SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE “ACHIEVEMENTS IN BISD”

As we head into the fall (hopefully with some beautiful fall-like weather) in Bastrop ISD, we are pleased and proud about our recent ratings from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) in the Texas Performance and Accountability System (All campuses rated as “Met Standard”, with BHS, CCHS and CCIS receiving “Academic Distinction” in all three rated categories). We are also pleased that the Austin-American Statesman and KXAN News gave Bastrop ISD, our campuses and the communities we serve due recognition and positive press regarding our academic and financial performance. Not mentioned in these newspaper and TV news reports is another performance-related area of improvement that bears mentioning to you as staff members, parents and patrons of our district. The Education Resource Group (ERG), an education data-analysis organization - has reported that Bastrop ISD’s rank in their Academic Performance Index among other similar districts statewide has changed from 177th in 2010 ..... to 58th in 2012 (BISD’s rank in this index that calculates state assessment data such as TAKS, STAAR and EOC, as well as SAT and ACT - has ranged from 181st in 2003 to 120th in 2011).

Our teachers, students, administrators at all campuses and at the BISD Service Center, as well as our support staff have worked extremely hard over the last 2-3 years to create and implement the necessary structure and systems that not only helped to make this achievement become a reality, but to hopefully have sustained performance year in and year out in our school district. We are growing, and with growth comes additional challenges and the need for both structure and innovation. We are working to have more and more of our students become not only “college-ready”, but to be successful after entering their chosen institute of higher learning. We also understand that we have students desiring and in need of career or “work-ready” skills, as they choose to directly enter the workforce after graduation from either Bastrop HS or Cedar Creek HS. We are working to implement the proper endorsement areas and new graduation plan-specific courses that are called for in new legislation from this recent session in HB5.

We are also pleased to be able to lower the overall tax rate for our patrons and taxpayers in BISD, by decreasing the I&S tax rate (the debt side) by two cents. This is possible by virtue of several bond refunding (refinancing) opportunities that we have taken advantage of over the last 18 months, as well as increased tax values with rebuilding and commercial activity since the 2011 wildfires. Our refunding efforts have resulted in debt savings of over 5.7 millions dollars. This debt decrease not only allows us to pass on the savings to the taxpayer with the two cent tax cut in the short term, but also lowers our indebtedness over the existing longer term of debt from bonds passed and issued over the last several years in BISD. We hope this decrease is met with a positive and appreciative view by our loyal and supportive taxpayers.

We look forward to a wonderful 2013-2014 school year in Bastrop ISD! We appreciate your support and your willingness to partner with us as we strive to improve each day and each year in the service to all students, parents and community members. In Bastrop ISD, we believe in our students, want to make a profound I-MPACT in their lives, work to strive for S-success and..... through this - will help shape their D-estiny!

Thank you,
Steve Murray, Bastrop ISD Superintendent

BISD RANKED ‘SUPERIOR’ IN FINANCIAL RATING

Bastrop Independent School District officials announced that the district received a final rating of “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the state’s highest, demonstrating the quality of Bastrop ISD’s financial management and reporting system.

“Bastrop ISD and the extremely capable Office of Financial Services led by Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Callahan, have received a “Superior Rating” (highest rating given) in FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) from the Texas Education Agency for the 11th consecutive year. We are proud of all of the folks that work in Sandra’s department, as well as our district and campus leadership team for their diligence and financial stewardship. As an entity serving the public and taxpayers, we take financial accountability and transparency very seriously. We are proud to receive the highest rating given in FIRST and are committed to doing whatever we can to continue sound and forward-thinking financial practices in Bastrop ISD,” said Superintendent Steve Murray.

This is the eleventh year of Schools FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finance system.

“The District received a perfect score of 70 for the second year. The District will conduct a public hearing on October 15 to report the 2011-12 FIRST rating,” said Bastrop ISD Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Callahan.

The Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being “Superior Achievement,” followed by “Above-Standard Achievement,” “Standard Achievement” and “Substandard Achievement.” Districts with serious data quality problems may receive the additional rating of “Suspended – Data Quality.” Districts that receive the “Substandard Achievement” or “Suspended – Data Quality” ratings under Schools FIRST must file a corrective action plan with the TEA.

For more information about the Schools FIRST financial accountability rating, contact Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Callahan, at 512-321-2292.
Final accountability ratings, released by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), reflect outstanding student achievement as Bastrop ISD earns a “Met Standard” rating for the district. Bastrop ISD Met Standard on all four Indices: Index 1 – Student Performance; Index 2 – Student Progress, Index 3 – Closing the Performance Gap and Index 4 – Postsecondary Readiness.

Statewide district and campus data, available on the TEA website, illustrate the hard work and achievement of both BISD comprehensive high schools. Only 153 of 1156 high school campuses, or 13%, earned Met Standard and all three Distinctions.

“We are pleased that all Bastrop ISD campuses and the district overall “Met Standard” under the state accountability system standards. We are very proud of the work that has been done over the last few years by so many to have both of our high schools (Bastrop HS and Cedar Creek HS) not only meet standards in all four Indices / areas under the new accountability system, but the fact that we are the only multiple high school district in Central Texas that had each of its high schools receive “Academic Distinction” in all three categories is exciting. We are proud that Cedar Creek Intermediate received “Academic Distinction” in all three categories as well,” said Steve Murray, Superintendent of Schools.

Within the new system, Bastrop ISD also met 61 of 71, or 86%, of the Safeguard Indicators. The Safeguard Indicators are measures in the areas of Performance, Participation, Federal Graduation Rates, and Federal Limits on Alternative Assessments. The safeguards ensure that poor performance in one area or one student group is not masked in the performance index. The intent of the safeguards system is to also meet additional federal accountability requirements that are not met in the performance index.

“We understand that ultimately this is merely a step in the right direction for Bastrop ISD, as we want to strive for continuous improvement and academic excellence each and every school year. We have very special and dedicated people working with our students here in Bastrop ISD and we wish to express our appreciation for all that they do for all of our children in the district. We look forward to a wonderful 2013-2014 school year,” said Murray.

Ratings in the new system are determined through the use of four performance indices. Districts and campuses are assigned one of two ratings under the new system: “Met Standard” or “Improvement Required.” The rating of “Met Standard” is assigned to districts and campuses that meet performance index targets on all indices for which they have performance data in 2013.

“We are pleased to reduce the District’s debt service tax rate by 2 cents. The continued increase in property value and bond refinancing opportunities have made this possible,” said Callahan.

“We understand that ultimately this is merely a step in the right direction for Bastrop ISD, as we want to strive for continuous improvement and academic excellence each and every school year. We have very special and dedicated people working with our students here in Bastrop ISD and we wish to express our appreciation for all that they do for all of our children in the district. We look forward to a wonderful 2013-2014 school year,” said Murray.

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A+ Education Foundation, a philanthropic arm of A+ Federal Credit Union, announced the Foundation’s 2013 Educator Grant Program grant recipients. This year over $68,000 was awarded to 74 grant recipients! These funds cover the cost of programs, supplies, and training to improve the classroom experience for students in Central Texas. This year’s 74 winning submissions included a community garden, reading center, group play therapy, weather stations, reading group, college readiness database, Japanese raku firing, and music composition (“iPad Band”). Among the list of 74 educators receiving grant money were Tiffany Williams from Bluebonnet Elementary and Tiffany Wilson from Emile Elementary.

Tiffany Wilson wrote a grant proposal entitled “Bridging the Gap.” The grant is based on the need for technology in the classroom when teaching Deaf students. “I can't wait for them to experience making a phone call for the first time, having a video pen pal and watching their own sign with the use of this technology. I am so thankful and feel very blessed to have received this grant. I can't wait to see how it helps build a positive, interactive learning environment for my students,” said Wilson.

Kerry Parker, President of the Foundation, notes, “In this ninth year of the grant program, we continue to be impressed by the innovative and creative grants submitted. We are thrilled to give back to educators by awarding grants to fund the programs that enhance their teaching and their students' learning experience. What a positive impact these educators are making on their classroom, campus and in their community. A+ Federal Credit Union was founded by teachers in 1949 and remains dedicated to our educational roots and the communities we serve.

Bastrop ISD began streaming their Board Meetings live with the September 17 regularly scheduled meeting.

“We are proud to support the District’s initiative to bring a more sophisticated and interactive level of communication to the constituents of BISD. To keep our parents and other community members informed, each month’s School Board meeting will be streamed live so that you can view it from your computer,” said Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications.

Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meeting dates include: October 15, November 19 and December 17. To view the meetings online, visit the District website at www.bisdtx.org.

For more information, contact Donald Williams at 512-321-2292.
COMMENDED STUDENT NAMED FOR 2014 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Cedar Creek High School Principal, Adelaida Olivares announced that Adam Slavik has been named a Commended Student in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.

“We are very proud of Adam Slavik for earning recognition by the National Merit Scholarship Program as a National Merit Scholar Commended Student. He is very deserving of this high honor and we are proud to have him represent CCHS as the first campus Merit Scholar,” said Adelaida Olivares. “Adam’s performance on the test was outstanding and a testament to his hard work ethic, and a credit to him, his parents, and his school,” added Olivares.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2014 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2014 competition by taking the 2012 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT*).

“The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play, in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

Three Bastrop ISD high school seniors were amongst the nearly 5,000 academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino students recognized by the College Board in September through its national Hispanic Recognition program (NHRP).

The 2013-14 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars are: Brady Eaton, Cedar Creek High School; Neftali Montalvo, Cedar Creek High School; and Aaron Ramirez, Bastrop High School.

BISD NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

BHS Principal, Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas is pictured with Aaron Ramirez. Ramirez was selected as a 2013-14 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar
Bastrop ISD has joined the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Award winners for their success in implementing financial transparency for the fourth year in a row.

Bastrop ISD has earned a Gold Leadership Circle Award for setting the bar for financial transparency and opening the financial books to the public. The Texas Comptroller’s Leadership Circle program recognizes local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online by providing citizens with a clear, consistent picture of spending and sharing information in a user-friendly format.

“The Comptroller’s Office of Texas awards districts annually whose transparency in financial and business-related activities and practices are seen as exemplary. Bastrop ISD is proud to announce once again that we have been awarded the Texas Comptroller’s “Leadership Circle: Gold Award” for financial accountability and transparency. Our Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Callahan, her staff, our district leadership team and the BISD Board of Trustees believes that financial transparency is vitally important, as we serve the public and our valued taxpayers. Receiving recognition for financial stewardship and transparency such as this is important, as it validates our transparent approach to financial operations in Bastrop ISD,” said Superintendent Steve Murray.

Bastrop earned points for the District website, www.bisdtx.org, posting the Budget, Annual Financial Report or Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Check Register. Additional points were earned for the ease of access to documents, for a navigation tab leading readers to the requested information and for the use of charts and visual images.

“We are very proud to receive this recognition for the fourth year, as Bastrop ISD strives to always be transparent with the local, state and federal funds we receive. This award is a further recognition of the District’s Communication Department and the dedication of quality communication,” said Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer.

Steve Murray, Superintendent, and Sandra Callahan, CFO, proudly pose with their latest Gold Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle for financial transparency.

BISD LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

A wealth of useful information about Bastrop ISD is now available for on-the-go smart phone and tablet computer users as the District introduces a new mobile device application, or “App.” The free Bastrop ISD “App” will provide convenient access to key information about the District on mobile devices such as iPhone and Android phones.

Popular buttons on the “App” include: Calendar; Athletics; School Menus; BISD News; Family Access; and a Parent button that will link to Bus Schedules, School Supply lists and Student Handbooks to name a few. Other buttons will link to the BISD Facebook and Twitter page, and the District Map.

Bastrop ISD Executive Director of Communications, Donald Williams said, “We have been planning the launch of our “App” for several months and are excited to allow parents to instantly connect to a wealth of District information. The “App” will provide another way for us to communicate with our families in a quick and efficient manner.”
DREAM BIG WITH ACE

Bastrop ACE is a grant-funded after-school program offered on twelve Bastrop ISD campuses. This year’s theme is Dream Big with ACE.

“Bastrop ACE provides a continuum of support for students and families from kindergarten through their senior year. We strive to open a world of new opportunities through academic assistance, college and career readiness and enrichment activities. We want all of our students to graduate ready to achieve their dreams,” said Sarah Brightwell, Director of 21st CCLC.

Students participating in ACE will receive:

- help with homework (tutoring as needed)
- the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities such as art, music, theatre, film-making, photography, science and cooking
- academic enrichment featuring hands-on, engaging learning activities
- college and career readiness activities such as college visits, assistance with financial aid, resume writing workshops and SAT prep.

Adult family members also benefit from ACE by having the opportunity to participate in various family classes such as GED, ESL, nutrition, financial and parenting seminars.

Campuses offering the ACE program include: Bluebonnet Elementary, Cedar Creek Elementary, Lost Pines Elementary, Mina Elementary (Emile Elementary is bused to Mina Elementary), Red Rock Elementary, Bastrop Intermediate, Cedar Creek Intermediate, Bastrop Middle, Cedar Creek Middle, Bastrop High, Cedar Creek High and Genesis High. The program is offered Monday through Friday immediately after school. Dismissal times vary depending on campus levels. Intermediate, middle and high schools also offer morning programs.

ACE is a rewarding program to work for. The moment when one of your students comes to you and says “I don’t think I would have made it without ACE” is when your heart fills and you know you have made a difference,” said Crystal Andrade, Site Coordinator for Bastrop Middle School.

For more information about the ACE program and how your student can get involved, call 512-308-1601 or visit www.bisdtx.org. Don’t forget to like the Bastrop ACE program on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BastropACE. The ACE program is funded by the 21st CCLC Program administered by the US Department of Education.

QUAD C BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES FOR BISD STUDENTS

For the second year in a row, Bastrop ISD has chosen to participate in “Quad C”. Quad C stands for College, Careers, Citizenship and Cohort.

Quad C is an opportunity for Bastrop and Cedar Creek Middle School eighth grade students to be a part of a cohort group from the fall of their ninth grade year until they graduate. The program extends the opportunity to be a part of a group that will build relationships with others, learn about servant leadership and participate in community service activities while in high school. The students will also have the opportunity to earn 36 college credits before graduating from Bastrop ISD.

“We have a new cohort of Quad-C students this fall and we are excited about this innovative college preparatory program at both Bastrop High School and Cedar Creek High School. We have more Freshman this year in Quad-C than we did in last year’s inaugural school year and our Sophomore Quad-C students at both high schools will be prepping for their Accu-Placer college entrance exam this spring, in advance of taking their first set of ACC classes this summer. These classes will start them on their journey toward acquiring 36 college credits by the time they graduate.

....continued on pg 10
Where can you get college and financial aid information, register for door prizes and scholarships, and have it all at one place? Parents and students of Bastrop County were invited to attend the B.E.S.T. College Night on September 25th at the Bastrop High School. Over 110 institutions, including the military and technical career centers were invited to participate in this year’s college night. These representatives provided information about different courses they offer, the admission process, financial aid and college life in general. Financial representatives from Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union were also present and Texas Guaranteed (TG) hosted financial aid information sessions throughout the evening. During the event, parents and students were provided access to sign up online for their FAFSA pin. Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union sponsored the event in partnership with Bastrop ISD, Smithville ISD, Elgin ISD and H.E.B.

Collin Proctor, Sophomore at BHS, and his mom Heather Proctor talk with Joan French, recruiter from Texas A&M University.

Logan Allen, Senior at BHS, and his parents James and Pat Allen are all smiles as they talk with Mirtila Lovelace, Assistant Director of Admissions for the University of Central Arkansas.

Roderick Emanuel, Senior at BHS discusses his future plans with Joel Swisher, Office of Admissions for Prairie View A&M University Medical Academy.
Bastrop ISD students got a taste of gallant knights and chivalry during the EarlyAct FirstKnight Tournament of Champions student orientation ceremony that took place this past month. Students in elementary through the intermediate schools will take part in the program for the second year in a row.

The EarlyAct FirstKnight program is sponsored by the Cedar Creek and Bastrop County Rotary Clubs and a special grant through the Bastrop Education Foundation.

What is EarlyAct FirstKnight?
EarlyAct FirstKnight (EAFK) is a revolutionary character and ethics education program for schoolchildren in grades K-8. EAFK is a comprehensive course of study that encompasses the entire student population. Unprecedented in the field of character education, EarlyAct FirstKnight teaches ethics, service and Rotary tradition along side of core academic subjects through a unique combination of classroom curriculum, Rotarian-led service components, dramatic live-action visual elements, and parent education.

EAFK brings the values of noble character and service above self alive for children through the timeless theme of gallant knights and chivalry. The word, “knight” means “servant”. Students in EAFK schools regularly get to see real armored knights and colorfully costumed warhorses; walk campus hallways decked out like castles; learn ethical wisdom and skill from “The Code” curriculum; win awards for knightly service; earn rankings toward knighthood in elaborate school-wide ceremonies; and work together on local and global service projects as modern-day knights using their power for good.

To learn more visit www.eafk.org.
in June 2016. These students are highly-motivated and we partner with their parents in this wonderful endeavor. We have dedicated teachers working with our Quad-C students to help them attain their goals and help shape their destiny. We are very proud of our Quad-C students and wish them all the best,” said Superintendent Steve Murray.

During the end of a student’s eighth grade year, parents and their students were invited to participate in an informational meeting regarding Quad C to spark interest in the initiative. If students were interested, they filled out an application and were graded using a standard rubric. A second round of oral interviews were also conducted to make the final selection of students for Bastrop High School and Cedar Creek High School.

For the selection process, both students and parents had to agree to certain stipulations in order to participate. For example, students have to maintain an 80 average in English, mathematics, science and social studies classes. They also have to have good attendance, model good behavior, participate in fundraisers to help pay for course textbooks, and agree to participate all four years in high school. Parents have to agree to support their child in his/her attempt to go to college, have their child participate in community service requirements and ensure their child enrolls in dual credit classes as recommended by the program.

Based on performance and academic criteria, each year the NHRP honors some 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from among more than 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT®. Students must take the test during their junior year, achieve the minimum cutoff score and achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher by the conclusion of their junior year.

For additional information contact Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications at 512.321.2292.
WHAT TO DO WHEN BAD WEATHER OCCURS

Bad weather can impact the Bastrop Independent School District and our ability to operate. Bastrop is on the edge of Central Texas and the most common concern for our area is flash flooding due to heavy rains. And, although we fall somewhat below what is commonly known as the frost line, it is not unusual for weather concerns that involve freezing rain and icing conditions to contribute to school closures. Occasionally, Hurricanes and Tropical Storms can also impact BISD. There are several factors considered before a decision is made to close school, delay the opening of school, or dismiss school early. The primary factors are:

- The health, safety and welfare of students;
- The transportation of students from home to school and back; and
- The disruption caused when school starts late, dismisses early or is closed.

If inclement weather hits the Bastrop area, Superintendent Steve Murray will make a decision to delay or cancel school on the day in question. No announcements will be made when schools will maintain their regularly scheduled hours. Below is the Bastrop ISD procedure for bad weather.

1. At or before 4 a.m., staff from BISD’s Emergency Operations will deploy to assess weather conditions and roadway conditions. BISD Emergency Operations will go into an alert status and will work with Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management, Bastrop County and City of Bastrop Public Works, Bastrop County and City of Bastrop Law Enforcement, and county-wide volunteer fire departments and first responders.
2. By 4:30 a.m., BISD Emergency Operations will visually inspect various areas across the district of streets for icy, wet, or dry roads and monitor weather information resources.
3. Road conditions are analyzed along with other related information available from other school districts.
4. If roads are questionable, the Superintendent is contacted to discuss findings and recommendations.
5. The Superintendent makes every effort to make a decision by 5 a.m. whether or not to delay or cancel school.
6. Information about Bastrop ISD school delays or closures will be made through:
   - The Bastrop ISD homepage: www.bisdtx.org
   - BISD Facebook Fan page: www.facebook.com/bastropisdtx
   - BISD Twitter: @BastropISD
   - Our School Messenger Alert system: Sign up for e-mail alerts at our homepage and clicking on the Newsroom Quicklink.
   - Television Stations: KVUE, KXAN, KEYE, FOX 7, and YNN
   - Newspapers: The Bastrop Advertiser

What if bad weather hits during school hours?

If weather conditions worsen during the day, a decision is made as soon as possible if an early release is needed to get students home safely. If weather conditions appear that they will resolve during the school day then students will be kept until regular dismissal time. If, in the event of severe weather alerts, the District has decided to keep the schools open for the remainder of the day, any parent who insists on picking up their child will be allowed to do so without penalty.
JERRY FAY WILHELM
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 12
7 p.m.
BHST Patent Pending Improv

October 15
7 p.m.
CCMS Choir Fall Concert

October 17 – 19
7 p.m.
BHST presents “Almost Maine”

October 25 – 26
7 p.m.
CCHST presents “Audrey and the Boogie Man”

October 26
7 p.m.
BHST Patent Pending Improv

October 31
6 p.m.
BHST Thespians Haunted House

November 8
7 p.m.
BHST Gypsies

November 8 – 9
7:15 p.m.
BMST Fall Show

November 9
7 p.m.
BHST Patent Pending Improv

November 14 – 16
7 p.m.
CCHST presents “Beauty and the Beast”

November 19
TBA
Bastrop Food Pantry Fall Choral Fest

December 2
7 p.m.
BIS Winter Showcase

December 3
6:30 p.m.
BHS/BMS Christmas Dance Showcase

December 5
7 p.m.
CCHS/CCMS Dance Christmas Dance Show

SAT/ACT TEST DATES

SAT TESTING DATES  www.actstudent.org

TEST DATE  REGISTRATION BY  SITE AT BHS  SITE AT CCHS
October 5, 2013  September 6, 2013  Yes  Yes
November 2, 2013  October 3, 2013  Yes  Yes
December 7, 2013  November 8, 2013  Yes  No
January 25, 2014  December 27, 2013  Yes  No
March 8, 2014  February 7, 2014  Yes  No
May 3, 2014  April 4, 2014  Yes  Yes
June 7, 2014  May 9, 2014  No  No

ACT TESTING DATES  www.actstudent.org

TEST DATE  REGISTRATION BY  SITE AT BHS  SITE AT CCHS
September 21, 2013  August 23, 2013  Yes  No
October 26, 2013  September 27, 2013  No  No
December 14, 2013  November 8, 2013  No  No
February 8, 2014  January 10, 2014  Yes  No
April 12, 2014  March 7, 2014  Yes  No

June 14, 2014  May 9, 2014  No  No

*placed request to test 9/18/13, CCHS is not a testing site for ACT at this time
Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 21-25 at Bastrop ISD. The drug prevention campaign focuses on a commitment to living drug free. It also commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent, Enrique “KiKi” Camarena, who died in 1985 at the hands of drug cartel members while working undercover in Mexico.

While some believe that drug trafficking and drug usage is an issue found in large cities or a country like Mexico, Carolyn Moore-Green says it’s a big concern among 12-18 year old Bastrop ISD students. Green, a Drug and Alcohol Counselor and Social Worker at Gateway D.A.E.P. and Boot Camp, says her drug and alcohol referrals from BISD intermediate and secondary campuses nearly doubled from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

“The BISD Drug Program has proven to be a viable and necessary service for our students in Bastrop ISD. Since Bastrop is a rural community, we have limited resources available for teen substance/alcohol abuse issues.” During Red Ribbon Week, Green will present a “Too Good for Drugs & Violence” curriculum to a number of BISD campuses including Cedar Creek Elementary on October 23.

Green says some of the most common warning signs that a student is getting involved in drugs include:

- Loss of interest in family activities and learning
- Disrespect for family rules
- Withdrawal from responsibilities
- Verbally or physically abusive
- Sudden increase or decrease in appetite/drastic weight loss or gain
- Disappearance of valuable items or money
- Not coming home on time
- Not telling you where they are going
- Reduced memory and attention span
- Unhappy and depressed
- Always needs money, or has excessive amounts of money

So what should a parent do if they see these warnings signs? Green says to always keep the lines of communication open with their teen.

“The parent needs to try to remain calm, asserting that they are there for them but they will need to take steps to becoming drug-free. If the first conversation doesn’t seem productive, take a little time and try again. If the problem is too big for them to handle alone, seek help from a drug counselor or drug program for families of drug users.”

BISD campuses like Red Rock Elementary and Bastrop High School, to name a few, will launch their Red Ribbon campaign with a daily theme where students will dress up to represent a theme. Red Rock says their themes are: Monday, “Be a Rock Star, Be Drug Free” – dress as a rock star; Tuesday, “I Can. You Can.” Canned Food Drive kick-off, wear your Red Ribbon shirt; Wednesday, “Work it Out for a Healthier You” – wear workout clothes; Thursday, “My Future is Bright” –wear a college shirt; Friday, “School Pride”-wear a school shirt.

For more information on Drug & Alcohol education at Bastrop ISD, contact Carolyn Moore-Green at cgreen@bisdtx.org.
BISD MISSION FOR BASTROP ISD

The mission of Bastrop Independent School District, a leader in innovative student centered education, is to motivate and ignite passion for life-long learning and successfully prepare all students to compete globally by ensuring engagement in a diverse, rigorous, and relevant learning experience that incorporates 21st Century Skills.

- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Collaboration Across Networks & Leading by Influence
- Agility & Adaptability • Initiative & Entrepreneurialism
- Effective Oral & Written Communication
- Accessing & Analyzing Information • Curiosity & Imagination

We Believe That...
- Family is the foundation that supports the development of the individual and the community.
- Respect for others and self is shown through attitude and action.
- Appreciation for diversity strengthens our community.
- Investment in optimism leads to success.
- Service to others builds community and personal growth.
- Collaboration and team work enrich outcomes.
- Commitment and strong work ethic are valued qualities.
- A culture of high expectations is a commitment to our future.
- Positive character produces positive actions.

Objectives
1. To have 100% of Bastrop ISD students graduate.
2. To have 100% of our students enter post secondary schooling, military, or work force within three months after graduating.
3. To have 100% of our students successful in post secondary schooling, military or workforce.
4. To have 100% of our students involved in extra or co-curricular activities.
5. To have 100% of our students develop and exhibit strong character traits in their daily lives.

CCHS HOLDS “CLUB DRIVE”

“Main Street” at CCHS was filled with students, questions, and flyers as the campus held it’s first Club Drive. Dozens of student organizations were represented at the event with the goal of recruiting new members. Morgan Mimms is a Junior and FCA leader at CCHS. She says having the “Club Drive” makes it convenient for students to learn about extra-curricular activities at one place and one time.

“Being involved in clubs will build memories and these are the times that they’ll remember,” says CCHS Principal Laila OlivaRes, “An involved student equals increased participation in school, better attendance and test scores.”

CCHS School Resource Officer, Wayne Wood, represented the “Exploring” career education program. Exploring allows students to learn about Law Enforcement so they can make an informed decision about possibly pursuing it as a career.

“If they're interested in law enforcement, this will allow them to get their feet wet,” says Wood, “This program teaches them how we do our job and also teaches them about leadership, dedication, responsibility and team work so even if they don’t choose law enforcement as a career, they’ve at least developed these important life skills.”

For more information on CCHS Clubs and Organizations, visit the CCHS homepage and select the “Clubs & Organization” Quicklink.
HOOPSTARS

Registration for

HOOPSTARS

coming soon!

It’s time to start digging for those sneakers
HOOPSTARS is gearing up for the Spring session and looking for boys and girls from PK-6th grade to participate in the fun.

Be on the LOOK OUT for
REGISTRATION FORMS
coming home SOON!

Registration runs
October 15 - December 18
Interested in sponsoring a team?
Call 512.308.1601 for more details.

COMING ON!

STARS is the place to be, after school at B-I-S-D!

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE, RECREATION/ FITNESS and ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Bastrop ISD offers an after-school child care program at every elementary campus from the time school dismisses until 6:30 p.m. STARS is also open during most school holidays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Full-Time Rate: $195/month (3-5 days)
Part-Time Rate: $140/month (1-2 days)

Want more information?
Call 512.308.1601

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