

New Technology for GISD

The Technology Department of Gladewater ISD has been extremely busy this summer preparing for the 2009-10 school year. New technology for the year includes the AlertNow automated calling system, a Technology Work Order system, a Maintenance Work Order system, and a Video Surveillance system.

AlertNow - In today's climate, school administrators are under mounting pressure to increase attendance, build community relations, improve parental involvement, and ensure campus safety. AlertNow is an elite, industry-leading rapid communication service, designed specifically for the K-12 community, that addresses all of these needs. Saf-T-Net (STN), founder of AlertNow, has partnered with thousands of schools in all 50 states, providing a cost-effective, reliable and user-friendly communication service to educators. AlertNow's best-of-class technology delivers voice, e-mail and emergency SMS messages at a rate up to two million per hour – quickly keeping parents and staff informed on important and time-sensitive information. In addition to delivering routine messaging, AlertNow is a critical component to every crisis plan, ensuring accurate information is communicated immediately in the event of a lockdown, relocation, evacuation or other emergency situation.

Technology & Maintenance Work Order System – SchoolDude.com is a web-based, comprehensive, integrated suite of utilities that streamline everyday operations. GISD is utilizing the Technology and Maintenance Work Order system, as well as the Technology Inventory Management system. As school began, employees were able to enter online requests to have technology and facility maintenance issues resolved. Only after nine days of school, 159 maintenance work orders and 179 technology work orders had been processed through the new system.

Video Surveillance – In an endeavor to provide students and employees a safe and secure environment in which to learn and work, GISD has installed a district-wide, state-of-the-art video surveillance camera system. The system consists of 44 cameras and a digital video recording system and is capable of recording and archiving full-motion, live video 24 hours a day.

Bear Facts

GLADEWATER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - "STRIVING FOR SUCCESS"

ISSUE ONE
VOLUME TWO
FALL 2009

Way to Go Joe!

Gladewater Middle School would like to send out a BIG THANK YOU to Joseph Hawley. 'Joe' as he is referred to by his middle school family, for the past two years, has taken it upon himself to ensure that the American Flag is raised each morning as school begins. Those of us at GMS commend this young man for his efforts at reminding us of the need to honor America and the freedom that we have been given.



Great Beginnings at Gay Avenue Primary School

Our first graders are considered our "seniors" on campus and they enjoy their leadership roles; always striving to show good character and trying to be positive role models. GPS Kindergarteners begin their day by separating from their parents and striking out on their own to enjoy their first year of school at GISD. They are very brave and work very hard to impress their teachers. The first day of school for the Gay Avenue Primary School campus is exciting and can be a challenge. Our two main goals for the day is to feed them lunch and to make sure all children find their way home. Gay Avenue Primary School is a great place to start the educational experience.



Students waiting to catch the bus to go home after their first day of school at GPS

TAKS scores continue to improve at GISD

For the first time under the current accountability system, GISD has two exemplary campuses. Gay Avenue and Broadway learned in late July that they would be flying EXEMPLARY banners at their campuses this fall. Overall Broadway student performance in reading was 96% and math performance was 98%. Weldon Intermediate will be flying their Recognized banner this fall. The Recognized rating for Weldon has not occurred since 2006. Gladewater Middle and High Schools, along with the district received the Academically Acceptable rating.



2nd & 3rd Graders Enjoy Sno-Cone Party

During the first week at Broadway School this year, Principal Darren Richardson issued a challenge to all students.

That challenge was for every student to get all his/her signed paperwork back to school before Friday, August 28. He further stated that whichever class in each grade level got all their paperwork in before the deadline would receive a special treat.

The 2nd Grade class of Mrs. Donalyn Smith and the 3rd Grade class of Mrs. Angie Townsend “rose to the occasion” by turning in all of their paperwork the day before the deadline.

Those classes enjoyed a snow cone party with the principal on Friday afternoon, August 28 in the cafeteria. Not only did the students and their teachers have a “blast,” but they had a special guest who dropped by to help them enjoy their treats. That “surprise” visitor was none other than our own Superintendent of Schools, Dr. J.P. Richardson.



Principal Darren Richardson serves 3rd grader Jaxon White a snow-cone during the “Challenge” party at Broadway

INTERVENTION!

Do you remember the scene in Finding Nemo when Dory and Marlin are fighting over the diver’s mask? As they struggle, the mask ends up bopping Dory in the nose. As her nose bleeds and the blood enters Bruce’s nostrils, Bruce states, “Ohhhh thats good...” Then Anchor and Chum come to the rescue, “Intervention!”

Whether it is trying not to eat fish or perform better in math or reading, we all need some intervention now and then. Here at Weldon, we are becoming intervention experts. We now have three phases of intervention for students to better prepare them for math and reading. First, we have morning tutorial sessions from 8:00 to 8:30am. During these sessions, small groups of 3-5 students work on specific TAKS objectives in math and/or reading. Hopefully, by pinpointing these skills, we can connect the gaps in student learning so achievement can sky-rocket. Students not in a small group work on Accelerated Reading, Accelerated Math, or complete some other assignment or activity.

Next, we have our intervention specialists pulling students out of non-core instructional classes and work with students on math or reading for 30 minutes each session daily. These small groups are designed to teach students in innovative ways including hands-on learning using manipulatives and technology. Currently, we have two intervention specialists working with over 40 students each.

Finally, we are already looking forward to November when we begin afterschool tutorials. These sessions will focus on struggling mathematicians and readers who need extra time to gain necessary skills in their learning.

All three of these programs utilize different curriculums, approaches, and teaching strategies. We do this so we can reach every student on his/her level and take them to the next. If you have any questions about our intervention processes and procedures, give Dr. Woods a call at 903-845-6921.



WE WANT YOU!

Are you looking for a way to help students and make a difference? Would you like to be a part of the GREAT things that are happening in our schools? If so, GISD is looking for dependable, responsible, dedicated and supportive individuals willing to volunteer their time. Volunteer opportunities include assisting with special events, being a guest speaker in a classroom, serving as a clerical or library assistant, helping with lunch or bus duty, tutoring students, assisting teachers in the classroom and more.

So, if you are interested in being a volunteer you will need to first attend an orientation. Our first orientation was held on August 26. Marion Hansard, Cisco Frierson, J. D. Shipp, Gilbert Herndon, and Charlee and Rodger Garbs were in attendance. The next orientation is scheduled for Monday, September 21 at 10:00 am at the Central Office at 500 W. Quitman.

The goals of GISD’s volunteer program are to increase student achievement with special emphasis on math and science, give added support and help to classroom teachers, provide positive role models for our students, strengthen our home/school/community partnerships, and increase parental involvement in schools.

If you are ready to make a real difference and would like to know more about the many volunteer opportunities in Gladewater ISD, please contact the District at 903.845.6991, extension 624 or email inquires to playerc@gladewaterisd.com.

VISION 20/20

Apple MacBooks will be rolled out to participating High School Students within the first three weeks of school, courtesy of No Child Left Behind and Gladewater ISD. Parents and students have been busy attending Orientation meetings and signing forms as teachers receive training and the Technology Department images and bags 639 laptops. An Aruba wireless infrastructure was installed during the summer providing wireless access to all areas of Gladewater High School. Our community can be assured that our students will graduate from GHS with 21st century skills preparing them for work and/or continuing education.



TAFE

Texas Association of Future Educators is a club for any students in Parenting, Child Development, or Ready, Set Teach. Each year the members participate in various community activities. In recent years, TAFE members have worked at the community Halloween celebration, collected money and items for soldiers, and bought school supplies for needy children. Participants are also involved in a number of school projects, including Teacher Appreciation Week. Each year representatives from our organization attend the TAFE State Conference, where they participate in a variety of contests and educational sessions focused on teacher preparation.

Ready, Set, Teach!

Ready, Set Teach is a class designed for high school students who think they would like to work with children. Young people involved in this program have the opportunity to spend time observing and working with teachers and their students. Students may participate one or two years, working under the direction of Mrs. Ann Grimes and a teacher at one of the local elementary schools. Two days a week are spent at the high school, where participants focus on activities and skills that will help them in the elementary classroom. The other three days are spent at the elementary campus where they will help their cooperating teacher by developing meaningful activities, providing individual student assistance, and facilitating daily lessons. To qualify for this program, a student must have taken Child Development and Parenting, have good attendance and maintain exemplary behavior in the school and in the community.

