

WHM Blue Devil News

White House Middle School

10/1/2016

3rd edition

What is with all the testing?

As you know, testing is a hot topic these days. From state testing to ACT, it seems all we do is test. This is often the sentiment of teachers as well as parents. Besides the fact that testing is required, it is snapshot of where we are as a school and teachers so we can better our instruction. The goal of any school is to give our students the best chance when it comes to success in the real world. Does testing always accomplish this? Actually no. There are so many other items that we have to focus on such as responsibility, hard work, perseverance, dedication, citizenship and the list goes on but testing does give us insight to educational qualities that we focus on too. We are dedicated to giving our students a high level of success in their lives and whatever it is they choose when they become adults. Testing is just one facet of their success. This does not necessarily mean college either. Not all students are destined for college but all students will need the skills we work on each and every day.

Communication

One of the things I stress with teachers is communication. I want to be an open school where teachers communicate with parents and with each other. I also want to make sure the school communicates with parents and its teachers. If at any time parents have an issue or have a question, parents should not hesitate to call or email a school representative. You can always find a contact on the school website or visit one of the class pages setup by teachers. We are continuing to build pride within our building. And if parents and the community feel good about our school, Blue Devil Pride will continue to grow and flourish. One of the main ways we hope to accomplish this is good communication.

Clubs



WHM has been able to start many clubs this year. Here is a list and a bit of information on each one of them. If a student is interested in joining, please let someone know at school. We hope to have everyone involved in at least one club this year.

Comic club – starts after break

Chess club-every Wed. 7:40am

Robotics club-Every Tues. 6pm

FCA-announced times

Craft Club-announced times

Ukulele club-announced times

Asian Cultures Club-announced times

In time, we will add more. Please visit our website for additional information.

Other events coming up

Report cards – October 18th

Band concert – October 27th 5:30 at WHM

All County Choir – November 1st, Long Hollow Baptist

Glow party – November 4th

Whm.sumnerschools.org

Other topics-

Like testing, bullying is another one of those hot topics. I have found (and experienced) that middle school is one of the toughest stretches for kids these days. There is so much going on at this age. From physically maturing to socially maturing, kids often have a tough time during this age. As a result, bullying comes into play during this time. I firmly believe it is due to kids not having a high self-esteem of themselves. So in order to somehow feel better about themselves, they tear someone else down and try to intimidate others. We obviously take bullying very serious and deal with it as we find out about it. One of the ways we deal with it is we try to find out why. Why is it necessary to try to intimidate someone else? Are there social issues we need to deal with that make a student not like the other person? There are so many things to look at in each case. But whatever the case, no student should ever feel less of a person while at school. Sure, we all have our differences in the way we look or believe but no one life is less than another. There are a lot of issues going on in the world today that bring out the worst in humans. Unfortunately, it carries over into our schools. Society has to get back to valuing differences, talking about those differences, and valuing others. Within the staff here at WHM, there are so many different people that work here and each one of them contributes in their own way. We value each one of our teachers and students and try to get each one of them involved. While we may not always agree, we value each other. It is my belief that if we (WHM) convey that to students, then students will begin to do the same. It is the old saying, "it starts at the top" and we intend to make sure it happens. I get a lot of calls and students who come to me saying that they have been bullied. In each case, we look at the events and then determine if it indeed bullying or just picking at each other. (There is a difference.) Whatever the case, we get right on it and then follow up with students within days. One thing should be noted here. Students have to let us know if something is going on. Most of the time, it is minor and an easy fix. I do not believe we have a bullying issue here at WHM. We have a picking issue where kids are constantly picking at each other. Very few times have we been able to say it was bullying but picking must be dealt with too. We are combating this by developing pride within our school, focusing on more clubs and things for students to be apart, simply making school fun again, offering incentives for students with good behavior and good attendance, and talking to students about these issues. Parents can do many of the same items at home too. A few things that parents can do as well is to monitor social media use at home and be good role models just as we are trying to here. Again, it starts at the top and we as the school and parents are the top and are obligated to make this a better place for our kids and their kids in the future. We are one in the same no matter the color, religion, or beliefs and we value every one of our kids and students. We are WHITE HOUSE BLUE DEVILS!!!

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