

HCM'S HIGHLIGHTS

April 17, 2015

Principal's Message:

Next week our students will all participate in STAAR Testing .

Monday, April 20 - Any student in 8th Grade Math will test. Please be sure to read an important email you received about the iPad setup. This year students will be allowed to use a graphing calculator app on their iPads for the test.

Tuesday, April 21 - 6th and 7th grade Math tests will occur as well as 8th grade Social Studies.

Wednesday, April 22 - 6th and 7th Grade Reading and 8th Grade Science.

Our students are well prepared for these tests!

Here are a few simple reminders for our students:

1. Get a good night's rest.
2. Eat a healthy breakfast.
3. Bring a healthy snack(s) and water. (Please note our lunch schedule will be altered due to the testing schedule so students will not eat until possibly 1:00pm. Feel free to send a number of snacks.)
4. Students are encouraged to bring a book to read when they have completed the test.
5. Regular dress code applies; pajamas are not appropriate.

Thank you for your help with this.

Healthy Snack Suggestions:

- **No Nuts please**

Pretzels

Crackers

Gold Fish

Granola Bars

Carrots

Hummus

Protein Bars

Cucumbers

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Raisins | Beef Jerky |
| Grapes | Hard Boiled Eggs |
| Apples | Celery Sticks |
| Bananas | Dried Fruit |
| Blueberries | Cliff Bars |
| Strawberries | Sunflower Seeds |
| Mango | Pumpkin Seeds |
| Bottled Water | Wheat Thins |
| Yogurt | Sugar or Fat Free Pudding |
| Bagels with fruit spread or cream cheese | Cottage Cheese |
| Applesauce | 100 Calorie Snack Packs |
| String Cheese | Reduced Fat Cheez-its |
| Popcorn | Fruit Roll-ups |
| Trail Mix (without nuts) | |

Fine Arts Groups Shine at UIL Contests

Just had to share... What a great day we had at Full Orchestra UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest yesterday! For the 4th year in a row, we received first division ratings from all 6 adjudicators! It is always so amazing to me that we can rehearse the band kids and the orchestra kids 10 times together at best and have such great success! UIL sets the standard so that the rigor our district expects must be reached in order to earn the Sweepstakes trophy. In addition, the friendships our band and orchestra students are forging are relationships that will last a lifetime!

This week, our choir students competed in the UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest at the Hays CISD Performing Arts Center. The Concert Choir, Men's Ensemble, and Varsity Treble Chorale singers all received high praise from the judges, and all three choirs brought home Sweepstakes trophies, meaning they received a rating of 1 (Superior) from all concert and sight-reading judges! Out of 35 schools competing, Hill Country was one of two schools with 3+ choirs performing where all choirs scored straight 1s.

Additionally, our Varsity Treble Chorale students were invited to sing at the Westlake Chamber of Commerce 20th Anniversary Gala event, where they provided

entertainment during the awards ceremony. They were very well received by the audience, and it was a great honor for them to be a part of the event!

StuCo brings in the \$\$\$\$

Following Spring Break, Student Council sponsored a fundraiser to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In just two weeks, Hill Country Middle School students raised over \$1300 for this cause! Congratulations to Sarah Yurko's 6th grade Advisory class, whose students will receive a pasta luncheon from Olive Garden, for being the top fundraising class in the school.

Yearbook news

Hello, Hill Country Families! If you haven't had a chance to purchase a yearbook, now is the time! The kids have an absolute blast on yearbook signing day, making memories that last forever. To purchase your yearbook, visit the HCMS website and use the online payment option!

Thank you,
Emily Molina and Jenny Buttler, Yearbook teachers

Spring Participation Fees

If your son/daughter intends to participate in soccer, tennis, or golf, he/she may owe a participation fee if one was not paid for a fall sport. The maximum yearly fee for a student to participate in one or more sports is \$275.00. If you have paid this fee, your student is clear to try out/participate in all spring sports. If the yearly participation fee has not been paid, please see the following list of rates:

Track only - \$200.00
Tennis only - \$200.00
Golf only - \$200.00
Soccer - \$275.00
One or more sports - \$275.00

The participation fee is due now and may be paid online at this time. Any past due fees for football, volleyball, or basketball may also be paid online now.

HCMS Scoreboard

HCMS Guys:

The HCMS Boys Linksters took first and second at the Lost Creek Tournament, resulting in all ten members taking home medals. Mathew Denton shot a 39 to place first individually, while Nick Palmo had a 40 stroke game to take second and John Luke Powell shot a 40 to take third. Great day on the links!

HCMS Ladies:

The Hill Country Girls Golf team also had a fun day on the links, finishing third out of twelve teams and giving all the girls medals to take home. Madelyn Jones won the individual first place medal with a score of 37, which is one over par.

Box Tops

Remember to send in your box tops. There is a drop-off box in the Main Office. The funds received from box tops really add up and can help supplement our yearly expenses.

Go, Cougars!

Kathleen Sullivan

Cougar Club News

Hello, Cougars! It's almost Teacher Appreciation week! Please keep your eye open for the amazing plans we have for our staff during the week of May 4-8th.

Please see updates for the week:

Online School Store: The online school store will be opening the first week of May. This year, in anticipation of a "paperless" and streamlined **Hello** event, we are urging parents to handle all purchases, payments, and Eanes registration requirements *online and early!* More details will come via email and newsletter this month.

2nd Annual HCMS Fit Fest: HCMS is excited to be holding this event on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. The staff works so hard and needs parent volunteers. Some positions needed:

- * Set-up the day before (3:45 - 5:30)
- * Morning Set-up & Speaker Check-In
- * Session Helpers
- * Field Day helpers

Please consider volunteering here: <http://vols.pt/tks9PF>

Want to learn more about the Fit Fest? Check it out here: <http://hcmsfitfest.weebly.com/> (Check out the cool video under media tab)

Renee Ernst

Cougar Club President

Ernst.Renee@yahoo.com

MAY

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Staff Appreciation Week | May 4-8 | |
| Booster Club General Mtg/Principals coffee | Wednesday, May 6 | 8:45 - 11:00 |
| CLT Meeting | Wednesday, May 6 | 4:00 - 5:00 |
| 8th grade Pedernales | Monday & Tuesday, May 18/17 | |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8th grade Pedernales Dance | Friday, May 22 |
| 6th grade end of year celebration | Wednesday, May 27 |
| 7th grade end of year celebration | Thursday, May 28 |
| 8th grade celebration | Thursday, May 28 |

Eanes ISD Excels!

The Eanes district and its nine schools are consistently ranked and recognized among the very best in our city, state, and nation! College data website Niche recognized the Eanes school district **first in Texas** and 21st in the nation on the list of "Best School Districts."

All six Eanes ISD elementary schools **earned spots #1-6** among public elementary schools in Austin, while Hill Country and West Ridge middle schools claimed **#1 and 2** among Austin public middle schools. Westlake High School was recognized as the following:

- **#1 high school in Texas.**
- **#3 open-admission comprehensive public high school.**
- **4th smartest public high school in America.**
- **7th best high school overall.**

As described in *Austin Monthly*, "Westlake does everything big: Its students excel at academics and athletics, their families are highly involved and expectations are high ... Last year, the school administered a whopping 3,327 Advanced Placement tests (it offers 33 AP classes), and more than three-quarters of students scored a 3 or higher."

"Westlake shines with a 97 percent graduation rate, a composite SAT score of 2000 and a composite ACT score of 30," as reported in *CultureMap Austin*.

These outstanding rankings are a result of the incredible parent and community involvement we enjoy in Eanes. We are counting on your continued support in order to ensure continued educational excellence for our schools!

Protect our teachers from next year's budget cuts by making a gift to the 2014-15 Teacher Fund! Your gift today funds teachers for the 2015-16 school year.

DONATE TODAY at www.EanesEducationFoundation.org

Desiree Figer

Communications & Data Management Associate

Eanes Education Foundation

[\(512\) 732-9065](tel:(512)732-9065)

www.EanesEducationFoundation.org