

Dear Cougar Parents,

We hope that your holiday season was an enjoyable experience for you and your families. As we move well into the second semester, I would like to notify you about a very important upcoming event. Please be aware of the mandated state testing schedule for this spring (listed on page 5). Every 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade student will be involved in some form of testing on these dates. I encourage you to emphasize the importance of these tests to your student(s) as they must be able to pass the four exit level exams administered in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade to ultimately graduate. TAKS retesters (those seniors who have not yet passed a particular exit test) will also be administered re-takes during this time. We are working hard to prepare our students for success, focusing on strong alignment of our course curriculums with the TAKS requirements by teaching to critical TEKS for which students will be held accountable.

I would also like to inform you of some very important changes. Cy-Fair ISD will be conducting 2008-09 high school course registration at a much earlier date this year in order to more accurately determine staffing needs for next year. Moving from a six period to a seven period day comes about as a result of the new Four by Four mandate from the state. This new law requires students (starting with the class of 2011) to take four years of math and four years of science in order to graduate on the Recommended plan. During the months of January and February, juniors will be attending individual conferences with their counselors to make course selections and review graduation credits for next year. Ninth graders will register on February 4 and 6 and 10<sup>th</sup> graders on February 11 and 12. Keep in mind that this is much earlier than in years past. You will be receiving registration information brought home by your student(s) and a phone call will be forthcoming with specific details regarding registration. It will be important for you to check the registration verification forms that will be mailed home afterwards in order to make sure that you know which courses your student will be taking next year.

On a final note, I would like to express my appreciation to State Legislative Representative Patricia Harless who represents District 126. Mrs. Harless recently visited Cypress Creek High School and attended classes, met with students, and talked with staff. She was most complimentary of our staff and students and indicated that she very much wants to support and to help improve education in the state of Texas. We all appreciate her time, interest, and efforts on behalf of our students.

Respectfully,

Jim Wells  
Principal