

MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 9:33 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 5/26/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are having a great week and I know a lot of your students are happy as this might be their last day of school, due to flex days.

- Regarding our **flex days**, please remember that these days are for **extending the classroom, small group instruction**, making up **attendance and incompletes**, and giving our students a good **push for the summer and any re-takes** they may have. This is our first time to do this, so we need to make sure these are **meaningful and productive days**.
- I am not going to report all our test scores in my weekly, as I know you will be getting detailed reports on all your scores. I do want to point out some **great news from our middle schools**. For those students who took **high school courses in middle school**, **100%** of students at **GMS** and **99%** of students at **AMS** passed the **End of Course exam in Algebra I**. For **End of Course English**, **97%** at **AMS** and **90%** at **GMS** passed the test. This represents about **200 students** out of the 500 or so in the 8th grade class who passed a high school end of course exam. The **bad news for us** (which also shows how unfair our rating system is) is that these **200 exemplary students do not "count"** as part of our 8th grade STAAR report. So, our 8th grade results will reflect only the remaining 300 students who took the STAAR test. The State should put an asterisk by these scores...
- Our **boys golf team** made another appearance at the **5A State Tournament** and finished in **7th place overall**. That is a great finish for a really young team. I think we may be a regular at this tournament for the next few year.
- I attended the **AES Writer's Café** this week, where the **5th graders** had created themes in each classroom, and students from other grades came through, read their books and had a great experience with the "big kids."
- The choir started a new tradition this year by having an **end of year banquet**. It was well-planned, the kids had a good time, and everyone appreciated **Ms. Fisher and Mr. Doss** for their hard work this year.

- Our **GMS 6th graders** created an **ecosystem for their PBL**. They have an entire classroom set up, **from rainforests to the desert**, with different species of **animals, fish, and plants**. They did a good job and different classes from around the school came in for a tour.

Legislative update:

With just three days remaining until the 85th legislative session must adjourn sine die, Texas legislators are still slogging their way through bills that would **fund state government** for the next two years, **dictate bathroom use for transgender students**, **roll back municipal property tax increases**, **relax voter identification requirements** and **control the religious affiliation of foster parents**.

Legislators have already rejected more money for public schools and taxpayer-funded vouchers for Special Education students.

If the Legislature doesn't satisfactorily address the issues that Governor Greg Abbott and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick consider to be important before its mandatory adjournment at midnight next Monday, May 29, then a **special session could begin as early as next Tuesday**.

I will add that **in my opinion, this session has been a real embarrassment**, as the entire **state budget, public education**, and **many, many bills that would have been good for Texans**, have been **hijacked by the Lt. Governor**. He has controlled the Senate, and other than a very few members, they have followed lock-step in whatever he has told them to do.

As I have asked many times, and will reiterate today; will this finally be the session that will bring public educators to the polls to **vote for pro-public education candidates**? Only time will tell...

Emails this week:

From a Parent: I wanted to take a minute to brag on **Holli Moore at Oak Woods**. She is always a welcoming presence in the drop-off line every morning when I take my daughter to school. She keeps it **swift and safe**, and she's **always smiling!!** She does a fantastic job on campus, and we are grateful to have her!

From GHS: The Health Inspector visited the Culinary Arts department today for our last inspection of the year. We passed with a 100! She was disappointed not to get to see the kids in action, but she was very impressed with our level of sanitation and organization in the area.

From Baccus: I wanted to let you know that we had several guest speakers in Mrs. Gonzalez and Mrs. Briggs classes this week in order to kick off our PBL “My Future Looks Bright!” We had Wes Jones from HR come speak to our students about what he looks for when hiring. We also had several people from the “Speakers Bureau” list that the district provided. I cannot tell you how impressed we have been with those speakers. Our students have learned so much from them all. We had Award-Winning Author – Peggy Freeman, Former television reporter and producer – Maureen Jones-Griffin, Korean War Veteran and Artist – J.C. Campbell, and DPS Task Force Officer – Mike Webb in our classroom. Thank you for providing us with such a rich and wonderful list of people who are willing to assist us in educating our children

From a Parent: Thanks to Mrs. Lambert for a job well done! I couldn’t have been more proud of having my student in Granbury schools last night, as the entire other side of her family was sitting on the front row to watch. The kindergarten graduation ceremony was beautiful, the music program was outstanding, and the props in the gym for photos were adorable! Thanks for all the hard work!!!

From Parent: “Thank you! Thank you! We couldn’t of gotten a better teacher! The 2 months Leshia Coker of Emma had my son was the best experience in a public school system we have had!”

From a Parent: Thank you for an amazing Kindergarten year for (my student) at Emma! She has enjoyed every minute of it. The sleep over last week was a blast, and graduation was super fun! Thank you.

I want to recognize Mrs. Anderson at Emma as being a ROCK STAR teacher! (My student) had her for 1st grade, and I was thrilled that they had the opportunity to have her as well. She’s an incredible teacher who is so passionate about her kids. Both of my kids are strong readers, and I truly believe that Mrs. Anderson has had a huge hand in instilling a love for reading and learning. Her way of teaching helps them to learn in a fun way. I would love to clone her!

Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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