

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school-year. Westwood teachers, staff, and board members have worked diligently to prepare for the new school-year and make us one of the highest achieving districts in Texas. Recently we were informed that Westwood ISD earned “Exemplary” status on 22 of 24 academic indicators used to rank Texas schools. We earned “Recognized” on the two remaining indicators. We await results from our appeal of the High School “Completion Rate” designated as unacceptable resulting from record keeping errors. We’re confident WHS will be “Recognized” once these corrections are accepted by TEA. This year we will strive to improve all indicators to attain “Exemplary” status. We are proud of our success and continue to improve in all areas.

In addition, WISD facilities improvements continue. This summer, we:

- remodeled bathrooms at the Elementary, Jr. High, and High School;
- began roof replacement on portions of the Elementary, Jr. High, and High School;
- resurfaced the track at Panther Stadium;
- repaired, sided, and roofed all exterior storage buildings;
- completed plans for 6 additional classrooms at the Primary Campus;
- installed security cameras and alarm systems at every campus; and
- replaced our bus fleet with new and/or refurbished buses.

These improvements will insure a safe and productive environment for many years to come. WISD now has classroom capacity that should meet projected growth for 5 to 10 years. This work has been done using savings built-up over the last 8 years. Westwood ISD has no bonded indebtedness and a low tax rate of only \$1.04 per \$100 valuation.

Because of increased operating costs, we will ask voters to consider a school property-tax increase of 13 cents. If approved at the November 2 election, money generated from the increase will be used to pay higher costs for utilities, supplies, fuel, cafeteria, and teacher salaries.

Success is defined in numerous ways depending on individual expectations. For Westwood ISD, we define success as providing students with the resources—including effective instruction, emotional support, and a safe environment—that they need to prosper in the 21st century. This can only be accomplished with a clear vision of what we want our schools to be and with the help of all stakeholders—students, parents, teachers, and community leaders.

I invite you to join our team as we achieve this vision for every Westwood student.

Sincerely,

Ed Lyman, Ed. D.

Superintendent