

Hopper Middle School

7811 Fry Road • Cypress, Texas 77433 • (281) 463-5353



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TEAM!
TRUST/EFFORT/ATTITUDE/MESSAGE

To Parents of Hopper Huskies for 2009-2010,

August 2009

Summer greetings to you all! The Hopper Middle School Staff is in the process of getting ready to welcome students and their parents to what we all hope will be the very best school year you have experienced to date. I have much to cover in this newsletter. Please take time to read this information, as it will only help us all to get off to a great start!

SCHOOL THEMES

Our theme at Hopper is **Hopper Middle School – It's All About the TEAM!** This theme reflects a commitment we agree is instrumental to student success. TEAM is then further broken down to Trust/Effort/Attitude/Message. We want our Huskies to remember that getting a good education is the best way to ensure a bright future. We, as a team, want to support our students in their efforts to pay attention in class, to complete their classwork and homework, to care about one another (and their parents and educators), to take care of their campus, and to always do their very best work. Working together as a TEAM, we are much more likely to accomplish our goal to give every student the very best education possible. As a PBIS campus, we also have a PBIS matrix. Our PBIS matrix is based around the word **PACK – Pride/Attitude/Cooperation/Kindness**. A copy of the behavior matrix is enclosed in this mailing! We use these themes regularly as reminders of our commitment to provide a quality education to our students in a safe and supportive environment.

Your child's teachers take their work very seriously. They work hard to stay informed about the current trends in education, to plan interesting and relevant lessons, and to make their classrooms inviting places for students. Education is very interesting, challenging, rewarding, and important work. We hope that you agree that your child's education is the key to his/her future. In keeping with the serious nature of the school environment, students should dress appropriately for the school setting. You will find **student dress code information** online at www.cfisd.net. (From the main page, select "campuses", "student policies and procedures", "student dress code".) Though sagging pants are currently a popular fashion, this form of dress is against the district's dress code policy. Please keep all of this dress code information in mind when you do your school shopping.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Toward the end of each month, a newsletter similar to this one will be mailed home. Please take the time to review this information when you receive it. The newsletters, a calendar of events, and other information about Hopper can also be found **online**. You can view it by going to the CFISD homepage (www.cfisd.net), then selecting Hopper under the Campus tab. Online Calendar is an option under Campus News on our homepage, and it is continually updated. When the year gets underway, we will also include **curriculum information** to keep you informed of your child's topics of study and major projects and test dates. We hope to see you at many of our school events and functions throughout the year.

SCHOOL HOURS

Our student hours are 8:15 AM-3:15 PM. Staff hours begin at 7:30. Students should not arrive on campus prior to 7:30, as no supervision is available until that time. Please do not put your child at-risk by dropping them off prior to supervised hours. Students should arrive in time to gather their materials and

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report to their first period class by 8:15. Additionally, please do not allow your students to stay after school unless they are participating in an approved after-school activity. Allowing your students to remain after school can create safety hazards as there is no adult supervision. If your child is a car rider, please pick-up at this time. Your assistance in this matter will greatly enhance the safe and secure environment that we offer at Hopper.

TRANSPORTATION

As you have probably heard, financial issues in CFISD have caused the district to reevaluate transportation services. All Hopper students will be provided district transportation due to our location on Fry Road. However, there will be **no late buses this year**. Students who stay after school for tutoring, athletics, a club or any other school-sponsored activity will have to walk home or have an alternative means of transportation. All students will need to be picked up between 4:30 and 4:45 unless otherwise requested by the sponsor of any after-school activity. No supervision will be available for students after this time.

OPEN HOUSES

Please note that our **Open Houses** have already been scheduled. This is your best way to get a sense of what your child's school year will hold for him/her. You will have the opportunity to visit each of your child's classes for a brief period and hear about the classroom and curricular expectations from each of your child's teachers. The sixth grade Open House will be held on Thursday, September 3 beginning at 6:30 PM and the seventh and eighth grade Open House will be held on Thursday, September 10 beginning at 6:30 PM. Please make every effort to attend these meetings. Our Bookfair will also be open during Open Houses. This bookfair raises additional funds for our library, and, of course, books make great gifts!

SIXTH GRADE ORIENTATION

For our incoming sixth graders, we will conduct a **Husky Orientation Day** on Saturday, August 22 from 9:00 am - noon. This is a come and go event, so you may **arrive at any time between 9 and 12**. However, please plan your time so that you will be finished with all of the opportunities we will provide for you that day by noon. During this time, sixth grade students may come to pick up their schedules. School supplies (see information included for school supply lists and prices), backpacks (\$5.00) and PE uniforms (\$10 for the shorts and \$10 for the shirt, \$20 total for the entire uniform) will be available for sale. Representatives from Transportation and Food Services will be available to answer questions you may have. Students and their parents may walk the building to learn their way around, see where their classrooms are, and practice their locker combinations. This is an excellent time for those new to middle school to get a "heads up" on their school year! Schedules for **seventh and eighth grade students** will not be available until the first day of school. Students will report to the gym upon arriving to campus, and lists will be posted to let all students know where to report. Staff members will be in the gym to assist students in finding their names and their classrooms.

BACKPACKS

We have had frequent requests from students to be allowed to carry backpacks during the school day. The challenge has always been the size of backpacks, their cluttering of classrooms, and presenting tripping hazards. This year, we have purchased backpacks that are a reasonable size and can be either placed under desks or hung from the back of student chairs. We will allow students to carry **only** these

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backpacks between classes. As we bought these backpacks in bulk, we were able to get a very good price on them. Backpacks will be sold throughout the year for only \$5.00.

CASH ONLY CAMPUS

In order to reduce collection fees and other associated costs with processing personal checks, Hopper is a cash only campus. Whenever paying any fees or purchasing any supplies, please either have a cashier's check or cash! Times are tough financially, and we cannot afford to lose any of our funding to the cost of processing checks. Your understanding and cooperation are appreciated.

FUNDRAISER and FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Our annual **fundraiser** will kick off on September 9. Our main fundraiser will again be Candy Bar sales. This is a very important event, as the money raised is used throughout the year to supplement your children's education with current and innovative curricular materials, for incentives/prizes, and for materials used by teachers in the classroom. Your support of our fund-raiser will help to supplement the education of all students at Hopper. Additionally, we participate in the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor program. If you shop at Kroger, **please clip the barcode found at the end of this letter**. Take it to your preferred Kroger store, and have the cashier link this barcode to your Kroger Plus card. Then, each time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger Plus card, a portion of your purchase proceeds will be donated back to Hopper! We also receive some funding from the recycling containers on our campus. I encourage you to bring any and all paper goods to school and place them in these bins. We are involved in the Boxtops for Education program, so, if you purchase any items that have that marking on them, please clip them and send them to school with your child. They can turn them in to any adult in the building, or place them in the container found on counter in the reception area. Finally, we're involved in a program that recycles old cell phones, computer printer cartridges, and copier cartridges. If you have any of these items, they can be dropped off at the front desk. It's expensive to educate students, and while we could get by with the funding provided through the district, this budget does not fund special wish list items, and events such as Honor Roll Celebrations, Breakfasts of Champions, Awards Nights, and various incentive programs that help to make our school successful. I'm always looking for ways to raise additional funds so that we can do everything possible to supplement the education of our Hopper students. I do hope that you will support these fundraising activities.

We are always looking for opportunities to celebrate our students and staff. If any of you own a business, work for a company, or have a relationship with a business that might make a **donation** which we could use for incentives, awards, drawings, staff appreciation, or recognitions, please contact our financial secretary, Alma Brown, at (281) 463-5331.

TITLE I

Hopper has been designated as a Title I campus. As such, we have received additional federal stimulus funding. With this funding, I was able to hire 6 additional teachers to help meet the needs of our students. Additional funding will help to support parent involvement (such as mailing these newsletters), additional library books, staff training opportunities, and instructional resources.

STAY INVOLVED

I would also like to encourage all of you to be **actively involved** in your child's education throughout their middle school years (and beyond). Our main goal, the academic and behavioral success of your child, is a shared one. When we work together to accomplish this goal, success is almost assured. As your child continues to mature, more responsibility for academic and behavioral choices rests with

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her/him. We must all work together to encourage your child to make appropriate, safe, and wise choices. **It REALLY IS All About the TEAM!**

If you are interested in becoming a Hopper Key Communicator, please email your name, student's name, and student's grade level to hopper@cfisd.net. You are encouraged to share key communicator information with your friends and neighbors to assist us in providing current, accurate information to our community.

There are many opportunities available to you if you wish to be an involved, contributing member of the Hopper team. You may wish to become a member of the VIPS (Volunteers In Public Schools). Our VIPS support us in a number of ways and their contributions are very valuable and appreciated. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, look for information in your child's first day packet, which will be brought home on the first day of school. Alma Brown, our campus contact for VIPS, can be reached at 281-463-5331. Another way to be actively involved is to be a member of the C.P.O.C. (Campus Performance Objectives Council). This group meets five evenings during the school year, and discusses topics of concern at the district or campus level. If you are interested in more information about this committee, please contact Gina Patrick, campus secretary, at (281) 463-5355.

At a minimum, I would ask that you engage in a meaningful **conversation** with your child about his/her school experiences on a **daily** basis. The **student planners** used by students to record lesson objectives and homework assignments are a nice place to begin these conversations. Daily, your child should be recording information about all of her/his classes in this planner. Please seek to understand what your child is learning in school by reviewing this planner regularly. We will focus all students on recording in these planners in all classes, and your interest in what they write will reinforce their efforts, and ours.

Also, encourage your child to do **homework assignments** and keep their **school materials** (binders, notebooks, folders, books, planner, etc.) **up to date and organized**. The teachers at Hopper have initiated several programs to help your child to succeed. With these interventions in place, students have ample opportunities to be successful. Please help us to support your children by encouraging them to take advantage of these programs. You can monitor your child's grades online with the **Parent Internet Viewer** program. If you received your access information previously, you are already able to use the PIV. If you did not get access last year, please call our main number (281-463-5353) to find out how you can pick up the access information. The PIV is a great way for you to keep track of your child's progress in all classes, as well as see where assignments may be missing. (You will hear more about these opportunities and other programs at Hopper, including details on curriculum and instruction, during our Open House evenings.)

Students will need very few **school supplies** on **the first day of school**. They will only need paper and pencils/pens, and a lunch or lunch money. If you order school supplies through Hopper, the supplies will be delivered to your child. An order form for school supplies has been included in this mailing if you have not yet taken advantage of this opportunity. If you purchase your school supplies separately (our school supply list can be found on our Hopper Website), your child will not need all supplies on the first day. We also encourage students to **ride the bus to school the first day**. This helps to facilitate students knowing their bus number and bus location in the line up for the ride home as well as eases congestion in our front drive.

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The Hopper Middle School Guiding Principles document is included in this mailing. This document affirms once again our commitment to working together to make Hopper a truly wonderful place to learn, work, and grow. Please be an active member of your child's Educational TEAM! Your child's **education is too important** for you not to be involved!

Middle school is an exciting time, full of change and increasing **independence**. With this greater independence, however, comes greater **responsibility**. Be assured that Hopper students will be expected to behave responsibly, meeting both high academic and conduct standards. Our staff is committed to making sure that Hopper maintains a safe, challenging, and pleasant academic environment.

In closing, please don't forget that, though your middle school child is growing up, s/he still needs your **love, encouragement, and support**. Here's to a great year ahead at Hopper Middle School, where we'll remind students and one another, "It's All About the TEAM!"

Most sincerely,

Dr. Robert C. Borneman
Principal
Hopper Middle School