

August, 2009

EXEMPLARY!

Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I announce that Goodson Middle School has been named as a Texas Exemplary school based upon our TAKS scores last spring. What a wonderful honor for the teachers, students, and parents. Academically we had a high performing year. In athletics we had a rich successful year. In the fine arts, band, choir, orchestra, art and theater arts, we had an outstanding achievement year.

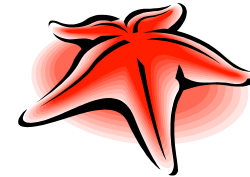
Our science TAKS scores were the highest in the District. We are in Tier I in science. We are the only middle school in the District in Tier I. Our science TAKS passing percent was 96%. In reading/language arts in grades 6-8, our percent passing was 99%. In 7th grade writing TAKS, our percent passing was 98%. In social studies 8th grade our passing percent was 100%. In math in grades 6-8, our passing percent was 95%. It appears that we will receive the Gold Performance Award for commended performance in the following areas: Writing and Social Studies.

How did we get these wonderful scores? Great students, great parents, and great teachers

How did the teachers approach the challenges? One student at a time.

How will we repeat this success? One student at a time.

As you read the story below, think about how you can help us with our Goodson Starfish. We are a team.



The Starfish Story

Adapted from [The Star Thrower](#)
by Loren Eiseley (1907 - 1977)

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "It made a difference for that one."