

Monday Focus

September 4, 2007

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JROTC Maps out the Year If your curriculum team is having a hard time coming up with a clean curriculum map, then you should go down to the JROTC room and ask any of the instructors for some ideas. They have a clean and precise curriculum map that essentially has the entire semester on one page. They also have non-linguistic representation models on their classroom walls that might assist you with NLR strategy planning. Thanks to Col. Kalman, Sgt. Major Staton, and Sgt. Byrd.

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Reach Out to Drop Outs This Saturday is our annual Reach Out to Drop Outs Walk. Westside will be actively participating this year. Our AYP report shows that Westside Hispanic students currently have a 39% drop out rate. That is simply unacceptable. This Saturday, teams of WHS staff members will break up into teams and hit some neighborhoods with high concentrations of potential drop outs to make sure that we take the chance to pull them back into school. We could use as many warm bodies as possible so that we can personalize the experience. We have about 200 students to find, so you are needed. If you are interested, e-mail Anne-Elise Richards or see her in North 1 for more information. Or you can just show up on Saturday.

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Teacher Leadership Opportunities Last week you had information placed in your box about the Teacher Leadership Academy that the District is starting this year. Deadlines are coming up quickly, so be sure to get your information together and submitted in a timely manner. It looks promising and it is free, so it is worth checking out.

ASPIRE Workshops are Coming We will not have a faculty meeting this week so that we can schedule training with the District on the new ASPIRE accountability model. Essentially, we will learn what the system looks like and the reasons behind its implementation. The bit of news is that should it be adopted as proposed, teachers will be rewarded as departments, not as individuals because according to the research, TAKS does not test information that is grade-level specific, but rather departmental. These training sessions will probably be in small schools and will be throughout the month.

Calendar of Events

- Tue Sept 4** **PTO General Meeting, Library, 7 PM**
- Wed Sept 5** **No Faculty Meeting**
- Directors Meeting, Principal's Conference Room, 4th Period**
We will start looking at Rigor and Engagement in the classroom.
Rigor: What can students do as a result of the lesson?
Engagement: Are students "doing" the work?
- Varsity Volleyball vs. Milby, Barnett Fieldhouse, 5:15 PM**
- Thur Sept 6** **Curriculum Team Meetings, Dept. Rooms, 7:45 AM – 9:15 AM**
Be sure to finalize (1) curriculum maps, (2) fall semester final exam, (3) first snapshot. Start looking at common assessments as a way to improve your dialogue in your meetings. Remember that we are getting away from these being planning sessions for the next 5 days and more toward looking at what students are learning. This conversation can only occur if we are looking at student work. Plan for what the September 13 meeting will look like this Thursday.
- Fri Sept 7** **Freshmen Football vs. Texas City, WHS, 4:30 PM**
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