

BOARD REPORT

Mineola High School

September, 2014

- The school year kicked off with the smoothest start we have had in many years. Our students came ready to get started, and by 8:00, everyone was in class ready to work. The traffic was not an issue at the campus, but was backed up on Hwy. 80.
- All of our branding signs were installed before school started, and we have had multiple complements from students, parents, and community members about how great the school looks and how the signs add to the school spirit and positive environment this year.
- During the first week of school, we intentionally chose not to have any assemblies or class meetings until Thursday in order to give the students time to adjust to their classes and the schedule. On Thursday, the counselors and principals met with each grade level to discuss changes for the year and the new expectations. After class meetings, we held an Organization Fair in the gym, with booths set up for all campus clubs and organizations. Students could visit each booth and sign up to join as many organizations as they wanted. The result was overwhelming. The majority of our students chose to plug in to at least one student organization.
- As of this time, we have nearly 75 students signed up to participate in academic UIL competition this year. That is the most we have ever had, and we are very excited about this program. We have added CX and LD Debate and Mock Trial this year.
- We have kicked off our literacy campaign this year. After a lot of planning and training, all high school teachers have implemented the literacy components into their lessons. The students should expect to be reading and writing in every class. They are also required to keep a binder with all of their notes, articles, readings, and study materials in it. We will enforce the use of the student binder as a way to help them stay organized and as a study guide for exams.
- Our football team has gotten off to a slow start this year due to some illness and injuries, but they have everything in place to turn this into a great season. They lost their first two games to Elysian Fields and Winnsboro, and we play Lone Oak on Friday, September 12 at home.
- We have started some new traditions at our pep rallies this year in order to boost student participation and pride. All students are now on the floor of the gym for all pep rallies so that they can feel like they are a part of the show. We have also began a tradition of the "circle up", where all students, parents, and staff make a circle around the gym at the end of the pep rally, hold hands and sing the school song. The pep rallies end with a chant that Mr. Goodson taught the students. If you have not been to a pep rally this year, you should come see one.

- The senior parents sponsored the first senior event of the school year with a sunrise breakfast at the Nature Preserve on September 5.
- The Mineola Hay Show was held on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30. Our FFA program was able to raise over \$22,000 this year for scholarships and to sponsor the junior livestock show in April. Thanks to Mr. Dossett, Mrs. Shipp and their FFA students for a great night.
- On September 22, the American Legion will be honoring some of our senior boys who attended Boys State this year. Mrs. Dudley and I will attend a dinner at 6:00 PM to hear the students talk about their experience.
- We will be administering the ASVAB test to all juniors on September 24. This is a career inventory test that provides each student with a personalized inventory of their strengths and what careers they might be best suited for. Each student will receive a personalized report based on his or her performance.
- Homecoming is scheduled for September 26. Activities include:
 - Monday, September 22 – Bonfire pep rally to kick off the week at 8:00
 - Friday at 8:00 – Seniors will ride the fire trucks around campus.
 - 12:30 – District pep rally at the football stadium.
 - 1:30 – early release for high school students
 - 3:00 – Homecoming parade
 - 7:00 – Homecoming Court
 - 7:30 – Game against Paul Pewitt
 - 10:30 – Homecoming dance after the game in the Multi-purpose bldg.
- On September 30, Student Council will sponsor our first blood drive. The mobile unit will be set up in the front parking lot.
- Balfour will be on campus on October 1 and October 8 for class ring and cap/gown orders for juniors and seniors.
- On Saturday, October 4, our band has their first marching competition at Mesquite Memorial Stadium.
- We encourage our board members to visit our campus. If you walk our halls, you will notice that we are bringing pride back to MHS. The students and the teachers have noticed the difference and we think you will, too.