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Lovejoy Independent School District



April 2010

The District at a Glance

Dear Lovejoy Community:

We are proud of the fact that we are about two months away from graduating the Class of 2010. This community made a huge commitment of faith in 2003 when you decided to build out the school program from a K-6 school to a K-12 offering. Our mission was to create a secondary program that was every bit as good as the traditional elementary program. The elementary tradition of the Lovejoy Way was firmly established and we have remained focused on the development of the secondary version. As I survey the quality of our academic programs, fine arts programs, as well as athletics, I am confident that the Lovejoy Way is alive and well throughout the district. Our accomplishments are possible because this community sends great kids to our classrooms, our taxpayers give generously of your time and money to support our public education programs, and the quality of this community makes it easy to recruit and retain excellent staff. As a career educator with 30+ years of experience, I am excited as I look to the future and consider what the possibilities are for continued development of the Lovejoy Way and what we can do for each and every child in this school district. Please know that I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve this school district as your superintendent.

Respectfully,
 Ted Moore
 Superintendent
 Lovejoy ISD

Lovejoy ISD Construction Update

Despite the unusually wet fall and winter, crews have pushed forward and the new wing at the High School is taking shape. Because of increasing student enrollment, Lovejoy ISD planned to add the capacity for approximately 500 additional students at the High School for the 2010-11 school year. The current capacity of Lovejoy High School is 1,000 students and

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13 3A State Volleyball Champions
 2009-2010
 Lovejoy ISD



Each year the University Interscholastic League (UIL) awards The Lone Star Cup, honoring the best overall athletic and academic programs in Texas. One school in each of the five UIL classifications will claim

the cup. The winning schools earn a trophy coveted award. It should be an exciting and a \$1000 scholarship presented by the Spring! UIL.

The sports and activities that are included in 3A are baseball, basketball, football, softball, volleyball, cross country, golf, track and field, wrestling, team tennis, one act play and the state academic meet.

After 3 of 6 tabulations of points, Lovejoy High School leads the 3A classification with 58 points. The remaining updates will include golf, track and field, academics, one act play, softball and baseball. Good luck to our students as they pursue this distinguished and

Student Performance Nears Best in State

In Lovejoy we continually examine data to determine how our students are performing compared to the other districts in Texas. Two important measures are the percentage of our students who earn commended performance on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and how each senior class compares to other graduating classes on standardized exams such as the PSAT.

The TAKS test includes a measure called commended performance. To earn commended performance a student must earn a 90% or better on the state exam. To earn commended performance a student must have a strong mastery of the tested state standards, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

In a recent analysis of our 2009 TAKS scores, Lovejoy rank ordered the commended performance percentages of every district in Texas for each tested subject area of TAKS. Lovejoy ISD is currently in the top 2% or top 1% of all districts in Texas in every tested subject.

The second important student performance measure we have examined has been the PSAT scores for the Class of 2010 compared to other high performing districts in Texas. Although SAT averages for the Class of 2010 are not finalized, the PSAT scores from last year when students took the PSAT as juniors are able to be analyzed. The comparison of the Class of 2010 PSAT averages to other

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PSAT Mean Scores for the Class of 2010

District	Critical Reading Mean Score	Writing Mean Score	Math Mean Score	Total Mean Score
Carroll ISD	48.4	47	52.6	148.0
Highland Park ISD	50	48.9	53.9	152.8
Lovejoy ISD	49.6	50.1	52.5	152.2

Attention All Taxpayers.....

In addition to our weekly Email Express, we send email our Community Notes Edition monthly for those who would prefer an abbreviated communication from the district to assist you to follow important district business. If you would like to receive this communication, please email communitynotes@lovejoyisd.net and put **Subscribe** in the subject line.

Tax Rate Expected to Remain Stable for 2010-2011

Lovejoy ISD has a fiscal year that begins on July 1st annually; therefore we are currently immersed in the budget process. In the fall issue, we reported to you the many recognitions and achievements LISD has received for financial stability and management, and none of that would be attainable without a tightly monitored, comprehensive budget overview each year. **The current tax rate is not expected to change for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.**

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Lovejoy High School Leading the 3A Lone Star Cup Race

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Pictured: State Runners Up - 2009-2010 Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams

Tax Rate Expected to Remain Stable for 2010-2011 *continued from page 1*

The 2010-2011 operating budget for Lovejoy ISD is estimated to be \$30,643,000. This budget is funded by the \$1.06 portion of the school tax rate and supplemented by the state. These funds are used for the day-to-day operations of the district, including teacher salaries, utilities, supplies, transportation, etc. The current (& prior year) district budgets are available on our website.

The debt service portion of the budget is funded 100% by the \$.475 portion of the school tax rate. All tax proceeds from the debt service portion are used to extinguish the debt incurred by the district as bonds are approved by the voters and issued as needed.

As we continue to prepare the 2010-2011 budget, it is important that we monitor our available revenue which is driven almost exclusively by the number of students attending the district. Our demographer has been extremely accurate on the forecast of students

during our transition years and we continue to have faith in our projections, however with changing economic markets and no dependence on entire grade levels of growth, we will monitor our enrollment closely. At the time of this publication, our revenue estimates for next year are based on an enrollment of 3,451.

Personnel costs make up about 85% of the budget, while utilities add another 5%. The remaining 10 % is budgeted for supplies, materials, professional development, travel, transportation, fees, and general overhead. With the growth in students comes the need for additional personnel, utilities (for expanded high school classrooms), and other costs such as supplies and materials.

The district has a budget request and review process that involves five campuses and eleven departments. Prior to reaching the school board at the budget workshop, over 50

individual budget managers have requested the funds in their respective areas and each of the 4,127 line items are submitted to the chief financial officer for review. Once compiled, reviewed and analyzed by the CFO, the budgets are then evaluated at the summary level by the seven members of the Superintendent's Leadership Council.

The budget process actually began in October 2009 and a preliminary budget was presented to the board during a workshop on November 17, 2009. All budget requests are due into the CFO by April 5th and the board budget workshop will be held on May 18th. We invite you to attend the workshop and/or the public hearing on June 15th.

If you have questions about the district's budget, please feel welcome to contact Shay Adams, Chief Financial Officer by e-mail at Shay_Adams@Lovejoyisd.net.

Lovejoy ISD Construction Update *continued from page 1*

enrollment for next year should approach 1,100 students. After the addition, the new building capacity will be 1,500 students. To prepare for this increase in enrollment, the district planned to construct the 500 student capacity addition as part of the 2007 bond election. The new addition includes:

- ◆ 12 classrooms ◆ 4 science labs ◆ Life skills room ◆ Central receiving
- ◆ Medical technician training lab ◆ Fine arts corridor addition
- ◆ Auditorium restrooms ◆ Minor building modifications

Additionally, updates and improvements have been made to the Lovejoy High School baseball and softball complex. These improvements include:

- ◆ Updated backstop to netting
- ◆ Replaced outfield fence to solid panels
- ◆ Added public address systems to each field
- ◆ Updated lighting in bullpens and batting cages
- ◆ New softball infield practice area
- ◆ Provided foul ball protection
- ◆ Added additional spectator seating
- ◆ New indoor and outdoor batting cages
- ◆ Updated announcer's platform

2007 Bond Program Quick Facts

\$78.5 Million
Passed by Voters – November 2007

Completed Projects-

- Renovation of Carrie L. Lovejoy Elementary
- Updates to Joe V. Hart Elementary
- Lovejoy High School Phase II
- LISD Administration "Red School House"
- Estelle Spurgin Administration Annex
- Sloan Creek Middle School
- Gym Addition
- Purchase of Land

Current Projects-

- Lovejoy High School Phase III
- Baseball & Softball Updates

Future Projects-

- Willow Springs Middle School



Pictured: Varsity Boys Basketball Team District and Area Champions - Regional Semi-Finalist

Student Performance Nears Best in State *continued from page 1*

high performing high schools is very favorable.

We have compared the Lovejoy High School Class of 2010 PSAT mean scores with those of Carroll ISD and Highland Park ISD. These

are the two largest exemplary rated school districts in Texas.

As a district and community we are committed to ensuring our students are among the

highest achieving students in Texas and the nation. This recent analysis of the 2009 TAKS commended performance and PSAT mean scores for the Class of 2010 would indicate that the students in Lovejoy nearly have the best achievement in Texas.

* Number to the far right is the number of districts or charter schools who administered a TAKS test for the particular subject area.

** Number in the star is the Lovejoy ranking.



Pictured: 2009-10 Varsity Girls Basketball Team Co-District Champions

