

Dear High Flying HAWK parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already rolling into September! It has been so good to see your children's bright smiling faces during the first two weeks of school. We are off to a fantastic start and the children are happily learning in the classrooms! As I have repeated many times over the course of the last four years, the learning process is a team effort here at Huffman between the teachers, parents and your children. We are very strong in those three areas, which makes Huffman a wonderful, thriving, learning environment.

We will continue our efforts in creating well rounded children in all areas through the use of our HAWKS positive behavior support system. It is all based on

H- Have Respect

A- Act Responsibly

W- Work Hard and Smart

K - Keep it Positive

S - Show your Character

The children are doing a wonderful job of displaying these characteristics throughout the building. They can earn HAWK bucks for their efforts which can be used at the HAWK Buck store, for rewards in their classrooms, or use them for the drawings at our Spirit Assemblies throughout the year. We are adding one element this year as we will be recognizing a "Super-Hero" from each classroom each month that displays the HAWKS characteristics. Our goal continues to be to create happy children who will develop a love of learning. You can help us achieve that goal by supporting your child's teacher and setting the expectation that education is important at your home. Teachers and parents together, help educate children. We always encourage and invite you to be an active part of what is going on here at Huffman. If you have not already done so, please join our PTA. Inquire about how you can help your child's teacher through volunteerism. If your child sees that you are active in the school, it sends a strong message to them that you value education and their teachers.

We currently have 595 wonderful, happy students at Huffman. Folks, that is a healthy number! I am pleased to let you know that we have been rated as an "Exemplary" school again by the state of Texas. However I am even more pleased to let you know that we have been rated as a higher performing school by the state of Texas based on the growth of all the students at all learning levels in each grade. With that being said, many of you often ask what you can do at home to help your child. Right now the biggest thing that you can do is to encourage your child to read. Reading is the key to everything that we do here at Huffman. The children should be doing enjoyable reading 20 to 30 minutes a night on top of their normal homework.

We will be hosting our 3rd^d annual family dinner and literacy night on October 8th. There will be many more details forthcoming. It is the best deal in town where

everyone gets to eat great food from Maggianos for \$1.00 and learn lots of strategies for reading/writing at all grade levels from our incredible teachers.

Our award winning PTA and school has many exciting events coming up in the near future. Please look for the enriching after school programs, such as art, drama, Spanish, science etc... to begin soon. All of these are aimed at promoting student success in partnership with the school. Please mark the following dates on your calendar for upcoming events: Back to School Bash- 9/11 from 6 to 8 PM combined with spirit night at Chik-fil-A which means Huffman will receive 10% of all proceeds from food ordered at Chik-fil-A between 5 and 8 PM that night. So, grab some good food from Chik-fil-A and come on over for the Bash!

I want to commend all of you who are choosing to follow the traffic patterns and being patient during drop off/pick up times. Great job in following the left hand turn out of the lower carpool and paying attention to the cones. Please remember that rainy day procedures are going to take a little bit longer than normal as our goal is to keep the children warm and dry. By staying healthy they don't miss school. It is imperative that all of us follow the traffic patterns and to remember the rules of the road during carpool times. During a bad weather day at dismissal time we will have all cars pick up the children in the lower carpool. 4th and 5th grade will still pick up in the back of the building. If you arrive for carpool and see that the buses are in the upper carpool line, please proceed to lower carpool. Again, this process will take a few extra minutes, but it will ensure that the kids are dry. Driving fast in and around the school grounds will not get you to your destination any faster! You do not want one minute of "hurriedness" to create an accident that could have a lifelong impact. Remember, children are children and they will do child-like things such as not paying attention, not riding their bikes perfectly straight or just plain daydreaming. Always be on the lookout during carpool times!

Our main focus is the growth of your child from August to June in each area of school. Your child's happiness and wanting to learn is the biggest indicator of our success. We truly have the top educators in the district working with your children on a daily basis. They pour their heart and soul into what they do to create a wonderful learning environment where your children will thrive. Take the time to honor them. Please take time to be part of our parent volunteer base and plan on attending events here at school. We love working with your children and look forward to working with you throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to call me if you need anything or have questions regarding your child and school.

Len Stevens
Huffman Principal