and the consequences for student misconduct in the Houston Independent School District. Working together will certainly give us a great start on decreasing distracting issues and increasing teaching and learning! Thank you for your support!

Textbooks and Lockers

Textbooks will be issued to each teacher by class periods. Students will be issued textbooks from the classroom teacher. Students are responsible for lost or misplaced textbooks and failure to pay will result in transcripts being withheld by the school.

Lockers will be issued to students during the third week of school once permanent homerooms have been established. Students may use their lockers before 1st & lunch periods, and after school. Following this schedule will reduce the amount of interruptions throughout the day and minimize tardies.

 SCHEDULE



Administrative Structure for 2009-2010

Here is a brief overview of the administrative team at Washington HS. Ms. Lashonda Bilbo-Ervin is the Dean of Instruction and the administrator over English and special education. Dr. Dai Chuong is a Dean of Students who is responsible for math and fine arts. She is also the administrator assigned over students with the last name starting with **A-L**.

Mr. Victor Fulton is an Assistant Principal who is responsible for science and R.O.T.C. He is the administrator assigned over students with the last name starting with **M-Z**. Mr. Emile Fair is the administrator over discipline and the Athletic Director. Ms. Jyoti Malhan is the Magnet Coordinator and Mr. Lloyd Lawrence is the Academic Coach.

Texas and Compulsory Attendance

Regular attendance at school is not just a good idea, it's the law. It is also the greatest single factor in determining success in school. (If you're not here, you can't learn). Texas law requires students who have not yet completed the academic year in which their 18th birthday falls to be enrolled in and attend school each school day. Students with excessive absences may be referred to the district attendance officer for further action. The Houston Independent School District expects all students to attend school regularly and to be on time for classes in order to benefit from the instructional program and to develop habits of punctuality, self discipline, and responsibility.

Tardies

Tardiness creates a problem for both teachers and other students. It interferes with the flow of classes, and it creates unnecessary disruptions, no matter how slight the problem may appear. There are two different kinds of tardies that our school must address: **tardies to school** and **tardies to class**. Being on time to school is extremely important - it is the responsibility of students and parents to make sure that students arrive at school in time to be in class at 8:00 a.m.. Excessive tardies will be referred for disciplinary action. **Parents, please help!!!!**

Teamwork is a Must!