

The Eagles Express



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

Mark T. Bedell, Principal

May 28, 2009

The Future of BTW program offerings

Many high schools in HISD and surrounding areas continue to grow in program offerings which ultimately attract students. Our goal is to introduce new programs to Washington HS. We will add the Ready, Set, and Teach career pathway into our school for the 2009-2010 year. This course sequence will be added to C.T.E (Career and Technology Education) program. We will also add Business management, Office management, and Technology Education career pathways starting in August 2009. Washington currently offers Cosmetology as a career pathway along with Engineering. We will have to put a hold on the nursing program as we continue to enhance and upgrade the existing engineering magnet program. Your support with ideas and recommendations are always appreciated. We want to enhance the current programs and introduce unique programs to both compete with other high school and attract more students.

Your help is needed!!!

Please join the PTSA next year as we work on raising money to purchase incentives such as academic letterman jackets for students who make the honor roll and i-pods for students with perfect attendance.

GradeSpeed

A web based Grading System

Houston ISD will implement the online grading system known as Grade Speed for the 2009-2010 school year. Parents will have unprecedented access to their children's grades, assignments, attendance records, report cards, discipline incidents and more. Parents can even set "triggers" to automatically alert them via email, phone call or text message when their students receive low grades or are marked absent. Be on the look out for this new program in August.

SCHEDULE



Dress Code Proposed Changes

Many of our students adhered to the dress code this year. The proposed change is to allow students to wear organization (i.e. sports, band, gents, Mexican American Engineering Society, Honor Society, etc.) t-shirts. Male students will be allowed to wear khaki shorts (blue or beige). Students will be permitted to wear white or black colored t-shirts over or under the collared polo style BTW shirt. See the Parent/Student handbook for specifics. Washington will not tolerate gang related behavior and/or the wearing of gang identified articles of clothing and/or other gang symbols. Any articles of clothing, symbols, or emblems thought to signify gang membership will be banned.

Tardiness has been 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.

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.

Teamwork is a Must!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to thank our faculty, staff, students, parents, alumni members, and business partners for another successful year at Washington HS. The school is now set to have a strong 2009-2010 school year. We feel that all of the pieces are in place and obtaining a recognized status is very obtainable.

We have accomplished many goals this year. All of the core curriculum classrooms have Smart Board technology along with a LCD projector. All non-core classrooms have document cameras along with LCD projectors. It is our intent to provide all teachers with Smart Boards before August 2009. Finally, we will have four computer-labs available for student use by August 2009.

The TAKS test results are in, and our scores are similar to last year's scores. Preliminary data shows 59% percent in Math, 70% in Science, 83% in Reading/ELA, and 92% in Social Studies. There is dire need to improve in our 9th grade math scores which weigh heavily on our accountability ratings. We are seeking intervention specialists from our alumni base to help enhance the focus of our 9th graders. In addition, we have purchased the Texas Web Tutor program for math. The overall preliminary rating for Washington HS is academically acceptable.

I would like to commend our parents for helping to raise money to purchase computers. I want to thank our general alumni for continuing to raise scholarship money for our graduating students. Finally, the faculty & staff would like to thank all of our business partners and financial contributors for their continuous dedication towards BTW/HSEP.

Yours in education,

Mark T. Bedell

Mark T. Bedell, Principal

Washington HS in the News

Channel 39 will air a segment on *Going Green* on Saturday, June 6th at 2pm and June 7th at 10:00am. The segment will cover the biofuel project where BTW/HSEP students will turn cafeteria scraps into Ketone Fuel to power small engine units. We would like to thank Dr. Le for his innovative ideas and for obtaining the runner up award for HISD secondary teacher of the year.

2009 – 2010 Student School Hours



Monday- Friday 8:00a.m. – 3:10 p.m.

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

Visitors

All visitors must report to the Main Office and sign 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



Second semester last day of school Thursday, May 28, 2009 – 11:45a.m.
BTW/HSEP 2009 Commencement on Saturday, May 30, 2009 @ TSU at 7pm
Last report card will be available June 3, 2009

Special Note:

Summer School Registration June 1-4, 2009
Summer School Dates June 4-July 2, 2009

Report Cards to Parents 2009-2010 – Six Week Grading Periods

1 st October 14, 2009	4 th March 3, 2010
2 nd November 18, 2009	5 th April 21, 2010
3 rd January 13, 2010	6 th June 2, 2010

Early Registration	Engineering June 24, and August 5, 2009
General Registration	August 3-5, 2009
First Day of School	August 24, 2009
Last Day of 1st semester	December 18, 2009
First Day of 2nd semester	January 5, 2010
Last day of school	May 27, 2010

Major Testing Dates Remaining

July 14–17, 2009 TAKS Exit Level Retest

PTSA Meetings Date (Every 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm) 2009-2010
President Yvonne Green. SDMC Meetings Date (Every 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 3:45pm)

Honor Roll – 5th Six Weeks

All A's	All A's One B	All A's One B	All A's Two B's
Adam Taylor (10)	Michael Welch (12)	Francesca Ampudia (9)	Demarquin Holmes (12)
Nicholas Robbins (10)	Daimon Hanchett (11)	Oscar Lazaro (9)	Allante Loville (10)
Javier Faz (10)	Yanira Hernandez (11)		Cassandra Martinez (10)
Frankie Mojekwu (9)	Rosa Hernandez Ortiz (11)		Aaron Starnes (10)
	Sky Newberry (9)		Kingtrix Fernandez (11)
			Sharnique Riles (11)

At A Glance.....



Boys Varsity 2009-2010 Football Schedule

8/27- Vs. Yates @ Delmar-7pm
 9/3- Vs. Bellaire @ Delmar-7pm
 9/19- Vs. Livingston @ Delmar-6pm
 9/25- Vs. Furr @ Delmar-7:30pm
 10/2- Against Scarborough @ Dyer-7:30pm
 10/9- Vs. Worthing @ Delmar-7:30pm
 10/16- Vs. Sterling @ Delmar-7:30pm
 10/24- Against Kashmere @ Delmar-7:00pm
 10/31- Against Jones @ Barnett-6:00pm

Girls' Varsity Volleyball Schedule

8/11- Vs. Aldine-McArthur- BTW 4:30-7:30p
 8/14- @ North Forest- 4:30-7:30p
 8/18- Vs. North Forest- BTW- 4:30-7:30p
 8/21- @ Aldine-McArthur- 4:30-7:30p
 8-27-29 @ Aldine Varsity Tournament TBA
 9/9- Furr @ Barnett- 5:15pm
 9/11- Vs. Scarborough @ Delmar-4:00pm
 9/14- At Aldine @ Aldine-4:30-6pm
 9/15- Vs. Worthing @ Delmar-6:30pm

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 has 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 POLICY

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. We need updates on new phone numbers. Our current contact percentage is 66%. Therefore it is imperative that parents & guardians immediately submit valid phone numbers 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.**

