



Hopper Middle School
Home of the Huskies
It's All about the TEAM!
Trust/Effort/Attitude/Message

Dear Hopper Parents, Guardians, and Caretakers,

September 2009

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. I am very pleased with the way our school year has begun. Our staff came together several times over the summer to begin preparations for Hopper's third year. All staff members began work the week before students returned. We welcomed over 1400 students on August 24, and we've continued to grow each day since. We've had a very positive and productive opening, and we encourage all of you to be informed, involved, and supportive as we work as a TEAM to make every child reach his/her full potential this school year and beyond.

I'm dedicating this monthly newsletter to just that – parent involvement. I cannot stress enough how important it is that each of you reading this newsletter stay involved in the education of your child. There are many opportunities for you to do so.

Our Hopper Middle School Guiding Principles give a sense of the commitment we seek from parents and caretakers with regard to our efforts. The Guiding Principles read, in part:

“Hopper Middle School Guiding Principles

Inasmuch as we agree that all members of the Hopper community - students, instructional staff, support staff, parents, and business/community members - deserve for our students to receive a quality education in a safe and supportive environment, we agree to the following guiding principles to ensure the best possible educational opportunities for Hopper students...

Safe and Supportive Environment

Parents - support campus efforts to create a safe and supportive environment for all key stakeholders, support instructional staff if/when contacted regarding your child's behavior, keep contact information current with campus personnel, communicate with campus personnel when appropriate regarding student/family issues

Quality Educational Experience

Parents - participate in your child's education through discussion about his/her school experiences, encourage your child to give his/her best effort, attend campus activities.”

I would like to highlight one thought from the principles. **PLEASE let us know if your contact information (addresses, phone numbers, custody issues, emergency contacts) changes at any time during the year.** It is critical that we are able to get in touch with you should any number of reasons, including your child's health and safety. If we are to truly be partners in your child's educational success, we will need to be able to contact you. If there is a change, please contact our registrar/attendance office at 281-463-5328.

Other ways you can be involved and informed regarding your child's education include **checking your child's planner regularly (we suggest daily)**. Students should be writing their instructional objectives and homework assignments from each class in their planner, so this is a great way for you to know what your child is studying. Reviewing the planner is a great way to open up conversations with your child about what is going on in his/her daily school life.

Please **visit our Hopper Webpage** on a regular basis. You can do so from the main Cy-Fair Webpage (www.cfisd.net), go to campuses, then Hopper. There is a wealth

of information on that page, including a campus calendar, staff School Wires pages (personal WebPages which are great resources), curriculum information, and district information (to name just a few). You can learn and keep up with many details about our campus and district by looking at our Webpage regularly.

Each month you will receive a newsletter similar to this one through the mail. **Please take the time to read the monthly newsletter**, as it gives us the opportunity to inform you more fully about some important information regarding our campus.

You can monitor your child's academic progress (grades) by checking the PIV (Parent Internet Viewer). If you don't already have access to PIV, information regarding the registration process is available on Hopper's Webpage. Please use the PIV to regularly check to see that your child is achieving up to his/her potential.

Of course, you will continue to receive Progress Reports (half way through each six-week) **and Report Cards** (at the end of each six-weeks). We will send Progress Reports home with the students and Report Cards will be mailed, which is another reason our having current contact information (address) is critical.

We welcome VIPS (Volunteers In Public Schools) on our campus. Please contact our VIPS Coordinator, Alma Brown, at 281-463-5331 if you want to learn more about volunteer opportunities on our campus. **Each month Mrs. Brown and I host a VIPS Coffee at 10:00 AM in Hopper's library.** Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of these VIPS Coffees. By attending, you will have the opportunity to learn more about current events and information about our campus, including volunteer initiatives and opportunities. Dates for these coffees are: October 6, November 3, December 1, January 12, February 2, March 2, April 6, and May 4. Mark your calendars, and join us as often as you can!

Five evenings during the school year the Hopper CPOC (Campus Performance Objectives Committee) meets at 6:30 in the Hopper library. This committee includes staff, parents, district staff, and community members who discuss and provide feedback on topics of interest at the campus and/or district level. If you're interested in serving on our CPOC, please contact Alma Brown at 281-463-5331.

Signing up to be a **Hopper Key Communicator** will allow you to receive, via e-mail, the most immediate information from our campus or district. Occasionally, Dr. Anthony, CFISD Superintendent, or I will send information via the Key Communicator e-mail group. You can sign up to be part of the Key Communicator group by e-mailing your name, your student's name, and student's grade level to hopper@cfisd.net.

Our yearly **main school fundraiser will be candy bar sales.** The fundraiser will begin on September 10. Please consider allowing your child to participate, as the funds we raise allow us to provide additional incentives and rewards to our students such as Honor Roll and Awards Celebrations, among many others

We have very talented athletic and performance groups at Hopper. **Consider attending several athletic events or band, choir, orchestra, or speech/drama performances during the school year.** If your child is participating, they will appreciate your support. Even if your child is not part of the event, bringing him/her to the event allows you both to become more connected to our campus.

At minimum, please communicate with your child about his/her school experience, and be in touch with teachers or other school personnel if you have any concerns or questions. **We sincerely do want to work as a TEAM, and we all want the same goal for your child - the best education possible.**

Wishing us all a great year,

Dr. Robert Borneman
Principal