



Staff UPDATE

September 2007

www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu

Bastrop Independent School District

(512) 321-2292



*Superintendent
Roderick Emanuel*

It's good to have everyone back for the 2007-08 school year. We have new faces across the district that I hope you will take the time to get to know and make them feel comfortable in the Bastrop ISD family.

"BISD - Family, Friendly Schools and a Culture of High Achievement" will continue to be our theme throughout the school year. Please also note that this school year marks our 125th anniversary as an educational institution.

One thing that has remained constant each year in our district, is the willingness of support from parents, community members and business partners. We believe that the entire community has a stake in the improvement of public education, and there are many opportunities to get involved.

Thank you for your help and support as we move forward in making BISD one of the best school districts in the state. Have a happy, healthy and prosperous school year.

Sincerely,

Roderick Emanuel
Superintendent of Schools

Celebrating 125 years of

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

The Bastrop Independent School District is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Austin in the picturesque Lost Pines of Central Texas. The district boundary covers an area of 450 square miles and includes the communities of Bastrop, Cedar Creek, Red Rock, Rockne, Paige, and vast rural areas of Bastrop County.



From the earliest days emphasis has always been placed on the importance of educating our youth. Long before the beginning of the public school system in Bastrop, numerous private and semi-private schools had been in existence. Prominent among these was the Academy completed in 1851 and considered one of the best schools in the state at that time. It later became the Bastrop Military Institute (1857), which closed after the Civil War. Many schools were housed in the Academy and were operated under the community or private system until 1892.

In 1892, an election to initiate free schools carried unanimously in Bastrop and a special tax of 1/2 of 1% was approved by voters. On March 18, 1893 the Bastrop Advertiser announced that the new

school building was open. A scholastic population of 692 was recorded in the city schools in 1895. The building completed in 1893 for the public schools was remodeled and a new annex

added in 1921. This served the city schools until 1939, when further expansion was necessary. Voters passed a bond package for \$108,000 and construction for the new school system began May 6, 1940. The front section of the existing building was torn down immediately following the close of school and the back wing was also entirely redone. In February 1942, the building was completed.

The Bastrop Independent School District continues to develop a strong academic program for all children of Bastrop. By creating an environment where students, parents and teachers are active partners in the learning process, Bastrop students are excelling.

With the start of the 2007 – 2008 school year, the student population has grown to over 8,000 served by 13 schools with major renovations set to be complete for Bastrop High School during the summer of 2007.

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ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS

Bastrop ISD was officially notified by the Texas Education Agency that all eleven schools have earned the Academically Acceptable rating in the state's accountability system. Campuses and districts receive ratings annually from TEA as part of the state's accountability system. These ratings include exemplary, recognized, academically acceptable and academically unacceptable.

All six of the BISD elementary schools were rated Recognized for 2005-2006. "This was an exciting time for our schools and communities," said Betty Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Due to higher standards set by the Texas Education Agency for the 2006-2007 school year, none of the schools achieved the recognized status this past spring.

"This year, the elementary campuses will be evaluating

Mark Your Calendar

September 3 - Labor Day-Holiday

September 9 - Grandparents Day

September 18 - Board of Trustees Meeting



the written curriculum for areas for improvement to ensure our teachers have access to a high quality teaching and learning plan," said Richardson.

To achieve the recognized rating, 75% of the total student body and each of the student groups – White, Hispanic, African American and economically disadvantaged, had to pass all TAKS subjects. In 2006, the standard was 70 percent. Completion rates for high schools and dropout rates for middle schools are also accountability factors.

Richardson also added that, "Throughout this past spring and summer, fifth through eighth grade teaching staff began a major rewrite of the written curriculum for implementation this fall. Eight days of staff development was provided for the teachers to prepare for this exciting new learning tool for our students."

Overall, the district received an acceptable rating, the same rating as 2006.

Ratings and data tables for individual districts and campuses are available at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>. For more information, contact Donald Williams at (512) 321-2292.

Board Update

A regular meeting of the Bastrop ISD Board of Trustees was held on August 21, 2007.

Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

- Curriculum Report
 1. Accountability 2007
 2. 2007-08 Program Plans and Budget
- Operations Report
 1. Update on BHS Renovations and Additions Program
- Information on E3 Alliance

Action Items

- Approved Proposed Tax Rate to be published in the Notice of Public Meeting to be held in September
- Approved New TASB Policy FNA (LOCAL)
- Approved Job Order Contract (JOC)
- Approved resolution approving the appointment of a Custodian and Authorized Investment Broker for the bond proceeds associated with the District's Series 2007 Bonds and all other matters related thereto

For the complete agenda and minutes, visit www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu.

BASTROP ISD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING

SEPTEMBER
18, 2007

6:30 P.M.

BISD SERVICE CENTER
906 FARM STREET

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Back - to - School BASH



Paycheck Schedule



9-14-07	9-27-07
10-15-07	10-30-07
11-15-07	11-29-07
12-14-07	12-21-07
1-15-08	1-30-08
2-15-08	2-28-08
3-14-08	3-28-08
4-15-08	4-29-08
5-15-08	5-29-08
6-12-08	6-26-08

Rule of Thumb

Payday is the 15th, unless that day falls on a weekend, **and** the day before the last day of the month, unless it falls on a weekend.

Help Wanted

To apply for a position with Bastrop ISD, fill out an application on-line at www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu or pick up an application at the BISD Service Center located at 906 Farm Street.

Bastrop ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Staff Update is published electronically every month for staff by the BISD Community Services/Communications department to share information and recognize staff and students. Send news items to Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications at dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu or call 321-2292.