

September 1, 2009



# The Panther Page

## Gateway Scores

The Gateway scores are coming home tonight for all of the seventh grade students who were in Algebra I last year.

## Text Books

I wanted to take time to address your concerns about textbooks.

**Social Studies Texts:** Last year was the new adoption for the social studies text. These text books did not hold up as well as textbooks had in the past. Because this was a system issue, the company asked that all textbooks which were not in good condition be returned to their bindery. The social studies textbooks from every school that were not in good condition were sent back in May. We have a date from the textbook company for delivery on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. On this date the textbooks are to arrive at our textbook depository. They will be sorted by school and sent out as soon as possible.

Teachers are using a class set of social studies books, technology, and hands on activities. The classes have continued very much as they do when every child has his/her own book. I assure you that the students are not missing a beat.

**Science Texts:** It was a decision of the curriculum department that the system would only purchase a class set of science textbooks to be used as one resource in the pursuit of mastering the standards. Science should be an inquiry-based model of instruction. The elementary grades K – 5 have used this model for years as they have hands on kits that address the standards. In addition to the class set of science textbooks and limited on line access to the texts, excellent science kits have been ordered for the middle school science classes. All middle school teachers will receive training next week on the kits that were purchased. As a school, we are very excited that we have the kits which will give us more opportunities for hands on science inquiry.

We have requested that our old science textbooks be sent back to our respective schools and I want to assure you that the differences in the textbooks are minimal. The science teachers at Page Middle School have never relied on one source for tests. Your child will have the same opportunities for test review that he/she has had in the past.

## Clubs

- Katie Maurer will be organizing club Model UN. " Model UN Club participates in an authentic simulation of the United Nations system by learning about the UN system, the skills of debate, compromise, conflict resolution and negotiation. MUN team members have fun learning about the workings of world diplomacy through the lens of current events."

The Model UN Club will meet next Tuesday at 6:30. The students prepare for Model UN in teams of three. So you might want to get together and bring someone with you.

- Julie Walker's Cooking Club will begin meeting next Wednesday immediately after school. What Fun!
- Joan Wilkes will start Club F.R.E.D. this Friday.
- Julie Caudle will start the after school book club next Wednesday, September 9, 2009.

## Parent Connection

We are working to process your accounts so that all of you will have access to your student's daily grades.

If you had a Parent Connect Account last year, all you need to do is to send to the school your signed Parent Agreement.

If you do not have an account, please go to the Page Middle School Website and follow the directions for setting up your account and return the signed Parent Agreement to Page Middle.

If you are having problems setting up your account, please call 472-4760 and ask to speak with Maura Perine.

## **"Java with Josie"**

Change in date for "Java with Josie"

Friday, September 11, 2009

8:00 a.m.

For New Parent to Page Middle School

- What is our vision for Page Middle School?
- How are we organized?
- How do we make sure that students are challenged?
- Who to contact for what ?