

Zachry Middle School
25 Years of Excellence
1985-2010

Wolverine Wire

October 13, 2009

Javier Martinez, Principal
April Cary, Vice Principal
Christina Rather, Assistant Principal
Crystal Szczybialka, Academic Dean

Dear Parents,

In recent weeks, we have been experiencing an unprecedented number of both student and staff absences. No doubt, this is due primarily to various strains of the flu which have affected not only our campus, but also other campuses throughout the district as well as the city. Schools are not the only places feeling the effects of the flu. In speaking to parents, many have shared that a much greater than normal number of their co-workers have also missed work due to illness. Local hospitals report that their emergency rooms are seeing increased numbers of flu cases from all segments of the population. In short, our entire community is being impacted by the flu, just as health officials predicted over a year ago.

In anticipation of a probable increase in flu cases, the district, in cooperation with Metro Health, is in the process of developing plans to distribute the Novel H1N1 vaccine to the community. While vaccinations will be administered here at Zachry Middle School, we want to remind parents that this will be done on strictly a voluntary basis and will require written parental consent. Please be aware that the district will be mailing home information about this initiative in the near future. In the meantime, we would like to encourage you to contemplate and determine what course of action will best suit the needs of your child and your family with regards to this vaccination.

We appreciate all of your efforts thus far in addressing the needs of your child and others in our school by appropriately addressing flu-like symptoms that your child may have experienced over the course of the past few weeks. With your continued support, we expect that the continued transmission of flu can be contained. Thank you for all of your help and support in this. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Javier Martinez
Principal

Industrial tech

Mr. Dreiss' **Industrial Technology** classes are building bookcases and nameplates for teachers. They also are building catapults and drawing and building model houses.

Zachry Flashback – 25 Years

Five current staff members were here when Zachry first opened in 1985. Ms. Murley (Art), Mr. Friedman (Band), Mr. Petersen (CIT), Ms. Roberts (Reading) and Ms. Moore (Math) were all a part of the brand new school! Thanks for sticking around for 25 years!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Red Ribbon Week is scheduled for October 26-30. Exciting activities have been planned throughout the week. Check out the counselor's webpage at <https://nisd.schoolnet.com/outreach/zms/couns/> for more information.

CAFETERIA NEWS

Parents and Students,
Zachry is a "NO CHARGE" school, which means if students do not have money in their accounts, they will not be allowed to charge a meal. This statement is listed on the menus, applications, student handbooks, and on the Child Nutrition web-site.

Parents please take advantage of the on-line payment site. You are able to add money to your child's account and check your student's balance.

If you have not had a chance to visit the Child Nutrition web site, please do so. There is a lot of helpful information just for you.

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

Per Student Handbook, Page A-2, Attendance:

Upon return from an absence, a student MUST present a parent note to the attendance office prior to the beginning of school. Following an absence a student must present a parent note to include (1) reason for absence, (2) date of absence(s), (3) parent signature, and (4) telephone number where parent can be contacted. For absences of three or more consecutive days, a doctor's note IS REQUIRED. If a student misses THREE or MORE consecutive days because of illness, a parent may request make-up work from the attendance office.

Student notes are kept on file in the attendance office.

Student Planners

Students are responsible for paying for their planner. It is \$3.50 and must be cleared before students are allowed to attend any dances or other activities.

Please pay Mrs. Suhr in the front office.

Dates to Remember:

- **October 20** A1-A2 Band Concert 7:00pm
- **October 21** PICTURE RETAKES
- **October 26** 2nd 6 Weeks Progress Reports
- **October 29** Orchestra Fall Concert 7:00pm
- **October 30** FALL DANCE.
6th 4:00-5:30
7/8th 6:30-8:00
- **November 11th**— Veteran's Day Celebration.



The **Orchestra** is having a Haunt-cert October 29, 2009 at 7pm in the cafeteria. The theme is "Movies" so you are encouraged to wear school appropriate costumes depicting characters from your favorite movies.

AVID is starting its College research project. The students are very excited about learning about the colleges of their choice. 7th grade is researching Colleges in Texas and 8th grade is researching colleges out of Texas. The final product will be presented in January and then displayed at the College Night at Zachry in February.

Reading is starting to settle into short stories and a novel unit in 8th grade. 8th graders will be reading Touching Spirit Bear and discussing how the change of a character affects the plot of the story. 7th grade will be doing a short research project and then get ready for their novel units. 6th grade will continue to discuss genres and develop literary elements through reading and discussion.

English Department
 Benchmarks for 6th, 7th, 8th Graders
 10/5-10/9 10/19-10/23

History Fair

7th and 8th Grade Honors & GT classes will be participating in History Fair this year. The theme is *Innovation in History: Impact & Change*. Students are responsible for picking a topic, completing the research, and designing a final product to be shown in December. See your child's History teacher for more information.

GT Corner

The Gifted & Talented Program known as ALPHA (Advanced Learning Program for High Achievers) welcomes you to the 2009-2010 school year. Take a look at what our kids are currently involved in:



6th grade GT students will begin their study of phenomena in October. A field trip to **Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum** to view rare artifacts is planned for Oct. 20th from 2nd through 6th periods. Students will bring a sack lunch to enjoy with classmates at Hemisphere Park following our visit to the museum.

7th grade GT students started off the year identifying their **Multiple Intelligences** and then creating silhouettes showing off their areas of strength and weaknesses. These silhouettes can be viewed on the classroom GT Walls of Fame. Students are now more aware of their learning styles and those of their classmates.

8th grade GT students have taken a **Kersey Me Temperament Sorter** to identify their particular personality temperaments. With their findings, students are creating ME Posters that will be displayed in the GT room. Being aware of one's temperament can be helpful in knowing what to study for possible careers in the future.

MEET OUR NEW ACADEMIC DEAN!!!

We welcome Mrs. Crystal Szczybialka as our new Wolverine. Mrs. Szczybialka (Shu-bee-all-ka) was most recently an assistance principal at Taft High School. Her previous assignment was as the Reading Department Coordinator at Anson Jones Middle School. Mrs. Szczybialka states, "I'm thrilled to be at Zachry Middle School and serving the instructional needs of our students. Building strong relationships and establishing a team approach with our teachers, students and the community which is imperative for the success of our students as they prepare for high school and higher learning.

Mrs. Shooby, as she likes to be called, is available to assist parents and students with academic placements and instructional questions. She can be reached at 397-7400, or by email at Crystal.Szczybialka@nisd.net.

YEARBOOKS!

The Yearbook staff is hard at work on putting together a great book for you. Yearbooks are now on sale for \$33.00 and can be purchased online at www.myyear.com, or from Ms. Faucher in room B-129. This year promises to be a special edition for the 25th Anniversary!

Photographs!

Parents, if you have been taking pictures at any events, and are willing to share them, we would love to have copies! We would especially welcome sports pictures.

It is easy to upload them directly to the yearbook!

Go to <http://sw.taylorpub.com>

Click on "Public Upload"

Enter Project # 12768

Please add a caption so we know what we are looking at!

Thanks!

CELEBRATE VETERAN'S DAY

This year, in conjunction with the 25th Silver Anniversary of the school, we would like to have 25 former Zachry students representing our military (Retired or Active Duty). So, if you have a member of the family who has served, or is currently serving our country, and think they would be interested in participating in our Veterans Day Celebration, please contact Mr. John Gonzalez at 397-7400.

Also, please make plans to join us for our Veteran's Day Celebration on November 11th, starting at 8:30am on the back patio. More details to come!



Camp Zachry t-shirts are available for \$6.00. They may be worn everyday as school spirit shirts. The sizes are adult S, M, L, and 1X. They are available in red, white and black. Please see Ms Gomez in front office or Ms. Andersen in D124.

The **After School Tutoring Program** has begun meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If your child received and returned a signed permission slip from Ms. Moore, Mr. Mathison, Mrs. Giovannelli, Mrs. Burvato or Ms. Andersen, then your child is eligible to attend this program. It starts at 3:45 and ends at 6 pm. The students start off in the cafeteria eating their school provided snack. A 30 min lesson follows the snack. Next is 30 min of Homework assistance in ALL subject areas. Finally, we end the program with an enrichment activity. It may be conducted inside or outside of the building. Thank you for reminding your child to attend especially if they are a bus rider!

LEARNING TREE

Does your student need enriching, structured and safe activities to participate in after school? Then, the Learning Tree may be a program for you to consider. The program is a free after school enrichment program that provides fun, hands-on classes and activities from 3:45-5:45. The program also provides a nutritious snack, homework assistance and transportation at no cost to you. Call Learning Specialist Ms. Karrie O'Neal at 397-7457 for more details.

Attention Halloween and Football Fans



On Saturday, October 31, 2009 High School Football games are scheduled for Stevens and Jay as well as Brandeis and O'Connor High Schools. Athletic officials have asked us to notify parents that middle school and high school students in costume will not be allowed into the stadium. Also, the giving of candy/food will not be allowed.