



Dr. Ed Lyman- Superintendent

Patricia Wardell-Finance Director

What did my child learn at school today?

“Nothing,” is the typical response when mom or dad asks, “What did you learn in school today?” Although a child does not realize it, he learns many things at school, usually without consciously analyzing or categorizing the knowledge.

It might be more appropriate for mom or dad to ask, “What did you *study* in school today?” In truth the word “**study**” focuses on the instructional part of the day and studying is what we do in class. Studying requires individual effort to understand or know something such as history, science, math, literature, languages, etc. Success in these areas requires study skills, remembering dates, understanding relationships, analyzing trends, and projecting outcomes. Each child must methodically work to understand or memorize information as the basis for study. When the knowledge is successfully transferred to new situations, “learning” is achieved.

Aside from the “book learning,” each interaction with a caring teacher, principal, counselor, or librarian helps the child’s social, emotional, and academic progress. There are infinite possibilities for learning in public schools—most of them positive. For example, perhaps a child learns that the lunch lady is compassionate and serves larger portions to students who smile and say “thank you.” Perhaps he learns that kicking a soccer ball at the bottom makes it fly upward or pulling a girl’s pig tail results in a scolding from his teacher. All knowledge serves a purpose; however, parents can be assured Westwood teachers concentrate on knowledge that will prepare their child for “real world” success.

Although, budget cuts and inflation have taken a toll on area schools, Westwood ISD maintains financial reserves that will allow us to operate with only minor changes during the next two years. The recently adopted “downsizing” plan incorporates prudent staff reductions while keeping critical programs intact.

We now ask all employees to do more with less. Westwood teachers develop well-rounded graduates by providing a wide range of educational opportunities including fine arts, athletics, and academics—this will continue. Recent improvements in campus security, facilities, technology, and curriculum demonstrate that student success remains WISD’s top priority. Even more important, our teachers love all children and focus on what really matters:

"One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes."

--Antoine de Saint-Exupery
The Little Prince

Sincerely,

Ed Lyman, Ed. D.

Superintendent
Westwood Independent School District