



SMOKE SIGNALS

Newsletter of Santa Fe ISD

Volume VI Issue V

April 2019

Dear Community,

In an effort to keep our school community informed and involved, we want to take the opportunity to share preliminary information regarding our plans for May 17 and May 18, 2019.

As a district, we are working in partnership with the City of Santa Fe and the Resiliency Center to plan for Friday, May 17, in a way that honors those whose lives were lost and recognizes those injured during the tragic events of May, 2018. May 17 will be a Day of Remembrance and Resilience at Santa Fe High School. Students and staff will have the opportunity to choose to participate in workshops and activities focused on wellness, engage in community service projects, and learn about Resiliency Center programs.

In order to provide students and families the support to experience the first year mark of this difficult day in a way that is as comfortable as possible, attendance at the high school will be voluntary for May 17, 2019. The day will be a late arrival day for the high school to allow families the choice to spend the early morning time together. This day will be focused on our students and staff as we continue our commitment to fostering a healthy, safe, and supportive learning environment. All other schools throughout the district will remain open and will operate on normal schedules for May 17, 2019.

Our planning for this day has included efforts to hear feedback from students, families, and staff, as well as engage in consultation with school districts and other states previously impacted by a tragic event. Our goal is to provide as much choice as possible in an effort to support each student and family's need for that day. Santa Fe High School administrators are currently working to complete the schedule of presentation, workshop, and activity choices. Additional details for the Day of Remembrance and Resilience will be shared by mid-April.

We appreciate all who expressed interest in planning and hosting events to honor those no longer living and those injured on May 18, 2018. Know that the Resiliency Center is leading the coordination of a community event scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2019 of which school administrators and staff will plan to attend. We encourage you to contact the Resiliency Center if you would like to support the community event.

If you are planning an event that you'd like to open up to the community, please contact the City of Santa Fe directly. Santa Fe ISD will continue to support the Resiliency Center in bringing our community together. More information will be shared about campus plans as finalized. We want to continue our work together to maintain a strong partnership with our students, staff, parents, and the great Santa Fe community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Leigh Wall, Superintendent of Schools

SANTA FE ISD PUBLIC RELATIONS....From the desk of Patti Hanssard, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources:

Rep. Bonnen and Sen. Taylor lead charge to secure funding for Santa Fe ISD

A supplemental appropriations bill that would provide Santa Fe ISD with more than \$10 million in post-disaster recovery cost reimbursement was overwhelmingly approved by the Texas Legislature's House Appropriations Committee last week. The bill is scheduled to be heard on the House floor tomorrow, Wednesday, March 27.

"The legislature is working to strengthen and fund school safety across the state, but Santa Fe has endured an extraordinary tragedy and deserves our immediate support," said Representative Greg Bonnen. "Santa Fe will never fully recover its losses, but with the adoption of SB500 the State can at least repay those financial costs incurred by the school district since last May."

"The nearly \$11 million included in the current version of SB500 is meant to lessen the financial burden of the Santa Fe tragedy on the school district and the community," said Senator Taylor. "My colleagues and I are working on numerous pieces of legislation to strengthen school safety across the state, but the legislature as a whole understands the particular strain this event has put on Santa Fe."

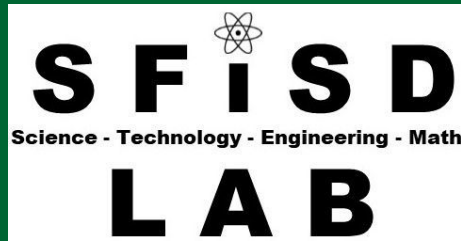
Senate Bill 500 was voted out of the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, March 18, with unanimous support from 24 legislators, with three absent not voting. Bonnen, who Chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Article III and Taylor, who chairs the Senate Committee on Education, were instrumental in adding the appropriations specific to Santa Fe ISD, with support from House Appropriations Committee Chair John Zerwas.

"We are grateful for the continued support from our local elected officials, especially Representative Bonnen and Senator Taylor, who have worked very hard to ensure we can continue to provide a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment for our students," said Santa Fe ISD Superintendent Dr. Leigh Wall. "As a local school district, we do not have the resources to adequately respond to and remediate the effects of such a horrific tragedy. This bill will allow us access to funds that will help our community continue to heal, rebuild and appropriately honor and support all those affected.

The appropriations would permit the district access to funds to repay approximately \$3 million in security improvement costs that were incurred immediately following the tragic school shooting that occurred on May 18, 2018. The funds would also assist the District in reconstructing portions of Santa Fe High School where the shooting took place.

Once SB500 is heard on the House floor, it will still have a few remaining legislative hurdles to clear before being signed into law, including reconciliation of any differences with the Senate, as well as passage by the House and Senate of enabling legislation for the school safety appropriations.

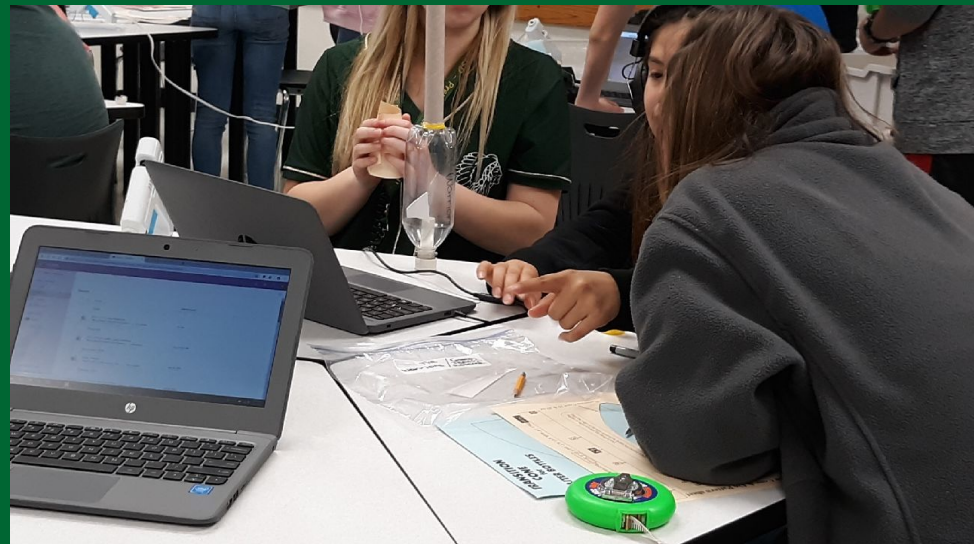
Assuming the Santa Fe ISD funding remains intact and the bills pass the House and Senate, they will then be sent to Governor Abbott for signature, whose approval would make the District eligible to receive up to \$10,930,000 in appropriations for the current biennium for post-disaster recovery costs associated with last year's tragic event.



STEM education at the district is offering hands-on lessons, problem solving, teamwork, and educational excitement across our campuses!



Kubacak Students in the STEM Lab

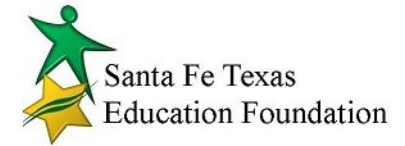


8th Graders building rockets to launch!



Mainland Rotary

Galveston County Mainland Rotary, in cooperation with the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation, recognizes two Santa Fe High School Students of the Month during the school year.



January 2019
Students of the Month

Christopher Kurrass
&
Rachel Bejarano
Future Anaplastologist



February 2019
Students of the Month

Gage Slaughter
Future Aggie/Chemical
Engineer
&
Chloe Nelson
Future Neonatal Nurse



March 2019
Students of the Month

Terry Gillium
Future Marine

Bryce Jones
Future U of Houston
Graduate/Lawyer



SFISD Employees of the Month

January



Lacey Brandon
Wollam Elementary

Samuel Herrera
Maintenance &
Operations

Morgan Thomas
Kubacak Elementary

Martha Gonzalez
Custodial

Keri Eltgroth
Santa Fe Jr. High

Martha Delfin
Nutrition Services

Linda Lovelady
Santa Fe High School

Gina Covington
Administration

Sandra Schock
Transportation

Ruben Espinoza
Police Department

February



Jennifer Kahla
Wollam Elementary

Donna Folse
Maintenance &
Operations

Donna Marburger
Kubacak Elementary

Irma Rodriguez-
Moreno
Custodial

Johnny Banda
Santa Fe Jr. High

Magdalena Galicia
Negron
Nutrition Services

Jennifer Walton
Santa Fe High School

Julie Amos
Transportation

Joel Sumrall
Administration

Kevin Rogers
Police Department

March



Karen Keown
Wollam Elementary

Irma Salazar
Maintenance &
Operations

Deidre Wagner
Kubacak Elementary

Aleida Benavides
Custodial

Betty Norvell
Santa Fe Jr. High

Tanehs Munos
Nutrition Services

Kody Allred
Santa Fe High School

Patti Hanssard
Administration

Jennifer Gordon
Transportation

Bruce Whitten
Police Department

6TH ANNUAL 5K COLOR FUN RUN AND BALL DROP



Jack Brooks Park
10 Jack Brooks Rd Hitchcock, TX
Saturday May 4th, 2019
FUN RUN STARTS AT 7:30am
HELICOPTER BALL DROP AT 9:30am

Top finishers of the fun
run will receive prizes.

Ball Drop tickets are \$5 each
Fun Run registration is \$20 for adults
and \$10 for students

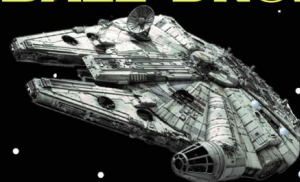
Proceeds Support Innovative Educational
Materials for our Santa Fe ISD Students

Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation
409-925-9080



Santa Fe Texas
Education Foundation

For Online Registration and More Information
www.sfid.org/educationfoundation



BALL DROP PRIZES

- Chance at a new car from Ron Carter in Alvin RON CARTER
- \$500 Texas First Bank Card TEXAS FIRST BANK
- \$250 Visa Gift Card
- Weekend Beach House Stay
- Fishing Trip with Capt. Jimmy Hall
- \$100 Gulf Coast Educators FCU Visa Card Gulf Coast Educators FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
- \$100 Jimmy Changas Restaurant Card Jimmy Changas
- \$100 Valero Fuel Card VALERO
- Texas State Park Pass from Winwood Motors WINWOOD MOTORS
- 4 Schlitterbahn Galveston Tickets SCHLITTERBAHN WATERPARK
- Photography Session by Amber Madden Photography
- Gym Bag & Accessories from Farmers Insurance—The Fidencio Leija Agency
- Hair Care Package
- Scrapbook Basket from Croppin' Bug
- Shine-Rite Carwash Membership

Sponsored by
Greg Gardner
StateFarm

[Click Here to Register](#)

The SFISD School with the
most participants will
receive a \$1500 grant. So,
when you register at the link
above, click on TEAMS and
choose your school!





Your Employer of Choice In Education

Saturday, April 13, 2019

9:00– 11:30 am

Cowan Education Center

Training Rooms

4133 Warpath, Santa Fe, TX

**Santa Fe
ISD
Job Fair**

SFISD is hiring Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Auxiliary Department (Nutrition Services, Transportation, Maintenance & Operations) positions for the 2019-2020 school year. Administrators from 5 campuses will be on site to screen and interview candidates for positions on their respective campuses.



Candidates should bring proof of certification, university, or program documentation verifying pending Certification and copies of resumes for distribution.

Starting Teacher Salary
with Benefits & Insurance
is valued at \$57,446.
Actual Teacher Salary
0 years is \$52,500.
Master Core Stipends \$1,082.

Registration opens March 18, 2019 for the April District Job Fair.
Register on line at [SFISD Job Fair 2019](#).



Click to see progress on the 2016 Bond for the new elementary school and the new attendance boundaries.



Click [HERE](#) to link to district calendar

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Safety is our highest priority, and we continue to work diligently to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for our students and staff. Safety Matters is a weekly publication that provides specific information on topics of safety around the district.

[Click to review the archives of these newsletters.](#)



More District News

Dear Santa Fe Independent Schools families,

Santa Fe ISD believes attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of academic achievement and having your student in their seat, ready to learn for the entire school day will benefit them, their classmates, and the whole school community.

This spring we are introducing our Attendance Matters awareness campaign. Our goal is to increase student attendance through growing awareness, spreading the word, and developing relationships with students and families so they will be able to make it to their classrooms every day, on time.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in Pre-kindergarten, too many absences (excused or unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.

WHAT YOU CAN DO/TIPS FOR SUCCESS

We miss your student when they are gone and we value their contributions to their school. We would like you to help ensure that your student attends regularly and is successful in school.

- Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick, such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a contagious rash.
- Avoid appointments and travel when school is in session.
- Keep track of your child's attendance on a calendar to stay up to date.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine that includes finishing homework and packing backpacks the night before.
- Have a back-up plan for getting your child to school in case something comes up.
- Keep in mind that events like the County Fair are not an excused absence during the day unless you are participating.

At every level, parent and family engagement is a key component of effective, comprehensive approaches to reducing chronic absence. All of us together can help children realize their hopes and dreams when - Attendance Matters!

If you have questions, please contact the attendance office at your child's school.

PARENT COFFEE TALKS AND TRAININGS



Junior High and High School Sessions

JOIN US FOR



Friday
April 26
at 9:00 a.m. at the
Santa Fe High School
Library

Presenter:
Katie Casey

Topic:
Study tips and test
preparation

Description:
This talk will explore
ways for parents to
teach their students to
use best study habits
and practices.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

Friday
May 24
at 9:00 a.m. at the
Santa Fe High School
Library

Presenter:
SFHS Guidance
Counselors

Topic:
Internships,
Endorsements, &
Career Goals

Description:
Parents will be equipped
with knowledge about
graduation plans and
continuing education
throughout the summer.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)



Please Reach Out

Resiliency Center Counselors: 409-218-7129

Crisis Hotline: 800-595-0869

Crisis Text: 741741



