

Principal's Corner

It is the end of the first six weeks, and once again we are off to a great start. I am very proud of the students and of their hard work thus far. The hard work in the classroom last year put us on the cusp of being ranked exemplary—with just one area of improvement needed to become a recommended campus. That area has been corrected, and we are looking forward to being a recommended and possibly exemplary campus this year.

That does not come without commitment to hard work and without high expectations set not only by me but by our faculty and students as well. That being said, we need buy-in and support from parents to become the hardest working school district in Texas. When that happens, we will be assured of our students' success and of their leadership in whichever community they choose to be a part after graduation.

What a sense of responsibility and *pride* that kind of commitment will bring!

Right now we need support from everyone on attendance. Our attendance rate last year was slightly over 94%; our goal for this year is 96%. This is a goal that is going to take a great deal of work from students and parents, but it is very achievable. Keep posted on the high school website for

our current yearly percentage. Our attendance count is taken from 2nd period.

How can you help? If you must schedule a doctor's appointment for your student, please try scheduling it after 2nd period, which regularly ends at 9:55. Your help on this matter is crucial to our reaching our goal.

Our kids' future education depends on setting goals and working to achieve them. Currently, students can pick from approximately 10 different pathways to post-high school careers and start working towards those career goals now. Whether a student wants to be a doctor or a hotel chef, we have a pathway that is aligned to that field of work and that will guide a student in achieving those goals.

We provide new and better opportunities for students every year. With their paths clear, students can reach any goals they choose. There are no limits.

I am very proud of our community, high school faculty, student body, and school district. The work that we do is very rewarding. At times, the work may seem difficult and exhausting, but what worthy accomplishments are not struggles to achieve? Valuable achievements don't come easily. Hard work is the key ingredient of success.

I believe hard work is a moral imperative, which was set in me at an early age. Being raised on a ranch, I had many duties. There was no choice. The work had to be done. I can remember mowing our yard of about an acre with the old narrow push mower almost from the time I started walking. I remember the job I had in high school working at a brick plant and coming home with my eyebrows singed from the heat of the kilns from which I had to pull the bricks. I see that work ethic in our students. Many work 40 – 60 hours a week trying to help support their families while still keeping up their grades. That kind of hard work is admirable.

We all must keep focused that the *primary* goal for us as a community needs to be that our students here at Breckenridge receive the number one, best education that they possibly can receive in order to be competitive in a competition-based world.

Remember, it takes a whole community to raise a child.

I appreciate your support, and I always enjoy hearing questions or comments. My door is open, and I look forward to continuing to serve you as principal of the number one high school in Texas, your high school, home of the Breckenridge Buckaroos.