

T. A. Howard Middle School

“Excellence From All! Excellence For All!”

July 15, 2009

Dear Parents:

There is a tremendous amount of excitement in the air as we are preparing for the upcoming school year. The staff would like to welcome you to our family and we are looking forward to the opportunity to work as partners in your child’s educational endeavors.

Enclosed, you will find a copy of our mission, vision, value statement, and goals for our learning community. The staff has worked hard to establish and embed a common mission and a set of beliefs campus wide. As we continue to grow in this process, I would like to invite you to be a part of our shared vision.

As you well know, middle school is a time of change. You will find that your child will be provided with many educational experiences and opportunities, and that the staff at T. A. Howard works hard to enhance your child’s experiences. To ensure an excellent start to the school year, I have provided important sources of information and dates that will be beneficial to you. Please read the following information carefully:

- Schedule pick-up will be on the following dates:

August 18, Tuesday	5:00 PM	7 th grade / girls
	6:00 PM	7 th grade / boys
August 20, Thursday	5:00 PM	8 th grade / girls
	6:00 PM	8 th grade / boys

- New Immunization Requirements: Starting with the 2009 -10 school year all 7th grade students enrolling in Texas public schools will need the following immunizations: Meningococcal Vaccine, Varicella Vaccine, and Tdap, Vaccine. Students will not be allowed to pick up schedules if any immunizations are delinquent. Please bring an updated shot record to schedule pick up. For additional information please go to www.mansfieldisd.org and click on departments and then click on Health Services.
- In order to pick up schedules, you must bring a proof of residency, clear all fines and make sure that all immunization records are current. Please provide an original and current bill of one of the following: an electric bill, gas bill, water bill or lease agreement to show proof of residency within T. A. Howard’s attendance zone. Any form of proof the MISD resident chooses to provide must show the mailing and service address, and they must match. The lease agreement must show a beginning and ending date, and the address of the property with signatures from both parties.
- The school will be making copies of the proof of residency for our files. In order to expedite the schedule pick-up process, please have this information readily available or have an original bill with you that you can leave.
- School photographs are scheduled for August 26 – 27. Cost and additional information will be sent home in the information packet your child will be receiving the first day of school. The student identification cards will be issued at a later date.

- Maps will be available for students and parents to walk the building after picking up the schedule.
- Dress code information is enclosed and is also posted on the school's website. This will help you when you are selecting clothes for the upcoming school year. To find the information go to www.mansfieldisd.org and click on schools, T.A. Howard and dress code.
- It is important that your child brings his/her schedule to school on the first day. All students with a schedule will need to report to their QUEST/ Homeroom on Monday, August 24. Any student who did not pick up a schedule before the first day or who does not have a schedule, will need to report to the North Gym. Students picking up their schedules on the first day will need to provide a proof of residency, and be clear of all fines.
- Child nutrition will be available in the cafeteria during registration to answer any questions that you may have about the services provided for our students.
- Information about bus routes can be found at the following web address: www.mansfieldisd.org. Click departments, transportation, and bus route lookup and provide the necessary information. If needed, access to computers will be available during schedule pick-up.
- Open House for the 2009 school year will be held on Tuesday, September 8 from 6:30 until 8:00. Schedule and additional information concerning Open House will be sent home with your child.
- Spirit wear and athletic wear will be available for purchase in the North Gym during schedule pick-up.

Athletic Information

- Reminder that all students who are enrolled in athletics or who plan to try out for a sport must have a doctor's physical and a notarized emergency card before they may participate. Physicals will be offered at Mansfield High School on Saturday, August 1 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Students must be accompanied by a parent and the cost for the physical will be \$20:00. Physicals forms and additional information can be found by going to www.mansfieldisd.org, go to departments and click on athletics.
- Volleyball tryouts will begin August 26. The 7th grade girls will tryout from 6:30 am to 8:15 am. The 8th grade girls will tryout from 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm. All athletes must have a physical to tryout.
- During schedule pick-up, the athletic coordinators and coaches will be available in the South Gym to answer any questions that you may have about athletics.

During the first week of school, your child will be receiving very important sources of information such as the Student Handbook, District Code of Conduct, and the emergency medical form. It is important that you complete and return these forms in a timely manner.

Once again, we are looking forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a successful year at T.A. Howard. It is important that each student has a good start to the school year; therefore, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jimmy Neal
Principal