Eagle Pride Rises with Exemplary TAKS Performance Report

It’s one of the greatest comeback stories of all time. And it’s not a football, basketball or hockey story.

Hillsboro High School and Junior High students and staff proudly announce that both campuses received an increased TAKS rating for 2009-10.

The Junior High School earned an Academically Acceptable rating in 2008-09. This year it earned an Exemplary rating because of improved science scores and repeated excellent performance in math, reading, writing and social studies.

The High School experienced the biggest turnaround, working to overcome an Academically Unacceptable rating in 2008-09.

The Texas Education Agency utilizes the Academic Excellence Indicator System to assess all schools and districts in the state. Rankings are based on several indicators, including not only TAKS test passing percentages overall and in population sub-groups, but also on-time graduation rates, and dropout rates. The ratings are 1) Exemplary (highest); 2) Recognized; 3) Academically Acceptable; and 4) Academically Unacceptable.

To receive a final ranking of Exemplary, a junior high school in Texas must meet academic as well as the dropout requirements. A Texas high school must meet both academic requirements and completion rate requirements. The rigorous academic requirements were met on both campuses.

The turnaround at the High School was the result of utilizing research-based educational interventions and months of hard work on the part of teachers, administrators and students. Administrators and teachers reviewed the history of the students who were failing and/or struggling to determine what their specific obstacles were and address those accordingly.

To raise performance expectations and build student confidence, the High School initiated several data-driven instructional strategies including:

• An after school program to give students access to tutoring and additional learning time.
• The addition of a math coach and math teacher to bring students up to standards in this subject area.
• A focus on attendance which is proven to have a positive impact on academic performance.
• The addition of a graduation coach to assist students in having plans of action for achieving academic goals.

“I can’t begin to tell you how proud I am of our junior high and high school students and teachers,” said Buck Gilcrease, HISD Superintendent. “The staff gave 110 percent to ensure student success, including the high school faculty. Their teamwork and drive exceeded my expectations, and their devotion to their students is truly extraordinary.”

The district received an overall ranking of Recognized for the 2009-10 school year.

Hillsboro High School enters new school year with new look

Last fall nearly a dozen students gathered for a focus group to review new logo options for the high school.

Teachers identified and selected a group representing the student body to choose the new look. Of the three designs presented, students overwhelmingly selected a modern and unique version of the Eagle mascot for the updated emblem. The new logo will roll out throughout the 2010-11 school year as logo-branded items need replacement.

Teachers Receive First Grant Awards through Foundation Accolade Parade

The Hillsboro Education Foundation notified teachers of classroom grant awards totaling more than $8,000 at the first ever Accolade Parade on March 29. A marching “band” led by Foundation board members, donors, the superintendent, and school board members visited teachers to present supersized checks ranging from $500 to $1000 to support innovative teaching ideas in math, science, reading and fine arts in various grade levels.

The eleven awards from the Foundation are the first of what is expected to be an annual occurrence. Grant award projects and teachers include:

• Rock’n Rolling Music – Sharon Powell, Glenda Brown – In Honor of Citizens National Bank, High quality mobile sound system for use by Rhythm Rascals, at AttieDance, and by other musical groups as needed.

Don’t Tell Me, Show Me! – Pam Hamilton, Brandi White – Two document cameras for the Intermediate School that provide students visual access to pictures and text during reading lessons and to models and equations during math lessons.

Welcome to the Global Community – Pam Hamilton – Subscription to 13 issues of “Time for Kids World Report” allowing students to increase vocabulary and comprehension while teaching them about current events and cultures.

Point of View – Karen King – DVD camera allowing students to record, edit and produce original works for competitions and job or college interviews.


Promoting Critical Thinking – Michelle Steele – In Honor of First National Bank The four-volume set, “Gale Contextual Encyclopedia of American Literature, 1st Edition,” published July 2009, includes information on newer as well as traditional American authors and places them in biographical, historical, literary and critical context. These reference books support important student research needs and promote critical thinking.
Journey Just Beginning for High School Graduates

“Whatever you do, wherever you go, go for more,” was the advice Maria Librado offered to fellow graduates in her valedictory address at Hillsboro High School commencement ceremonies on May 28. “A high school diploma is good but it’s not enough anymore. Whether it’s a community college or four-year university, keep going in your education. Your journey begins now, and the choices you make today about your future are very important.” Maria and herclassmate, Salutatorian Molly Bagley, are among the 98 students who graduated this year.

Dr. James “Buck” Gilcrease addressed and presented the Class of 2010, and Dr. Christopher Teague, Board of Trustees President, addressed and accepted the Class of 2010. After the presentation of diplomas by the Board of Trustees and the turning of the tassels and ring, Ashley Hughes sang an inspirational Mariah Carey tune. Following the closing the benediction and singing of the alma mater, graduates left with smiles on their faces and dreams in their hearts.

All 11 students who ranked in the top 10 percent plan to continue their studies at institutions of higher education.

Class of 2010 Valedictorian Maria Librado enjoyed involvement in Student Council, Eagle Radio, tutoring at Hill College, and other community service. After spending the summer with family and friends and gaining valuable work experience, she will proudly enter the University of Texas at Austin in the fall where she will major in sociology and consider a career in social work or a similar helping profession.

Salutatorian Molly Bagley’s high school activities included tennis, FCA and theater. She is working as a swim instructor this summer, has already enjoyed a cruise with her sister, and looks forward to a mission trip to Brazil before college begins. She will attend Abilene Christian University in the fall and has plans to continue on to receive a master’s degree in physical therapy.

Congratulations to the EXEMPLARY Hillsboro High School Class of 2010!

Teachers, Staff Sharpen Skills at 2010 Summer Academies

The best teachers never stop learning — they must keep up with the latest, most effective instructional strategies to offer students the best opportunities for success. Hillsboro ISD’s Second Annual Summer Academies help professional, paraprofessional and office staff sharpen skills and discover new tools. Lynda Duncan, director of Student Academic Services for HISD, manages the program and says topics are selected based on teacher feedback. Offerings include both required and optional courses on behavior management, math and reading curriculum updates, classroom Web page development, special education procedures, use of new textbooks, gifted and talented programming, and more.

New to the course line-up this year is a walking tour of downtown Hillsboro and visits to the Cell Block Museum and Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College which will prepare social studies teachers to lead student field trips.

The most popular selections this summer include the Technology Explosion Class, Who’s Your Gladys Customer Service Training, and the Crisis Prevention Institute. “Curriculum is updated, textbooks change, and technology advances – and we need to keep up with it all to be effective teachers,” said Deana Headrick, third grade English-Language Arts and Social Studies teacher. “Summer Academies are offered on HISD campuses and are a convenient and inexpensive way to gain the continuing education credit required without traveling several miles throughout the state.”

Another benefit: teachers and staff typically earn continuing education hours during four training days offered throughout the school year. With this program, they will earn comp time during the summer so training days can become extra days off scheduled at strategic times of the year, such as Thanksgiving and Christmas break.

The ultimate goal of Summer Academies is to improve student performance in the district and meet the needs of students.

Foundation Banquet Honors Top Students

Nearly 300 people filled a standing-room only event hall on May 22 to honor Hillsboro High School’s 2010 Top Ten percent graduates at the first annual Eagles Legacy Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Hillsboro Education Foundation. KHBR’s Roger Creech emceed the occasion, with welcoming comments from Lee Auvenshire, the Foundation’s President-Elect, and final address by Dr. Buck Gilcrease, District Superintendent.

The Class of 2010 Top ten percent students are:

Molly B. Bagley
Stephanie Camargo
Jordan L. Campbell
Aubrey J. Hafer
Yoo J. Ham
Brett J. Harrell
Maria Librado
Cameron L. Peschel
Jacqueline A. Rosson
Linda R. Rubio
Kelsey J. Scott

All plan to attend college this fall.

The Hillsboro Elementary School Rhythm Rascals entertained guests with several musical numbers, and Hillsboro Intermediate School students wowed the audience with selected scenes from High School Musical 2. High school band students provided the musical accompaniment during dinner.

The delicious meal included barbecue pork roast, smoked sausage and homemade sides. Eighth-grade students from the National Junior Honor Society served guests.

Table centerpieces included a stack of school books topped with a wrapped gift for each honored student and a bouquet of balloons. The Foundation awarded the students with a netbook computer and accessory kit along with other useful supplies for beginning their college career.

The Hillsboro Education Foundation extends its deep appreciation to all Foundation board members and sponsors, faculty, administration, parents and students who contributed to the success of the event, with a special note of appreciation to the spouses of Board and district staff for their time and energy.

The Foundation congratulates the Top Ten percent for their achievements and wishes great success to all seniors of the Hillsboro High School Class of 2010!
Mrs. Carnes has influenced my life in a multitude of ways. This sweet, endearing lady has the biggest heart of anyone I have ever met. I am a PAL at the Hillsboro Jr. High, where she is the lunch lady. Every day we go, she takes time out of her busy schedule to make us a home-cooked meal and serve it to us. Not that we couldn’t eat at the High School, when we get back, but she never wants to think about us ever missing a meal. Mrs. Carnes also keeps change out of her own wallet in her apron. When any kid is short that extra nickel and has to put back his food, she gives him or her own hard earned money because she genuinely cares for all her children. She even continued to do all this after she broke bones in her neck and spine, and had all the expenses that come along with medical bills. Mrs. Carnes has deeply impacted my life by showing me perseverance and angelic-like qualities even in the worst of times. No matter how bad things get, she is always there, smiling, and giving (literally) all she has. I can only pray that one day I will have the Christ-like characteristics and influence on someone’s life as she has had on mine.

Mr. Woody has impacted both my education and my life by opening many doors and encouraging me to be a part of numerous activities in FFA that have really opened my eyes and given me a chance to explore new things I never knew existed. He has given me a great experience that I will carry on and cherish throughout the rest of my education and life. He has faith in me that I can do whatever I want even if it may seem impossible. He strives to make me a better person and student, motivating me in every way and inspiring me to work my hardest, for in the end all my hard work will ultimately pay off.

Mrs. Curry was my tenth grade English teacher. When I first walked into her class I was so nervous because I was terrible at grammar. Mrs. Curry was patient with me and I eventually got the hang of it. She knew that my passion was literature, and that I hated grammar. Even though I hated it, Mrs. Curry showed me the importance of it, and I made it through her class with flying colors. Thank you, Mrs. Curry.

I met Coach Hendrix last year before she became our girls’ athletic director. When I first met her, I knew that my senior year in athletics would be one to remember. We sat down and had a wonderful talk about her future plans for our athletic program. I’ve had the opportunity to get to know her, not just as a coach but as a person. She saw through my differences and accepted me for who I am and never gave up on me. After all the blood, sweat and tears, we never let her down. I believe she has started a new tradition for future athletes. I appreciate everything she has done to help me to become a better person.

Although community service is not a subject that is available for everyone, Mrs. Thomas has inspired every student in the school including me. Not only by encouraging students to participate in community service, but also by simply standing in the hallways, saying “Good morning, how are you today?” She gives unexpected compliments, making students feel loved and cared.

When you reach the end, you start thinking about the beginning and where it all started. My education at Hillsboro ISD started with Mrs. Becky Blair, my pre-k teacher. It is through her establishment of numbers and letters that have made algebra and essays possible to do. She planted that little seed for the love of education in me. Her love and caring radiated from her being, it touched my heart. At an early age, she saw the potential I had in me and she encouraged me to try my best. When that is shown to you at a young age, it is hard to erase. I grew used to trying my best. You could say because of her, I have accomplished what I have.

Mrs. King first got me into One Act Play my junior year because another student failed, and I took that person’s place. I told her I would never act, so she made me stage manager. She has encouraged me to become a better leader and taught me how to better instruct other people.

Mrs. Jones agreed to assist me in second grade when I was diagnosed with dyslexia (I did not even know what dyslexia was or meant at that time). I was struggling in school and she took a different approach to learning with me. Her patience and dedication to my situation helped a light bulb go off that changed my attitude and thought processes. She made me believe I could do my school work...regardless of how difficult the situation may have seemed for me at the time. She was pivotal in helping me believe in myself. Looking back, I realize what an enormous impact she had on my future academic success.

Mr. Pointer is an extraordinary band director and a wonderful human being. I’m so blessed to have met a person that truly cares about his students; not only on a teacher/student level but also on a personal level. To quote him, “Kids don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” That is a powerful statement of belief that he has gone out of his way to instill into all persons who have had the opportunity to know him. He has taught me a lot about music, but not only that, he has always encouraged me to never give up, to strive to achieve my goals no matter what obstacles may come my way. It’s rare that you find a teacher that will also be a friend to you. When others have said no, Mr. Pointer has said yes...be yourself and grow. The year I wasn’t able to participate in band didn’t stop Mr. Pointer from pushing me to continue to play my trumpet with the practice music he gave to me...knowing that I would return to the band program the following year. He never looked down on me and he built up my self-esteem to love myself even more. We all make mistakes; Mr. Pointer never turned his back on me, and for that I salute him, and I thank him.

I have known Mrs. Cook for six years now but none of them have been as important to me as this last one. After all the laughing and crying we have done together, I can list memories and lessons she has taught me. The most important lesson has been during my senior year. Mrs. Cook made me see that no matter what obstacles I come to, I must always face them and that I can not let other peoples’ opinions sway me. I am grateful to have her in my life and she will always be in my heart.
Newest Partners in Education

Thank you to our new Partners in Education, Montes Restaurant and Brookshire’s Food Store, that provided refreshments for the most recent Community Coffee events.

We appreciate the generous assistance received from all Partners in Education in 2009-2010.

Students Will Get Close-up to Science Cut-Ups – Jennifer Faulknor – 30 sets of science cut-ups used for interactive manipulative activities and games that teach science content or processes.

THEMENESIVE – Laura Doskocil, Norma Jean Swain, Donovan Scott – In Honor of Texas Pioneer Foundation, Physical objects used as visual representations of mathematical concepts that allow students to incorporate employment of several senses and enhance comprehension and retention.

Do You See What I See? – Debbie Baker, Angel Andrews – In Honor of Texas Pioneer Foundation, Two document cameras for the Junior High School that provide students visual access to pictures and text during reading lessons and models and equations during math lessons.

The Bluebonnets are Here – Debbie Baker – Class sets of 2010-11 Bluebonnet Award winning novels used to engage students in a structured reading activity which promotes energetic and natural conversations about books.

Award winning novels used to engage students in a structured reading activity which promotes energetic and natural conversations about books.

The district strives to initiate as many innovative and research-based educational strategies as possible that offer students every opportunity to succeed in the classroom, but with limited funding from the state we often don’t have the financial means to support all of our teachers’ innovative ideas,” said Nancy Divin, HISD’s assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. “I’m excited this funding from the Foundation can support the creativity of our educators in enhancing curriculum.”

Grant recipients will display the details of their award-winning classroom strategies at the Open House celebrating the completion of the new District Administration Building Annex on August 12 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Becoming a founding member of the Hillsboro Education Foundation! Individuals and companies who donate by August 31, 2010, will be counted as founding donors.

NEWSPICKERS – Jennifer Faulknor, Holly Henderson – Seven flip cameras for use by students for projects such as recording science experiments, presentations, reports, demonstrations and interviews; an instruction technique to bridge the gap between the classroom and today’s “net generation” student.

Join the Team at Hillsboro ISD

Fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency, Hillsboro ISD provides a quality education for students in Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade. Whether you are interested in an administrative, teaching or support staff position, you can directly affect the lives of our students. We encourage you to join our team of leaders committed to increased student achievement through continuous improvement. For more information, contact:

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