

New features added to Parent Connection

Discipline data and cafeteria payments

NISD continues to add features to the Northside Parent Connection in an effort to increase collaboration and communication between teachers and parents.

The newest features now being piloted at selected schools are the addition of student discipline data and online cafeteria payments.

Student discipline data

Beginning on Jan. 22, parents at Clark High School, Rawlinson Middle School and Locke Hill Elementary School will have access to current year discipline data. Discipline data could include less-serious infractions from talking too much or chewing gum in class to more serious infractions such as chronic tardiness, fighting, and drug possession. This data will be seen by parents and administrators only.

"We feel that parents are active participants in their child's education and need timely access to information," said Kelly Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services. "We see Parent Connection as an intervention tool that will arm parents with information to help them stop small problems before they become bigger ones."

If the pilot is successful, Smith hopes to roll the student discipline data



option out to the rest of the schools sometime after Spring Break.

Online cafeteria payments

Also beginning in late January, NISD employees who are parents of students at Holmes High School, Jefferson and Jones middle schools, and Galm and Meadow Village elementary schools will be able to make online cafeteria payments. The system will allow parents to review balances and pay by electronic check or credit card. If the pilot program is successful, the system will go online at all schools next school year, 2008-09.

What's next?

Upcoming new features will include being able to see the foods students have purchased in the cafeteria.

Parents are encouraged to read the news segment on the front of the Parent Connection web page for current announcements and information. ■

Northside students achieve national recognition

National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Seven Northside School District students were named semifinalists in the 52nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors now compete for 8,000 Merit Scholarship awards, worth over \$30 million. The nationwide pool of semifinalists includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

The students are: Dianna Liu, Clark High School; Michael Fitzpatrick, Nawazish Palejwala, and Brian Van Eimeren, Health Careers High School; and Katharine Freeman, Lauren Pena, and Ling Yi Zhang, O'Connor High School.

National Hispanic Scholars

Northside boasts 46 individuals who have been named scholar finalists in the 2007-2008 National Hispanic Recognition Program. The National Hispanic Recognition Program is a College Board program that identifies academically well-prepared Hispanic high school seniors for post-secondary institutions.

Northside's National Hispanic Recognition Program finalists are: Alex Coy, Abel Longoria, Kevin Mader, Richard Martinez, Sean Martinez, Priscilla Mosqueda, Ian Panchevre, Noah Pierce, and Taylor Reyes, Clark High School; Abby Anderson, Phillip Fabian, Richard Garza, Jonathan O'Hara, and Elizabeth Rojo; Lauren Boneta, Jonathan Briseno, Bradley Daniels, Carlos A. Del Cid-Keller, Vincent Dominguez, Alyssa Laurel, Machella Luna, Devon Martinez, Logan Miller, Jeffrey Zerda, and Isaac Zoch, Health Careers High School; Norman Bayona, Vanessa Contreras, Oscar Herrera, Holmes High School; Amber Campos, Andy Guajardo, Ian Gutierrez, Benjamin Linn, Rosalie Lopez, Ron Perez, Patrick Rodriguez, and Benjamin Silva, Marshall High School; Lauren Pena, Monica Ceja, Stephen Barrera, John Garza, Phillip Guadiano, and Kristin McLarty, O'Connor High School; and Michael Hudson, Karina Munguia, Sarah Ramirez, and Michael Rivera, Warren High School.

National Achievement Scholars

Two students have been named National Achievement Scholar semifinalists. They are among 1,500 high school seniors named semifinalists in the 43rd annual National Achievement Scholarship Program, a privately financed academic competition for African American high school students.

Northside's National Achievement Scholarship semifinalists are: Robert Blount, Communications Arts High School; Daniel Conroy-Beam, Health Careers High School. ■

Major areas that encompass the Strategic Plan 2008-2013:

- ▶ School-Business-Community Partnerships
- ▶ Safe & Secure Schools
- ▶ Facilities
- ▶ Curriculum & Instruction
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Business & Finance
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Communications

District develops 5-year roadmap

To prepare for the future, NISD must establish a clear vision of where the District is headed, as well as identify what is important to students, staff and the community. That is the task before approximately 200 staff and community members as they embark on a two-month process to develop Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

"High quality organizations," says Supt. John Folks, "know where they are going and develop roadmaps on how to get there. That is the case with Northside ISD."

The Strategic Plan and its quarterly updates are important components of staying on task and meeting goals and expectations. The Strategic Plan also is flexible enough

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 - 2013

to allow mid-course corrections and re-directions when possible.

When completed and approved by the Board of Trustees, Strategic Plan 2008-2013 will be posted at www.nisd.net. ■

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