

THOMAS JEFFERSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
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ALCARIO ALVARADO
PRINCIPAL

December 13, 2006

To: Dr. John Hardwick

From: Alcario Alvarado
Principal

Subject: TJIS Class Size

In August, each campus was faced with the rationale that budgets had to be reduced. I made the decision to replace the Assistant Principal, but not to replace the two teachers who had left the district. At that time, the exact number of students was undetermined due to new students enrolling and other students leaving the district.

Grade 5 has a total of 237 students. There are between 19 and 21 students per teacher and 12 teachers. I made the administrative decision to place 12 teachers in the 5th grade because at that grade level students must pass the reading and math tests in order to be promoted to 6th grade. Additionally, the fifth graders must take the science test for the first time. Since our campus has been justifiably concerned about our science scores, I decided that it would be best for the students to maintain 12 teachers.

Grade 6 has a total of 266 students. There are between 25 and 27 students per teacher and there are 10 teachers. After reviewing the benchmark results for the second six weeks, I determined that the students are not making significant progress toward success on the TAKS tests.

There is still a need for additional personnel to assist teachers. As you and I have discussed, I feel that a solution to our overcrowding can be found. I propose that one teacher be hired for sixth grade. My justification is that our sixth grade students attained a 77% in math on the 2006 TAKS scores. The sixth grade reading students did very well, attaining a 92% on the TAKS Reading test.

I think that the addition of one teacher can be a viable solution to our various problems. We will continue to do our best to provide the best instructional climate that we can.