



Eighth Grade Newsletter

Winter 2009

The school year is now almost half over and you have some decisions to make. Next year when you begin your journey through high school where do you think you will be?

Connally students will enter either Warren, Marshall or Taft High School as freshmen next year. Some of our students may consider applying to one of the District's Magnet Schools or perhaps even one outside the district. Check the calendar on the back for the dates when the Magnet Schools are visiting Connally.

Magnet School General Requirements:

- Grade point average of "C" or better
- Good conduct and attendance records
- Passing TAKS scores

Business Careers High School

- An enriched curriculum focused on future careers in business and finance
- Partnered with community businesses; offers paid internships, summer job programs, special leadership programs, and application to the Academy of Finance
- Accepts approximately 200 new freshmen each year, by lottery
- Located on the Holmes High School campus

Communications Arts High School

- A challenging curriculum focused on developing exceptional communications skills
- Partnered with TV and radio stations, the SA Express-News, and Trinity University
- Accepts approximately 120 new freshmen each year, by lottery
- Located on the Taft High School campus

Health Careers High School

- A curriculum for students interested in pursuing a health or medical career
- Partnered with medical professionals
- Accepts approximately 200 new freshmen each year, by lottery
- Located in the Medical Center

John Jay High School Science Academy

- Offers a rigorous curriculum focused on careers in science, math, and engineering
- Mentorship programs pair students with career professionals conducting research at area universities, medical centers, and research laboratories
- Accepts approximately 150 new freshmen each year, by lottery

Construction Careers Academy

Warren High School

- Prepares students for employment in the construction industry and for college by providing the necessary skills to enter general contracting and related industries.
- Skills learned: Blueprint reading, properties of construction materials, safety, construction systems and the use of tools and techniques.
- Freshman class is planned for the fall of 2009.
- Apply for admittance in Feb.9, 2009
- New building completed fall of 2010.

Detailed information about each of the Magnet Schools in our district can be obtained from the district homepage website at www.nisd.net. Click on schools, then high schools, and then select the Magnet School you are interested in learning more about concerning programs and entry requirements.

The North East School of the Arts, located on the Robert E. Lee High School campus, is open to any student in the eighth grade with an expressed interest in the performing arts. The seven majors offered are in cinema, creative writing, dance, instrumental music, musical theatre, technical theatre, and visual arts. Applications are due by January 9, 2009 and auditions are held in early February. Application information is on the school's homepage, a few clicks away after you enter www.neisd.net.

Eighth Grade Calendar of Events

January 5 th – 9 th	Mrs. Solis will discuss High School requirements thru Math Class.
January 21 st	High School Four-Year Plans completed in classroom presentations by Connally Counselors.
January 28 th	All 5 Magnet Schools will hold an Information fair at Northside Activity Center from 6:30-7:30.
February 3 rd	Eighth Grade Parent Night with Warren, Marshall and Taft High School Counselors on Connally campus at 7PM
February 9 th	CONSTRUCTION CAREERS ACADEMY , the newest Northside magnet school will open on Warren HS campus in the fall. They will visit to recruit our students thru PE on this day.
February 10 th	Taft, Marshall and Warren High School Counselors on campus to discuss with students how to select their Freshmen classes
February 12 th	Marshall High School will conduct an Elective Course Information Fair at Marshall at 7:00.
February 13 th	Business Careers Magnet High School, John Jay High School Science and Engineering Academy, Communications Arts Magnet High School & Health Careers Magnet High School Counselors will visit campus for presentations. Applications will be given out.
February 17 th	Both Warren and Taft High Schools will conduct an Elective Course Information Fair on their respective Campuses. Warren HS begins at 6:00 and Taft HS begins at 6:30
February 23 rd	Students will receive high school course cards and will obtain teacher's & parent's signatures. Those who applied for a magnet school will also have a magnet school course card to complete and turn in to the advisory teacher.
February 24 th	Completed and signed High School Course Selection Cards are due from each 8 th grader to the advisory teacher.
March 3 rd	TAKS Reading test administered to all 8 th Graders
April 7 th	TAKS Math test administered to all 8 th Graders
April 29 th	TAKS Reading retest administered to 8 th Grade
April 30 th	TAKS Science test administered to 8 th Grade
May 1 st	TAKS Social Studies test administered to 8 th Grade
May 19 th	TAKS Math retest administered to 8 th Grade
June 4 th	Last Day of School Year

The information provided to you on this handout was prepared by your friendly Connally Counseling Staff. Please direct any questions to the Eighth Grade Counselor, Mrs. Judy Solis at 397-1028.