



9/2/2008

Re: Back to School Newsletter for 2008-2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I would like to welcome you to the 2008-2009 school year at Tom Bean Middle School—a TEA *Recognized* campus. I hope that everyone has experienced an enjoyable summer and that you are looking forward to returning to Tom Bean Middle School for a year of excellence. The purpose of this letter is to welcome you to another school year, introduce our new staff members and outline important academic goals for this year at Tom Bean Middle School.

The Tom Bean Middle School welcomes three new members to our campus faculty this school year. Mrs. Sarena Owens joins us from Detroit ISD and will be teaching U.S. History. Mrs. Owens comes to us with sixteen (16) years of teaching experience. During her career she received Detroit Middle School's Teacher of the Year three times including 2000, 1996 and 1995. In 1998 Ms. Owens was awarded the TMSA Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Region VIII. Ms. Roberta Jones joins us from Whitewright ISD where she has taught since 2005. Mrs. Jones taught the Title I Reading Program while at Whitewright Middle School. Ms. Jones' Tom Bean Middle School assignments include teaching Health, Learning Lab, and coaching at both the middle and high school. Mr. Jason Brogdon will be working with our special education department as an aide. Mr. Brogdon is currently taking courses in pursuit of his degree with aspirations of teaching full time. We welcome all of our new staff members and look forward to a great year!

The 2007-2008 generated improvement as our campus moved from being a TEA Academically Acceptable School to a 2008-2009 TEA Academically Recognized School. The 2007-2008 data indicate that math, reading, social studies and writing scores are strong at Tom Bean Middle School. Reading and writing continue to be a strength with 8th grade TAKS Reading commended scores at an unprecedented mark. Positive gains were made in Math at each grade level as overall campus scores increased by 10%. Social Studies scores decreased from 90% to 87%. Science TAKS results fell short of campus expectations at 71% passing (an increase of 4% from prior year). Consequently, a campus wide emphasis will be placed on science for the 2008-2009 school year. Our Campus Improvement Plan encompasses five categorical goals which include:

1. **Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress:** Tom Bean Middle School is committed to using tri- weekly data to drive instructional improvements and to develop student intervention plans.
2. **Opportunity to Learn and Student Time on Task:** Tom Bean Middle School is committed to closing achievement gaps which exist between our economically advantaged and our disadvantaged students.

Succeeding Together...Whatever It Takes!

3. **Climate of High Expectations for Success:** Tom Bean Middle School is committed to providing rigorous academic student engagement from bell to bell each class period during the school year.
4. **Tom Bean Middle School is committed to improving student achievement in Science.**
5. **School and Community Relationships:** Tom Bean Middle School is committed to fostering positive school and community relationships through consistent parent communication.

We believe that a focus in these target areas will continue to increase our student achievement during the 2008-2009 school year. If you would like to view the Campus Improvement Plan full report please visit our web site at <http://www.tombean-isd.org>.

Additionally, we encourage all parents to establish positive relationships with your child's teachers. We believe that communication between home and school is an essential component in academic achievement. Our dedicated staff can be contacted via the telephone at (903) 546-6161 or simply by accessing the Tom Bean ISD website at <http://www.tombean-isd.org>.

Let us make 2008-2009 our best year yet!

Sincerely,

Dewitt Smith

Dewitt Smith, Principal
Tom Bean Middle School
TEA Recognized Campus