

August 13, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to explain the 09-10 school calendar and the Fantastic Friday program. This program has been designed to excuse students whose academic performance in specific content areas meets current expectations while allowing our teachers to provide specific help to those students who need additional assistance.

During the 08-09 school year we realized significant improvement in student performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). Multiple factors can be attributed to this improvement; however, we believe the Fantastic Friday Program played a significant role in the performance of students with specific instructional needs. Therefore, we have adopted a school calendar that extends the Fantastic Friday Program to students in grades Kindergarten through fourth. While the general components of the program remain the same, we have modified and improved the program in an effort to provide instructional focus and targeted instruction that will be of great benefit to our children.

The enclosed calendar identifies ten specific school days that will serve as Fantastic Fridays: October 9th, November 13th, December 11th, January 29th, February 12th, February 26th, March 26th, April 9th, April 16th and April 23rd.

The Fantastic Friday School Day will consist of the following:

- Regular school day hours attended by identified students
- Regular cafeteria and transportation services
- Small group instruction in multiple settings with student centered activities
- Modified schedule to allow for individualized instruction
- All instruction will be driven by individual student data

Required student attendance will be identified by campus administrators and teachers using the following criteria:

- Performance on the 08-09 TAKS
- Standardized tests such as Mock TAKS and ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills)
- Diagnostic assessments such as Texas Primary Reading Initiative (TPRI), Saxon Phonics and cumulative exams in core areas when applicable

Letters identifying students required to attend the initial Fantastic Friday will be mailed at the beginning of the school year.

As the year progresses, your child may or may not be required to attend specific Fantastic Fridays, as determined by the criteria identified above. Please note that if your child is not required to attend school on a Fantastic Friday, you will need to make arrangements for your child/children during the school day.

Building Champions,
Dr. Fred Brent