

WHERE CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT
EST. 1982

SMSD SPOTLIGHT

End-of-School 2007-08

WWW.STAFFORD.MSD.ESC4.NET

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As SMSD students enter the Summer Break, I want to strongly encourage every parent to provide opportunities for their children to continue reading over the summer. Unless students are participating in some form of summer education program (Summer School, educational forums, etc.), they potentially will not be exposed to reading or other education expectations for almost three months. It does not take statistics or data to tell all of us that this is not educationally healthy! As we all know, most students are not going to read on their own. As parents and educators, it is our responsibility to provide the setting and materials that would encourage our children to continue reading throughout the summer. Parents, make reading a family priority so that every student returning to SMSD on August 25, 2008, is as prepared as possible to continue our outstanding growth.

I also want to express my congratulations to all SMSD teachers and students for continual growth in all academic areas. Stafford High School was crowned District 24-AAA UIL Academic Champions for 2007-08; our preliminary 2007-08 TAKS scores are showing continued improvement; and the number of Advanced Placement and Dual-Credit Course offerings are increasing due to an increased student participation.



Finally, if your child does not attend SMSD, I strongly encourage you to contact us at 281-261-9202 and allow us to convince you that SMSD is the right place for your child and family. Please take a look at the enclosed SMSD's theFactsheet.

Thanks ~ and have a safe and restful summer.

H.D. CHAMBERS

Legislative Summit Scheduled Citizens' Opportunity to Question Legislators

Several area school districts, including SMSD, will host a Legislative Summit this fall to offer citizens an opportunity to hear where state officials stand on issues affecting public education and the business community in the areas of 1) school finance; 2) business tax; and 3) property appraisal values. State Senator Dan Patrick, State Representative Rob Eissler, and State Representative Scott Hochberg have been invited to address key education and education finance topics at the forum that will include a panel of legislators responding to questions and a cracker-barrel discussion in which each of the legislators may field questions from the voters they represent. The summit, to be held prior to the 81st Legislative Session, will be held at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, 1865 Aldine Bender, Houston, Texas 77032, on Saturday October 18, 2008, at 9:00 am.

SMSD TAKS Scores Improvement Seen

Based on preliminary TAKS results, SMSD students are increasing their scores compared to last year. High school students improved in every subject in every grade. Exit Level Reading/ELA scores jumped from last year's 83% to 93% and Math scores from 69% to 81%.

Grade	Reading/ELA		Math		Science		Social Studies		Writing	
	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08
3	91%	93%	71%	76%						
4	77%	75%	79%	82%					86%	87%
5	91%	90%	93%	86%	58%	61%				
6	93%	95%	62%	81%						
7	83%	82%	60%	63%					92%	93%
8	88%	96%	62%	72%	66%	56%	80%	75%		
9	84%	86%	46%	53%						
10	71%	86%	49%	58%	44%	65%	78%	90%		
11					66%	74%	92%	95%		
Exit Level	83%	93%	69%	81%						

SMSD School Board Elections New Trustees Take Oath of Office

At the May 20, 2008, Called School Board Meeting, two newly-elected trustees were sworn in to office as a result of the May 10, 2008, elections. SMSD conducted a joint election with the City of Stafford that resulted in Rodney Butler and Cindy Hoelscher being elected to the 2008-09 school board. Butler, a US Postal Service employee, is a 20-year Stafford resident and father of a current SMSD student. Hoelscher has served as an appointed trustee to fill a vacancy left by a previous trustee in April 2007. A CPA, she also has a child enrolled in SMSD.



Butler



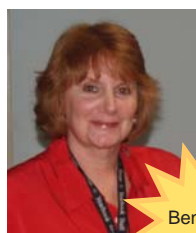
Hoelscher

At the same meeting, the board elected officers for the upcoming year with the following realignment:

- Greg Holsapple President
- Cindy Hoelscher Vice President
- Michael Cropper Secretary
- Rose Berberian Assistant Secretary
- Rodney Butler Trustee
- Mike Guerra Trustee
- Ettienne Zak Trustee

The school board meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Board Room of the Administration Building with the public session beginning at 7:00pm

Two SMSD Principals Chosen for Harvard Only 100 Selected to Attend Institute



Benedict

Rebecca Benedict, Stafford High School Principal, and Walt Fenn, Stafford Elementary Principal, have been selected to attend a week-long educational leadership program at Harvard University. The program is sponsored by Raise Your Hand Texas (RYHT), a bipartisan group dedicated to strengthening and improving Texas' public schools. RYHT received over 400

applications for the Summer Institutes that will expose the campus principals to national and international experts in the fields of education and leadership and allow them to work with renowned educators from across the country. In addition to sponsoring the institute, RYHT is also underwriting tuition, lodging and expenses for attendees. SMSD is honored to have two principals selected.



Fenn

Summer at SMSD

Academics ~ Athletics ~ Hours

Academic Summer School for SMSD students began on June 5 with an enrollment of over 600 students. Summer School will end July 2, 2008.

The Athletic Department will be conducting strength and conditioning camp through July 24 and Open Gym (June 16-July 17) for SMSD students. High School fall sports practices will begin August 4.

The District will be closed from June 30 to July 14, 2008, except for the campuses hosting Summer School.

2008 Commencement Exercises Guest Speaker 1999 SHS Alumni

Stafford High School 2008 graduates were conferred their high school diplomas at Williams Trace Baptist Church on May 30, 2008, witnessed by a capacity crowd of families, friends, and faculty. The guest speaker, Dr. Debbie Geevarghese Kurian, was



Joseph



Serranzana

not only an SHS graduate (1999) but also the valedictorian of her class. Jocelyn Joseph was awarded 2008 valedictorian and Andrew Serranzana was named salutatorian. Both students began their education career in Pre-K at Stafford Primary School.

SHS District UIL Literary Champion District 24 AAA

In head-to-head competitions, the Stafford Spartans took the title of District Champs - but not on a football field or baseball diamond. These Spartans competed in calculator applications, current issues and events, spelling and vocabulary, editorial writing, feature writing, headline writing, literary criticism, journalism, and mathematics. Their reward was accumulating 307 points, 60 points ahead of second place, and being crowned UIL Academic Champions for District 24 AAA.

2008-09 District Calendar

Key Dates for Upcoming School Year

First Day of Summer School	Jun 05
Last Day of Summer School	Jul 02
Student Athlete Physicals	Jul 30
First Day of School	Aug 25
Labor Day Holiday	Sep 01
Ft. Bend County Fair Holiday	Sep 26
Early Release - Parent-Teacher Conference	Oct 09
Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov 26-28
Winter Break	Dec 22-Jan 02
Staff Development - Student Holiday	Jan 05
Spring Break	Mar 16-20
Inclement Weather or Easter Holiday	Apr 10-13
Memorial Day Holiday	May 25
Last Day of School	Jun 05

SMSD Hosts End-of-Year Program Service Awards ~ Retirees ~ Teachers-of-the-Year ~ TAKS Teams of the Year Honored

Not having to use inclement weather days this school year, SMSD faculty and staff's year ended two days ahead of the approved calendar. With school ending for students on May 30, SMSD employees gathered at the Civic Center June 2 to recognize several special people in their midst.



Retirees Merriwether, Cantu, Ray, Vaughn, Saldua, Roberts, Evans

Thirty-two service awards were presented to employees having completed 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years with the District. Employees who celebrated 25 years and accepted clocks for their quarter century service were Walter Brookins (Maintenance), Mary Lou Cantu (Intermediate), Joyce Dorn (Transportation); Jack Jebbia (High); Yolanda Kelley (Middle), Norma Menchaca (Primary), Marva Rasberry (Administration), and Irma Saldua (Primary).

Advance Placement and Dual-Credit Partnership with HCC Southwest Offers Science

SMSD is excited about a new program for junior and seniors who have previously taken Biology, Chemistry 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. In the Chemistry 2 lab-oriented course students will work with chemistry lab equipment and study principles and concepts at a level comparable to a first-year college course. They will explore in-depth areas such as atomic structure, reaction, stoichiometry, thermodynamic equilibrium, and quantitative analysis. Chemistry 2 is designed to prepare students to take the AP exam and earn dual-credit hours. Currently AP classes offered at Stafford High School are AP English, AP Spanish, AP STATS (Math), AP Calculus, AP Chemistry (new this year), AP Biology, AP Government, AP Economics, and AP U S History. Houston Community College Southwest offers dual-credit math program that is the only one offered by HCC in this area. Other dual-credit classes are English, Spanish, History, Government, Economics, POFl, Biology and Chemistry.

National Spanish Exams

10 Spartans Excel

Under Ms. Yolanda Soliz' tutelage, ten Stafford High School students were administered the National Spanish Examination sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Of the ten, two students earned gold medals (Jesus Villarreal and Dhiram Ruiz), two earned silver (Hannah Tobitt and Jasmine Beltran), two earned bronze (Yvonne Ruiz and Davian Ng) and four earned honorable mention (Alejandra Mendoza, Pamela Antuenez, Itzel Solano, and Jeffin Ng). "Attaining any placement or honorable mention for any student on the national Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with well over 106,000 students participating in 2008." Students from Stafford High School have a long history of high achievement on these exams.

Middle School Dress Code Addressed

Students Wear Colors According to Grade Level

Approved at the May 12, 2008, school board meeting, beginning in August Stafford Middle School students will wear shirts that correspond to their grade levels. Seventh Graders will wear gray shirts and Eighth Graders will wear light blue shirts. The Campus Improvement Team and the faculty researched dress codes in surrounding districts before proposing a change to the board.



Middle School Shirts

The results showed a trend in identifying students' grade levels' by the color of shirts. A parent feedback survey resulted in 110 returned surveys with only one in opposition to the change.

Superintendent H.D. Chambers presented congratulatory gifts to eight retirees for their dedication to education. Retirees for the 2007-08 school year were Sonia Cantu (Primary), Vicki Evans (Primary), Barbara Merriwether (High), Gerri Ray (Transportation), Sandy Roberts (Administration), Irma Saldua (Primary), Sandy Vaughn (Intermediate), and Carolyn Williams (High).



'Ms. Joyce' receives her 25 year award.

The 2007-08 Teachers-of-the-Year introduced their replacements to represent SMSD for 2008-09. Stafford Primary Teacher-of-the-Year is Maria Garza; Stafford Elementary Teacher-of-the-Year is Sally Escamilla; Stafford Intermediate Teacher-of-the-Year is Janet Hill; Stafford Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year is Letha Smith; and Stafford High School Teacher-of-the-Year is Jilla Peasley. Two teachers, Janet Hill and Jilla Peasley, will represent SMSD for Elementary and Secondary (respectively) at the Region 4 Teacher-of-the-Year level.

Based on recent TAKS scores, two teams were chosen as TAKS Teams of the Year. Ms. Rasberry announced Stafford Intermediate's 5th Grade Team and Stafford High School's Science Team as the new TAKS Teams-of-the-Year.



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

the **FACT** sheet

life-size education. . . small-school setting

www.stafford.msdc.esc4.net

In 1976, Stafford residents voted to create a break-away school district, one that would offer a small school environment for their children. Twenty-five years later, that tiny school district has grown to a student population of over 2800 with a focus on small classes and emphasis on academics. At the start of the 2003-04 school year, SMSD opened its doors to students outside its boundaries. The school board adopted policy to allow limited open enrollment for qualifying students. While maintaining a small-school personality and a low teacher to student ratio, SMSD is available for more families to become a part of school district. The tiny district that started classes in a warehouse has grown to a successful 96-acre, six-campus school district with outstanding student success. Stafford Municipal School District **Where Children Are Important.**



All schools are located at
1625 Staffordshire Road
Stafford, Texas 77477

SMSD offers

TUITION-FREE enrollment

for students not residing in SMSD and who meet specific discipline, attendance, and academic requirements. Contact any campus for enrollment packets or for more information! Join our small-school setting for a life-size education!

Stafford Primary School 281-261-9203

Pre-Kindergarten and First Grades

TEA Recognized

Meets Federal No Child Left Behind Standards

Principal Kim Vu

Half-day Pre-K for qualifying students ~ Full-day Kindergarten ~ Accelerated Reading ~ ESL-Bilingual ~ Gifted and Talented ~ Credit By Exam ~ CLEAR Curriculum ~ Reading Recovery ~ Early Childhood Development ~ Character Education ~ PIE Mentoring ~ Hands-on Science Labs



Administration

.....281-261-9202

H.D. Chambers
Superintendent
hd-ashby@stafford.msdc.esc4.net

Rob Dwight
Assistant Superintendent
rdwight@stafford.msdc.esc4.net

Marva Rasberry
Assistant Superintendent
mrasberry@stafford.msdc.esc4.net

Lucas Janda
Business Manager
ljanda@stafford.msdc.esc4.net

Board of Trustees

Greg Holsapple
President

Cindy Hoelscher
Vice President

Michael Cropper
Secretary

Rose Berberian
Assistant Secretary

Rodney Butler
Mike Guerra
Ettienne Zak
Trustees

board@stafford.msdc.esc4.net

Regular board meetings are held in the SMSD Administration Building on the second Monday of each month. Public session begins at 7:00 pm.

Stafford Elementary School 281-261-9229

Second through Fourth Grades

TEA Recognized

Meets Federal No Child Left Behind Standards

Principal Walt Fenn

Hands-on Science Labs ~ Math and Reading Specialists for individual instruction ~ Perfect attendance awards ~ Identified students participate in the Duke Talent Search



Stafford Intermediate School 281-208-6100

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Academically Acceptable

Meets Federal No Child Left Behind Standards

Principal Ms. Patricia Cantu

History Alive and Science Alive programs ~ Hands-on Science Labs ~ KickStart offered to 6th graders

Stafford Middle School 281-261-9215

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Academically Acceptable

Meets Federal No Child Left Behind Standards

Principal Dr. Phyllis Tyler

SEAL engineering academy ~ Excellent- and Superior-rated Band ~ Pre-AP classes



Stafford High School 281-261-9239

Ninth through Twelfth Grades

Academically Acceptable

Meets Federal No Child Left Behind Standards

Principal Rebecca Benedict
SEAL academy with potential internship ~ Award winning UIL Academics ~ dual-credit with HCC ~ AP classes ~ SAT Preparatory ~ National Merit Scholarship Finalist and Semifinalists for the last ~ Award winning Band ~ Award winning Choir ~ District and Regional athletic champions



look what we have to offer . . .

SMSD prides itself in offering a **small school environment** for its students while being surrounded by three large school districts in the Houston metroplex. SMSD has a small school feeling since all schools are located in the same complex. Students may begin their education at Stafford Primary School and end graduating from Stafford High School - all at the same facility. Unlike larger schools and districts, our teachers, principals, and administrators know the students by name.

STAFFORD SPARTANS!



Students have the opportunity to participate in many sports due to our small-school environment! SMSD athletes have held District, Regional, Area and State titles over the years. The 2007-08 season garnered championships in District 24AAA Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Swimming, and Track and Field. Other sports offered Spartans are cross-country, football, volleyball, baseball, soccer, softball, powerlifting, tennis, golf, and Special Olympics.

**Come join our
SMALL SCHOOL
environment!**

14:1
students to teachers

... and that's not ALL ...

Strong emphasis placed on . . .

- . . . Advance Placement and Dual-Credit
- . . . Accelerated Reading Program in grades Pre-K-8
- . . . district-wide hands-on student science labs
- . . . SAT preparatory classes underwritten by the City
- . . . student participation in fine arts through music, drama, art

SMSD is the only municipal school district in Texas . . .

- . . . students and staff benefit from relationship between City of Stafford and SMSD

Smaller school enrollments . . .

- . . . provide more educational activity opportunities
- . . . provide students a more personalized education
- . . . enhance students' opportunities for success

Proximity of campuses means . . .

- . . . all grades located together
- . . . parent accessibility to all children
- . . . same night Open House for all grades

District total student to teacher ratio . . .

- . . . 14:1 - lower than state average

All campuses meet or exceed . . .

- . . . State (AEIS) and Federal (No Child Left Behind) Adequate Yearly Progress standards

Outstanding PE offerings . . .

- . . . swimming lessons for 2nd and 4th graders
- . . . KickStart martial arts for 5th through 8th graders

TEA Recognized campuses . . .

- . . . Stafford Primary and Elementary Schools

TEA Academically Acceptable campuses . . .

- . . . Stafford Intermediate, Middle, and High Schools

UIL Academic competitions . . .

- . . . Stafford High School District 24AAA Literary Champion
- . . . individual and team competed at UIL State level

Academic Boosts . . .

- . . . SPARTA learning preschool for employees' children between ages 3 and 5
- . . . SEAL engineering academy and potential internships
- . . . Pre-AP classes for 7th and 8th graders
- . . . dual-credit and AP courses offered through HCC
- . . . the only math dual-credit in HCC southwest

Student organizations excel . . .

- . . . FFA chapter has history of Grand Champions
- . . . DECA participates in international competitions

Schools and Community . . .

- . . . students host food and clothing drives
- . . . students are involved in local charitable organizations
- . . . City supports productions at Stafford Center and Stafford Civic Center
- . . . local businesses support

23%
teachers with advanced degrees

Student Facts

2008 Enrollment	2935
African American	36.3%
Hispanic	38.9%
White	9.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander	14.6%
Native American	0.2%

Staff Facts

African American	35.1%
Hispanic	12.1%
White	50.4%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9%
Native American	0.5%
Teacher Starting Salary	\$42,000

Transportation

SMSD provides transportation for all students living in Stafford - no matter the distance from school! Late buses allow students to participate in after-school activities and arrive home safely.

Total 2007-08 Tax Rate

\$1.03338 - Maintenance & Operations
\$0.21661 - Debt Service (I&S)

\$1.25

Homestead Exemption - \$15,000+20%
No city property tax
Freeport exemption

Stafford property owners pay the second lowest amount of school property taxes in the greater Houston area.