

April 2005

Northside Parent Connection: Website allows parents access to student data

Four secondary schools will journey into a technical portal to create a better partnership and dialogue between Northside parents and teachers. The "**Northside Parent Connection**" will allow parents to explore their child's grades and attendance in the first of a three-phase deployment.



The four schools that will pilot Phase I of the technology are **Stevenson MS, Rawlinson MS, Warren HS, and Clark HS**. "It is important that we pilot the technology before we fully deploy it to all secondary schools," says **Kelly Smith**, Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services.

"Once the school year is over, the staffs from the four schools will discuss what worked and what didn't. We will make any adjustments and then extend the technology to the parents in ALL the District's secondary schools in Fall 2005," Smith says. "We hope to add elementary schools in the future as soon as a standard electronic gradebook for them is implemented."

"We are excited to be among the first four schools to bring parents this technology to enable them to better monitor their child's progress in school," says **Patty Denham Hill**, principal of **Warren HS**.

"The **Northside Parent Connection** is like having a daily progress report from each teacher," says **Smith**. "This is a secure website that the parents use to contact teachers, check grades, and view attendance. We will be adding more options periodically."

Phase II of the **Northside Parent Connection** is to add the curriculum management system "outreach" module, which will allow parents to view longitudinal assessment data (such as TAKS, SDAA, AP, PSAT, etc.), benchmark assessment data, demographic data, teacher web pages, and class calendars for their own student. This is expected to be launched in Spring 2006.

Phase III will allow for other school business to be conducted online. These activities will include paying for cafeteria meals, fines, fees and other sales transactions via credit cards.

Folks's Sayings

Reading opens a world of possibilities



Dr. John Folks,
Superintendent

This week is one of my most favorite weeks of the year because I get to go and read to our youngest children.

The week marks the "Week of the Young Child" and Northside celebrates by inviting non-school employees and other local celebrities to read to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children. As a guest reader, I can tell you that I get more enjoyment from this small exercise than they probably do. What a great way to impress on these young students the importance of reading at an early age!

One of my favorite books to read when I go to the schools is about a little girl who decides to show a positive attitude despite what the day ahead holds.

- "I'm gonna like me wearing flowers and plaid. I have my own style. I don't follow some fad.
- I'm gonna like me when I don't run so fast. Then they pick teams and I'm chosen last.
- I'm gonna like me when I open the box and smile and say 'thanks' even though I got socks..."

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