State Increases Math and Science Requirements for 2007-08 Freshmen

The State Board of Education approved at its November 2006 meeting increasing graduation requirements for 2007-2008 incoming freshmen to 26 credits. Four years of math and science are now required to be part of the 26 credits. The change applies to the recommended high school graduation plan and the distinguished achievement program. Currently 24 credits are required for both plans. The new graduation plan does not impact students who already are enrolled in high school.

The increased math and science requirements reflect a provision in House Bill 1, approved by the Spring 2006 Texas legislative session. House Bill 1 requires a “4 x 4” program in the core subjects. Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, freshman students following the Recommended or Distinguished programs must earn four credits in English, social studies, science and math.

Except for Math Models, under the additional math requirements, all the courses available for the fourth math credit have Algebra II as a prerequisite. Those classes are PreCalculus, AP Statistics, AP Calculus AB and BC, AP Computer Science and Independent Study. If Math Models is taken, it must be prior to Algebra II. Students must take Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry to earn three of their four math credits.

Middle school students may earn high school credit in foreign language and Algebra I.

BISD Curriculum and Instruction administrators are meeting with the high school principals to plan for the change. Being considered are a revised high school schedule in 2008-09 so students can get the required credits and still enjoy a variety of electives, more high school credit classes at the middle school level, and offering online classes.

Congratulations to North Ridge Elementary for winning BISD’s 2007 Battle of the Books.
The first week of March is Texas Public Schools Week. Every year we celebrate the role of public schools in our nation, state and community. The celebration has a long history in the Birdville Independent School District. Though we welcome our parents and community to our schools throughout the year, Public Schools Week is a special time of celebration with many activities at all of our campuses for visitors to enjoy.

Most of our activities feature our students. Each of the high schools host a breakfast, one each morning, beginning on Tuesday. Members of student organizations ranging from choir, to drill team, to Spanish classes, to Student Council and many, many others, display their work and accomplishments. The students enjoy visiting with guests and sharing what they do. Elementary and middle schools host special events for grandparents, dads and moms and schools fill up with relatives who come to spend time with their children.

Public schools are community schools. Unlike private schools, they serve a neighborhood or a community of citizens. Public schools bind communities together in a way that no other institution does. Generations of families come through public school doors. At Birdville, elderly citizens tell stories and show photos of their school days and the people who taught them and attended school with them. Their children do the same, maybe telling about when they went to the new Halomt High School or about the open land north of Richland when it was built, as they sit with their children sharing lunch on dad’s day. The connections to public school run deep and bind families and neighborhoods and cities together.

Therefore, it is fitting that once a year, we hold a special celebration of these schools that mean so much to the continuing life of a community. We open our doors to our citizens who trace their history and civic identity in large measure through their elementary, middle and high school. We invite them to come back, remember their school days and enjoy visiting with today’s young people. That’s what Public Schools Week is: a celebration of the generations of citizens who find a connection to each other through these community schools. Welcome Back.

Public schools bind communities together in a way that no other institution does. Generations of families come through public school doors.
Positive results of your bond dollars can be seen across Birdville ISD. The following is an update of work completed, projects in progress and schedules for projects being planned.

For additional information on the progress of voter approved work, visit the district’s Web site at www.birdville.k12.tx.us.

2005 bond construction update …

PROPOSITION II: Renovations and Technology

- Floor replacement at North Ridge, Smithfield and Watauga middle schools, and North Ridge, Green Valley and Hardeman elementaries is complete.
- Renovations at Smithfield Middle School including replacement of storefront windows in classrooms, interior painting in certain areas, HVAC system replacement, ADA modifications, security system, electrical power upgrades, and installation of an energy management system are complete.
- Replacement of the fire alarm and security systems at The Academy at C.F. Thomas and Spicer Elementary are complete.
- Upgrades to HVAC, electrical power and installation of an energy management system at The Academy at C.F. Thomas and Spicer Elementary are on schedule.
- Acoustical isolation of the activity room at Green Valley Elementary is complete.
- Replacement of HVAC chiller and installation of an energy management system at North Ridge Elementary is complete.
- Upgrades to the fire alarm system at Thomas Coliseum and the Central Stores Warehouse are complete.
- Upgrades to the electrical power for technology and demolition of the ceiling the Central Stores Warehouse are complete.
- Installation of a fire alarm system in the fleet management (transportation) building is complete.
- Replacement of the HVAC system at Haltom High School is complete.
- Replacement of the fire alarm system at Spicer Elementary is complete.
- Upgrades to electrical power for technology at North Richland Middle are on schedule.

Board Appoints Bond Oversight Committee

During their regular December 2006 meeting, BISD trustees appointed a seven-member citizens oversight committee. This committee will monitor the progress of the work to assure consistency with the bond approved by voters on November 7, 2006. At least four times a year, the committee will report on the progress to trustees. In addition to the report to trustees, monthly reports will be available for review on the district’s Web site or through the communications department.

“The bond oversight committee continues the work of the district bond committee by engaging citizens who will ensure the process is consistent with the recommendations of the committee and what was told to the voters,” Superintendent Stephen F. Waddell said. “This oversight committee is another example of the effort on the part of the district to maintain trust and transparency with the community.”

Committee members are: Betty Bronstad nominated by Trustee Wanda Strong; Angela McCants nominated by Trustee Sherry Dunn; Nelda Stroder nominated by Trustee David Pokluda; Tom Lombard nominated by Trustee Joe Tolbert; Tom Harris nominated by Trustee Dolores Webb; Bill Fenimore nominated by Trustee Richard Davis; and, Bill Mapston nominated by Trustee Ralph Kunkel.

“Our recent bond proposal was a total ‘group effort’ that brought success with its passage. Trustees relied on a large group of citizens who served on the bond committee for several months leading up to the election,” board President Ralph Kunkel said. “Now, with the naming of an oversight committee, we are continuing this ‘group effort’ as we ask this group of seven individuals (some served on the bond committee and some did not) to review such things as construction progress and expenditures to add another level of accountability for BISD. We look forward to working with this oversight committee.”

The term of each appointee will be for one year. Appointees can serve for more than one term. In the event a trustee leaves office, the corresponding committee member will also leave the committee unless re-appointed by the incoming trustee.

The committee began their work in January 2007. Copies of handouts from each meeting are posted on the district Web site by selecting the BISD 2006 Bond logo.
Birdville ISD’s 22,100-plus students will join more than four million others across the state in celebrating Texas Public Schools Week in March. This year’s theme, “One Texas. One Vision. All Children.” spotlights the host of educational opportunities available to students attending Texas public schools.

As part of the weeklong festivities, local campuses will distribute special invitations to parents and community members to visit classrooms and observe the positive activities and programs occurring in public education. Highlights of activities planned across BISD March 5-9 follow. Please check with individual campuses for their complete list of events.

**March 5, Monday**

**Elementary Activities**
- **Binion** - Grandparent’s Day, Lunch (K, 2nd, 4th)
- **North Ridge** - PTA meeting/Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- **South Birdville** - Art Day-Students will display art projects
- **Walker Creek** - Open House (come and go), 6 p.m.

**March 6, Tuesday**

**Richland High** - Community Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m.

**Elementary Activities**
- **Binion** - Lunch with parents (1st, 3rd, 5th)
- **Birdville** - PTA meeting/Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- **Foster Village** - McDonalds night, 5 p.m.
- **Green Valley** - Parents invited to lunch (K)
- **Hardeman** - Joint PTA meeting with Watauga Middle, 6:30 p.m.
- **Holiday Heights** - Parents invited to breakfast (4th), 7:30 a.m.
- **Mullendore** - Breakfast with Moms, 7:30 a.m.
- **Porter** - Open House, 6 p.m.
- **Pond Life Cycles (1st grade), parents invited, 8:30 a.m.
- **Smithfield** - Biscuits with Dad, 7 a.m.
- **Snow Heights** - Open House, 6 p.m.
- **South Birdville** - PTA meeting/Kindergarten program, 6:30 p.m.
- **Stowe** - Mom’s Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
- **Acad. C.F. Thomas** - Open House Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

**Middle School Activities**
- **Haltom** - Breakfast with Dads, 7:30 a.m.
- **North Ridge** - Family Celebration Night, 5:30 p.m.
- **Watauga** - PTA meeting/Student Safety Tips, 6:30 p.m.

**March 7, Wednesday**

**Birdville High** - Community Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

**Elementary Activities**
- **Binion** - Grandparent’s Day, Lunch (1st, 3rd, 5th)
- **Foster Village** - Parents invited to have breakfast, 7:25 a.m.
- **Francisco** - Parent Breakfast, 7:15 a.m.
- **Green Valley** - Slide show/movie presentation (3rd), 10:15 a.m.
- **Holiday Heights** - Parents invited to lunch (2nd)
- **Mullendore** - Breakfast with Dads, 7:30 a.m.
- **Smith** - Pastries with Parents, 7 a.m.
- **South Birdville** - Pastries for Parents
- **Stowe** - Dad’s Breakfast, 6:45 a.m.
- **Walker Creek** - Muffins for Mom, 7:30 a.m.

**Middle School Activities**
- **Haltom** - Luncheon with Parents (7th & 8th)
- **North Oaks** - Parents invited to attend Breakfast Book Bites, 7:20 a.m.
- **Richland** - Falcon Fair, 11 a.m.
- **South Birdville** - PTA meeting/Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- **Stowe** - Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- **Acad. C.F. Thomas** - Open House, 5 p.m.
- **Watauga** - STUCO Talent Show, 7 p.m.

**March 8, Thursday**

**Haltom High** - Community Breakfast/Volunteer Recognition, 7:30-9 a.m.

**Elementary Activities**
- **Binion** - PTA meeting/Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- **Foster Village** - Open House, 6 p.m.
- **Smith** - PTA meeting/Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- **Holiday Heights** - Parents invited to lunch (1st)
- **Mullendore** - Open House, 7 p.m.
- **North Ridge** - Grandparents Luncheon
- **South Birdville** - Family Math/Open School
- **Spicer** - PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Stowe** - Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- **Acad. C.F. Thomas** - Open House, 5 p.m.
- **Watauga** - STUCO Talent Show, 7 p.m.

**Middle School Activities**
- **Haltom** - Lunchtime Picnic with Parents (7th & 8th)
- **North Oaks** - Parents invited to attend Breakfast Book Bites, 7:20 a.m.
- **Smith** - PTA meeting/Open House, 6:30 p.m.
- **Holiday Heights** - Parents invited to breakfast or lunch, (3rd grade)
- **Richland** - Living invention museum (3rd grade), 8:30 a.m.
- **South Birdville** - PJ Reading Day-Students wear PJs and read their favorite stories.
- **Spicer** - College Day
- **Watauga** - PTA meeting/Student Safety Tips, 6:30 p.m.
- **STUCO Talent Show, 7 p.m.**

**March 9, Friday**

**Elementary Activities**
- **Binion** - Lunch with parents (K, 2nd, 4th)
- **Birdville** - Positive Proof identification card day, All day
- **Francisco** - Parent Volunteer Breakfast, 7 a.m.
- **Green Valley** - “Reader Theater” (2nd grade), 8:30 a.m.
- **Holiday Heights** - Parents invited to breakfast or lunch, (3rd grade)
- **Richland** - Living invention museum (3rd grade), 8:30 a.m.
- **South Birdville** - PJ Reading Day-Students wear PJs and read their favorite stories.
- **Spicer** - College Day
- **Watauga** - PTA meeting/Student Safety Tips, 6:30 p.m.

**Middle School Activities**
- **Richland** - Parent Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.
- **Smithfield** - Symphonic Band concert @ Birdville High, 7 p.m.
- **Haltom** - Lunchtime Picnic with Parents (6th)
- **North Oaks** - Community Coffee, North Oaks Library, 9 a.m.
- **Watauga** - STUCO Parent/Teacher Donut Breakfast, 7:30 a.m.

For a complete list of events visit our Web site at www.birdville.k12.tx.us.
Birdville ISD students earn national honors

Nearly 1.3 million students in more than 20,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2005 Merit Program by taking the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors. Less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors received the prestigious designation of becoming a semifinalist this year. BISD had two National Merit Finalist and four National Merit Hispanic Finalists.

BISD’s National Merit honorees for 2006 are:

**Kim Tran, Birdville High School**  
**National Merit Finalist**  
Kim is a member of the UIL math, science and literary criticism teams and National Honor Society at Birdville High. She enjoys playing the piano and is a volunteer with her church. She plans to major in biomedical engineering and chemistry in college. Kim plans on attending either the University of Texas at Austin, Stanford University or Rice University. She is the daughter of Duyet Tran and Thanh Au.

**Valeria Vianes, Birdville High School**  
**National Hispanic Finalist**  
Valeria is a member of the Ready, Set, Teach! class at Birdville High. Ready, Set, Teach! prepares students to become educators. In addition, she is a member of the Texas Association of Future Educators. Valeria plans on majoring in education at the University of Texas. She is the daughter of Andres and Mary Helen Vianes.

**Celeste Garcia, Birdville High School**  
**National Hispanic Finalist**  
Celeste is a member of the National Honor Society, band and Fishheads. In band, Celeste’s leadership abilities are best reflected by serving as section leader in both her junior and senior years. As a Fishhead, Celeste serves as a mentor helping freshman make a smooth transition to high school life. Celeste plans to major in business at Texas A&M University. Her parents are Jeannine Jenkins and Phillip Garcia.

**Joy Jiang, Haltom High School**  
**National Merit Finalist**  
Joy is a member of the National Honor Society, art club, academic decathlon team, UIL academic team, High on Life, and academic quiz league. Outside of school, she participates in her church choir as a means of reclaiming her native language of Chinese. She plans to major in biology at Davidson College. Joy is the daughter of Qian Jiang and Jinhua Yang.

**Armando Contreraz, Haltom High School**  
**National Hispanic Finalist**  
Armando is a section leader in the band and a battalion commander in the JROTC at Haltom High. Outside of school, he sings in the church choir. Armando plans to major in mathematics and engineering at the University of Southern California. Armando is the son of Armando and Regina Contreraz.

**Shawn P. Caceres, Richland High School**  
**National Hispanic Finalist**  
Shawn is a member of the National Honor Society, chess club, captain of the varsity soccer team, and captain of the Odyssey soccer club. Outside of school, he volunteers with the Tarrant County Food Bank and participated in the Mormon Helping Hands Katrina Clean-up. Shawn plans to major in English at the University of Memphis. He is the son of Peter and Lisa Caceres.

**Did you know?**  
BISD campus commended performance on the state TAKS test continues to increase. Each year, the district has increased the number of “Commended Scholars” recognized by the Texas Education Agency in all subjects.

Richland High  
Cynthia A. Healy  
Alexander J. Farquhar  
Kelsey E. Hoar  
Haltom High School  
Furqan Akhtar
During the 2006-07 school year, Birdville ISD will administer the following federal programs to students that live within district boundaries:

• Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs)
• Title II, Part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment Fund)
• Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education through Technology)
• Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students)
• Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act)
• Title V (Innovative Education Program Strategies)
• IDEA-B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

Representatives of privately educated students interested in participation in any of these programs can contact Dr. Betty Grubbs, director of special services, at 817.547.5740 or by e-mail at Betty_Grubbs@birdville.k12.tx.us.

Business Partners

The following business partners were recognized at recent board meetings: Dr. Kerry Donegan, North Texas Orthopedics and Sports Medicine; Dr. Angela Taylor, Texas Christian University; Larry D. Ellis, Tarrant County Challenge, Inc.; Bill Ditman, SER-TOMA (Service to Mankind); John Cope, Tom Lombard and Dr. Tommy Teague, BISD’s 2006 bond study committee co-chairs; and Randy Moresi, Tony Pack, Ellen Harris, Tom Lombard and Carol Trevino, BISD4Kids.

District Highlights

BISD’s child nutrition department was recognized for winning the dessert category of the Equipment Preference, Inc.’s Recipes for Education contest. Their Arizona cake recipe was selected as the state winner.

Greg Hull, Van Mathews and Ben Maughmer, Haltom High School band directors, were recognized for their leadership in their bands’ performances during the 2006 marching season.

Bill Watson, Kevin McNulty and Jason Bird, Richland High School band directors, were recognized for their leadership in their bands’ performances during the 2006 marching season.

Congratulations to BISD’s spelling bee winner Sohum Patwa. He will represent the district at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram’s Spelling Bee this spring.

All State Band and Choir Students

Twenty-three BISD high school students were selected as All-State Band and All-State Choir members for 2007. These students performed in various bands and choirs at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio in February.

All-State Choir Members - Briley Floyd and Jordan Starks, Haltom High; Elaine Benton, Kelsey Hoar, Celeb Hotze, Numan Khan, Ann Krumm and Bret Parker, Richland High; and Brendan Fisher, Annalise Freeman and Patrick Hagen, Birdville High.

All State Band Members - Sam Boutris, Haley Brazell, Sean Hensarling, Nicole Lara, Benjamin Macon, Marco Sabado and Illeena Vasquez, Haltom High; James Dunne, Mark Hull and Daniel Nguyen, Richland High; and Steven Davidson, Taylor Hines and Ethan Shepherd, Birdville High.

Birdville Council of PTAs celebrated Founders Day (commemorating the establishment of the Parents and Teachers Association) with dinner and a program on Feb. 1 at Thomas Coliseum. This is the 50th anniversary of Birdville Council of PTAs. In addition, students who won at the PTA Council level of the annual Reflections Arts Program were recognized at this event. Honorees were:

VISUAL ARTS - Sadie Wilson, Snow Heights Elementary; Christopher White, North Ridge Elementary; Matthew Fitch, Porter Elementary; Lily Clegg, Snow Heights Elementary; Madison Malmstrom, Porter Elementary; Natalie Newman, Smithfield Elementary; Kaylee DeWees, North Richland Middle; Emma Traylor, North Oaks Middle; Cassandra Manzato, North Ridge Middle; Abby Work, Richland High; Lyndsey Adkins, Richland High; Min Lee, Birdville High; Laura Wood, Richland High; and Victor Garcia, Birdville High.

LITERATURE - Mikaela Kirby, Mullendore Elementary; Allison Schuck, The Academy at C.F. Thomas; Robert Husbenet, North Ridge Elementary; Liam Rhodes, Porter Elementary; Grace Husbenet, North Ridge Elementary; John Ornelas, Richland Elementary; Katie McIntosh, Porter Elementary; Gentrea Hendrickson, Smithfield Middle; Sarah Brown, Smithfield Middle; Kendall Carlson, Smithfield Middle; Renee Toben, Richland High; Sarah English, Richland High; Carly Bassham, Richland High; Dayna Freeman, Birdville High; and Keely Davis, Haltom High.

PHOTOGRAPHY - Jewel Burleson, Walker Creek Elementary; Garrison Daniels, Snow Heights Elementary; Jared Burleson, Walker Creek Elementary; Brooke Settlemyre, Hardeman Elementary; Erika Webb, Snow Heights Elementary; M. Hallie McGee, North Ridge Middle; Megan Schneider, Richland High; and Dayna Freeman, Birdville High.
JPS partnership with BISD

This past fall, JPS Health Network opened a school-based health center at The Academy at C.F. Thomas. The clinic is located on the backside of the campus on Emerald Hills Way in North Richland Hills.

The clinic is equipped to handle treatment for sore throats, colds, immunizations, assessment and treatment of minor injuries, school physicals, general physicals, and much more.

Services are available for all students, siblings and infants who have no health insurance, no affordable healthcare, or are part of the JPS Health Network. For additional information, call 817.547.3046.

Cost: There is a $5 per visit co-pay for students without insurance. For students with insurance or other coverage, such as CHIP, Medicaid and JPS Connection, applicable co-pays and PCP restrictions apply.

---

In this issue...

State increase on Math and Science ............... Page 1
Superintendent's Exchange ................. Page 2
Bond Results in Action/Oversight Committee..... Page 3
Texas Public Schools Week ............... Page 4
Students Earn National Honors ............... Page 5
BISD Highlights .................. Page 6

En este número...

Aumento del Estado en Matemáticas y Ciencia ............... Página 7
El Intercambio del Superintendente ................. Página 8
Resultados del Bono en Acción/ Comité de Descuido ........ Página 9
Semana de Escuelas de Público de Texas ............ Página 10
Estudiantes Ganan Honores Nacionales ............... Página 11

BISD has expanded communications to the community through an online electronic newsletter. “B-News” provides subscribers important weather related closings and delays as well as late breaking news. In addition, the newsletter contains public meeting notices and links to school calendars, online meal payments, athletic schedules, etc. To subscribe, go to www.birdville.k12.tx.us and join the “B-News” mailing list.

---

Clinic Hours
Monday thru Friday
8 a.m. - Noon
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed on most school holidays

JPS partnership with BISD

Call for same day appointments?
No referrals necessary!

Flu shots will be available through March.

---

-- Standard Pre-Sort
-- Non-Profit Organ.
-- U.S. Postage PAID
-- Fort Worth TX
-- Birdville Independent School District

JPS partnership with BISD

Dates to Remember

-- Halton Cit'Y, Texas 76117-4204
-- 6125 East Belknap
-- Birdville Independent School District