



# H.I.S. BOARD REPORT

**March 6, 2019**

## **H.I.S. Beliefs**

### **We believe:**

- **supportive relationships strengthen positive educational and life experiences.**
- **high expectations compel students to strive for excellence.**
- **an accepting and encouraging school environment inspires intellectual risk taking.**
- **authentic and engaging experiences foster opportunities for high levels of learning and growth.**
- **clear and open communication creates a pathway for school and community collaboration.**

## March Board Report

The fifth six weeks is going great with tons of academic successes at HIS! It continues to be an honor to see all the students smiling faces and eager minds walking through our hallways and in our classrooms! Our teachers are doing a phenomenal job at continuing to plan engaging lessons and incorporating various types of technology! We are all looking forward to continued success and great experiences this year at HIS!

Go Eagles!

## Phenomenal Fourth Graders

February was a month of change and commitment for fourth grade. Students took benchmarks in Science, Social Studies, Math, and ELAR. Teachers met on the 18th to go over this data and make plans on how to increase class rigor, better prepare our students for their upcoming tests, and engage students in their academic endeavors with the focus on their continuing success in school and their community.

Library schedules have been modified to better suit student needs, and students responded with excitement and their usual diligence to their reading. The number of students reaching their AR goals continues to rise, and teachers have seen progress in reading fluency and AR quiz grades. Mrs. Teel has been amazing organizing AR celebrations for those who achieve their goals in the six weeks.

On the 19th, fourth grade participated in a Writing Camp in which a presenter came to give helpful writing tips, strategies, and instruction that was both specific for their upcoming STAAR test AND applicable for future writing tasks and assignments. The students enjoyed the interactive and engaging lessons and have practiced them in the classroom. Since this is the second year this camp has come to our campus, some of the strategies were already familiar to our students, which excited them to recognize some of the material. The focus was on actual writing though these skills have crossover in revision and editing multiple choice questions.

In ELAR, students have worked on specific grammar mechanics such as apostrophe usage, differences between plurals and possessives, quotation marks, types of sentences, punctuation, and conjunctions. In addition to this, students continued to practice their writing skills through journaling, responses to literature, and quick checks. Students also went over how to respond to a STAAR prompt from understanding the prompt and brainstorming ideas to writing their final copy with revisions in order to prepare for the upcoming STAAR test in April.

After finishing January's big research project on famous Texas heroes, students switched gears from research writers to detective readers. Students had to make connections across genres, using the strategies learned earlier this year for specific genres in order to answer paired texts questions which is a new skill for our fourth graders.

After reviewing their data, ELAR teachers have increased the rigor in the classroom as well as enrichment, accepting assistance from interventionists and specials teachers during this time. ELAR will also be beginning tutorials by the first of March, at the latest, in order to target specific needs as seen on the benchmark. In addition, ELAR began optional homework for students that focuses on specific reading skills and revise & edit passages with questions. This is entirely optional for the students to do, but so far, most of the 4th graders have accepted the challenge with gusto!

In Math, fourth graders got to operate in a “math hospital” in the first math class room transformation of the year. Students were eager to show their math skills in solving problems and showing knowledge of skills in the “operating room” that covered all math operations reviewed and learned this year. Students worked on achieving the goal of fluency in solving one and two step problems which includes using their reference charts and understanding of the material.

After reviewing the math benchmark data, math teachers have decided to have after school tutorials that will begin along the same time ELAR tutorials start. These two contents met to go over enrichment strategy and to plan out tutorials in the best interests of students.

In science, students analyzed the weather, learning the different elements of weather and how the water cycle regenerates through weather. While learning about the water cycle, students connected their previous knowledge of solar power in discovering how the sun provides the energy for the water cycle. Fourth graders also learned how to use the instruments involved in studying weather.

After weather, students examined the Earth’s rotation, understanding how the Earth rotates for day and night while rotating around the sun in orbit. They also learned moon phases in relation to its position with the Earth and sun, and how the moon’s gravity helps create our high and low tides.

In social studies, students learned about why Texas was annexed to the United States, focusing on the process and the reasons for joining the United States. Students also practiced their writing skills by writing a one-page essay about the effects of the Texas Revolution on Texas.

Science and social studies reviewed their benchmark data as well and met with math and ELAR teachers to discuss how to bolster student success across contents. Science and social studies teachers have decided to help with reading fluency by conducting small guided reading groups during class, rotating groups of 5-6 students each day so that every student gets this targeted practice at least once a week using leveled readers with science and social studies topics. They will also have discussions in these groups with what they read, making connections to their own learning and life experiences.

## Fabulous Fifth Graders

In the month of March, 5th grade students will be busy and working hard in all of their classes! In ELAR we are reviewing and spiraling all reading concepts from fiction to nonfiction. We will use the concepts in different forms of learning like games, stations and projects. We will be revisiting reading strategies and testing strategies. We continue working on our 2nd novel, Something Upstairs with a project that coincide with the book.

In Science students will explore the sun, earth, and moon systems. They will analyze and predict patterns of seasons, apparent movement of the sun across the sky, and moon phases. Students will also discover how fossils provide evidence of changes to Earth's environments over time.

Social Studies will wrap up its unit on the Progressive Era dealing with Child Labor Laws, unequal treatment of African Americans and equal rights for women. We will then begin the two World Wars. We will cover the Great Depression, civil rights, industrialization and urbanization. The students will learn all about the roaring 20's and the New Deal. We will certainly be blasting through time in March.

Math we are reviewing over all of the concepts for STAAR preparations. We will be going over fractions, geometry, and data.

## Thrilling News from Third Grade

On March 4th, our 3rd graders are headed to the Waco Hippodrome for an exclusive viewing of the movie Wonder to finish out their novel study. Our kiddos have been working hard and getting to know Augie and his family, and are so excited to see the novel come to life! Our 3rd graders are also working on mastering their skills and getting ready for 4th grade. In math and ELAR, kiddos are spiraling through all of the skills that they have learned this year and are preparing to conquer the STAAR test! In Science, students are studying ecosystems and their characteristics as they create their own zoo! In Social Studies, our kids are studying the economic system and are preparing to create their own product for market day where they will apply their knowledge of supply and demand.

## Masterpieces being made EVERY day!

To help prepare students for the upcoming STAAR Reading test, Tier 2 students will be reading, then thinking about/analyzing STAAR aligned passages using key reading strategies and their grade level testing strategies.

Students will be reviewing context clues and text structures, which include cause and effect, theme, procedural passages, determine meaning of words, conflict solution, summary, point of view, inferences, drawing conclusions, text features and other important HIS - Tier 2/Eagle Reading text structures.

In the 4th grade co-teach math classes we are currently working on multi-step equations. In the 5th grade co-teach classes we are reviewing over ordered pairs, solving multi-step equations, and volume. We are spiraling material in daily that we have previously covered to make sure that it stays fresh on our minds. We are learning strategies and working hard to prepare for our STAAR Tests.

In Math co-teach classrooms, Students are continuing to learn new and exciting things this week! The 5th-grade classes will be review everything on decimals, the 3rd-grade classes will be comparing and go over place value, and the 4th-grade classes will be solving two-step problems involving multiplication and division.

It's that time of year. Eagle Math is hard at work reviewing all the many skills we have learned in math this year. Remembering to use our different strategies on each question and ensuring we have a reason for marking out our incorrect answers will help us be successful on the STAAR test.

The Life Skills is working on problem solving skills. They are reading and following detailed instructions on how to assemble Lego's. We are also working on daily living skills. We are learning how to sort laundry by care instructions on garments and how to use settings on washer and dryer. We are following simple recipes and gathering ingredients on our own to serve up some goodies for our teachers to buy!

ELAR co-teach across campus are hitting STAAR spiral review hard! The students are focusing mainly on testing strategies such as analyzing questions to make them easier to understand, using text features to understand text, and being able to compare/contrast different genres to get us in the right mindset to read the selection. Students are having so many "ah-ha" moments, especially during our highlighting lesson on the question analysis. I have zero doubts in their abilities

and know we are about to SOAR through our growth goals and dominate the STAAR like bosses!

### Specials are off to a great start in 2019!

Artists at HIS will be making brown paper bag portfolios to take their artwork home the first week of March. Then the new group of artists will begin with a spring themed painting and learn about color mixing and the color wheel. Checkout our fabulous artwork at:

<https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=47315>

A new 9 weeks, so a new group of students and Great Tech expectations. Students will setup their gmail, and classroom. Learn or review computer vocabulary, learn new basic google skills and practice those skills with appropriate activities. Keyboarding skills will be introduced to 3rd grade and 4th and 5th will work to improve their skills.

GATE students are preparing for their April trip to Medieval Times. In March, they will complete research projects to learn about the history and culture of long ago.

From the Library:

3rd Grade Read Aloud

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene Catling

4th Grade Read Aloud

Closed for the Season by Mary Downing Hahn

5th Grade Read Aloud

Wait Till Helen Comes A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn

3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

Small Group Instruction Reading Passages

Happy Reading!

March will bring a new group of students to the music room. We will start with basics such as rhythm and singing correctly. We will also be finishing up getting ready for the Expo of Excellence, where we will be performing a 15-minute variety program!

En Español: this group of kids will have a review of all the lessons we have covered since it is their last week of Español. The new group will start of with el alfabeto, las clases, objetos en la clase, los números, y los colores.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip to the Hippodrome for Wonder  
Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! – Wear Crazy Socks
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Design PLC 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.  
Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! – Wear Crazy Hats
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Design PLC 7:30 – 8:15 a.m.  
Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! – Find a twin and dress alike!
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Design PLC 12:30 – 1:15 p.m.  
Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! – Wear your favorite College gear!
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Dear Abbey Musical 6p.m. at H.J.H.S.  
Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! – Dress in animal print or camouflage!
- March 9<sup>th</sup> – Dear Abbey Musical 2 p.m. at H.J.H.S.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – H.I.S. Faculty Meeting at 3:45 p.m.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – TELPAS testing
- March 21<sup>st</sup> – TELPAS testing
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Benchmark
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – E3 – Eagle Expo of Excellence 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> – GATE Parent Meeting at 5:15 p.m. at H.I.S.

### Enrollment for 2018-2019:

3rd: 125  
4th: 139  
5th: 157  
Total: 421

HIS would like to thank you for all you do for our campus and district! We appreciate all your efforts to ensure we are providing our students with nothing but the BEST!

**GO EAGLES!**