

To: AISD Board of Trustees
Dr. James Monaco, Superintendent

From: Mr. Jeff Mulkey, Principal, Aubrey High School

Date: February 10, 2012

Subject: Board Communication

Band – Ron Chapman

The Aubrey HS band is taking a new step in our growth and development this year. On February 28th we will be sending two bands to UIL concert and sight reading. We have enough students with great quality to take a Varsity and a Jr. Varsity (Symphonic band and concert band) to UIL. It is an exciting time for the band program

We are looking forward to even more continued growth for the next several years. This year, we will be losing 7 Seniors from our school, but our 8th grade class is more than 50 this year. Our 7th grade class has 80 students in it and our beginning band now serves more than 135 band students.

The massive growth is coming to us and will hit the high school in a major way. It is a very exciting time for us. We will be hit with many challenges from uniforms to equipment with the large number of students we are anticipating.

On February 4th we sent 23 students to the Region UIL Solo and Ensemble competition. Every single student walked out with at least one First Division metal to their name. We qualified 7 to state in May.

In addition, we were able to form our first Jazz Band. We are hoping to be able to make this group part of our strong organization and one that can compete as well in the next year.

Science- Penny Wimbrough

We are beginning the Thermodynamics unit in Physics and PreAP Physics. This is the unit the students learn how heat moves, how it can be utilized to do work, and the laws of thermodynamics.

In Chemistry students just completed a unit on Gas Laws. Students will now be focusing on solutions & solubility rules. Students are utilizing Study Island to help prepare for unit tests as well as the end of course exam.

Physics is finishing up Electrostatics and Magnetism unit. We have studied how charges behave and next we will study electric circuits.

Biology: Students are just finishing up their unit on microorganisms. They will be using study Island to review for their Unit Benchmark. The next unit will be plants and they are going to investigate the effects of different amounts of light on plant growth.

Pre-AP Biology: Are presenting their Bacteria/virus projects to the class. Next they will be moving on to the unit on animals. As part of this unit they will be doing comparative dissections of a worm, frog and fetal pig. Before the dissections they will be practicing their dissection skills by performing an "autopsy" on a rare "animal" the picklus (actually a pickle) to determine the cause and manner of death.

Pathophysiology: They are working on the disease of the urinary tract and then they will be looking at the causes and treatment of diabetes.

AP Biology: They are concluding the genetics unit by cutting DNA using restriction enzymes and using gel electrophoresis to measure the size of DNA. They have already placed jellyfish genes in bacteria and isolated the protein.

Pathophysiology and AP Biology are also getting ready to go to UT Southwestern on a field trip. During the field trip they will be visiting labs that are on the cutting edge of science investigation and have a chance to talk to and learn from scientists about their area of investigation.

Social Studies- Shon Ranton

World Geography is studying North Africa and Southwest Asia.

UIL Speech/ Debate/ Academics/ Theatre- Jeff Whitmire

The UIL Academic/Speech/Debate participants just returned from the Princeton Spring tournament with six medals in academic and speech events. Our recent participation in the Gainesville-Lindsay invitational netted 23 total medals.

Our academic coaches continue to coach their teams in preparation for the March District contest in Argyle.

We also hosted the Winter Classic Tournament at AHS in December, hosting 14 schools and over 100 student competitors in speech, debate and academic events. We received feedback that was unanimously positive from the coaches and judges that were involved.

Thanks to all of the coaches and students who are making great progress this season.

Theatre Board Notes

Auditions for the One Act Play were held for the High School and Middle School in early December and we are now underway with the rehearsal process. I am looking forward to a successful year with both groups.

The High School's selection for the 2012 U.I.L. One Act Play competition is, "By the Bog of Cats," by Marina Carr. "By the Bog of Cats," is an Irish play loosely based on Euripides "Medea," dealing with themes of revenge, pride, and abandonment. I have been very impressed with the quality of work our students are putting up this early in the rehearsal process.

The Middle School will be competing with "Charlotte's Web." This is my first year directing the Middle School students and I really appreciate the amount of energy and passion they are bringing to the production.

The Middle School will have district competition on Tuesday, March 6th at NCTC in Gainesville.

The High School will have district competition on Thursday, April 5th at Grayson County College in Dennison.

Rehearsals for the High School and Middle School One Act Plays are going great! The students are improving with each rehearsal and are really taking ownership of their roles. The casts are becoming more and more excited with each prop, set piece, and costume that is being added to the production. I anticipate great things at our district competitions.

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English III- Dawn Dooley

- TAKS Practice
 - Multiple Choice practice and strategies
 - Open-Ended Question practice and strategies
 - Autobiographical Narrative essay practice and strategies
- Evaluating Persuasive Writing
 - Logical fallacies
 - News articles vs. editorials
- Writing Persuasively
 - Write persuasive essay
- Vocabulary

- SAT Level
- Prefixes/suffixes/affixes