

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- New wing open on campus for the Fall
- NEW service organizations on campus
- PSAT in October
- Parent volunteers needed
- 8 new teachers hired at New Tech High

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# New Tech News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2008

## Second Year at Manor New Tech High

Wow! What an inspirational year it was for Manor New Technology High School in our opening year. Our State Assessment TAKs Scores reinforced our instructional model of Project Based Instruction with scores in ELA 90, Social Studies 95, Science 80, and Math 69. In addition to academic gains, MNTH is proud to highlight the highest attendance in the District of 97.3%.

As we move into our second year we will be bringing in another 100 freshman that will bring our grades levels to 9,10, and 11. With the addition of the incoming freshman class we have added several key personnel to complement our already recognized strong teachers. Manor New Technology High School is proud to announce that 100% of our teachers returned to teach for the 2008-2009 school

year. With the addition of our spectacular new staff, which includes UTeach graduates, experienced lead teachers in Math, Science, and English Language Arts, a Spanish/



**Students attended the ECS National forum on education policy—Bobby Gosey, Luis Flores, Paul Boecker, Amber Hutchinson, Jenna Holt**

French teacher, a Manager of the Texas High School Project Evaluation and graduate from the LBJ School of Public Policy, and an engineer of 7 years from National Instru-

ments we look forward to once again having one of the strongest academic staffs with half of the teaching staff at MNTH having advance degrees. This year MNTH will introduce Dual Credit classes for the junior class.

Our educational and business partnership has continued to grow and we look forward to formalizing many of our relationships to enhance MNTH and Manor Independent School District. Manor New Technology High School should be an exciting and dynamic school this year and we look forward to making significant strides in student achievement and District success in 2008-2009 as we share best practices in "OUR HOUSE" with all MISD campuses.

—Steven Zipkes, Principal

## New Organizations for Students

This year, students at New Tech will be able to join service and academic related organizations. The BPA, Key Club and NHS (National Honor Society) will be offered in the Fall. If students are interested in starting another organization, they can submit a proposal to the administration for considera-

tion.

Business Professionals of America is the leading CTSO (Career Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields.

[www.bpanet.org](http://www.bpanet.org)

Key Club is the oldest and largest service program for high school students. It is a student-led organization that teaches leadership through serving others. Members of the Kiwanis International family, Key Club members build themselves as they build their schools and communities.

[www.keyclub.org](http://www.keyclub.org)



If you would like to receive calls about upcoming Parent meetings, please contact Merry Rightmer, 272-8386

*“Manor New Tech High has the highest attendance rate in the district, at 97.12%”*

The first graduating class from New Tech are one step closer to 2010!

## Parent Volunteers Needed

As our school continues to grow, we need the support of **all parents** to succeed.

Join the PIC (parent involvement committee) and you can share your expertise in:

- Fundraising
- PR/communication & newsletter
- Hospitality

- Special projects

If you would like to receive e-mails about upcoming parent meetings, please contact Merry Rightmer at: [rightmer@austin.rr.com](mailto:rightmer@austin.rr.com) or call her at: 272-8386.

We always appreciate the help of bilingual parents at school events. If you can input data, teachers need help with inputting the reading level numbers and

cataloging a database of books at the school. Your time is a valuable resource and greatly appreciated by the staff as a donation. Of course, you can also donate items to the school at any time during the school year.

Welcome back and we hope everyone had a great summer! Now, let's all get to work.

## Fall Back into Good Health

Hopefully, you made some healthy choices over the summer and kept your body and mind in good shape! However, life is going to start getting busy again with a new school year starting. You will be faced with the typical stressors of the beginning of the school year as well as the added stress of being a student at Manor New Tech.

Manor New Tech is an awesome place to be, so don't you worry! Stress is inevitable in life, but it is how you deal with it that matters when it comes to your health. A little stress is good sometimes to help us to achieve our goals and be successful.

Here are some tips to help you adjust to the stress and challenges of being a stu-

dent at Manor New Tech:

- Talk to other students going through the same challenges.
- Seek advice from 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders who have already experienced New Tech life.
- Trust in your teachers, principal, and counselor to guide you in the right direction and provide support to you.
- Get plenty of sleep each night. Don't allow computers, cell phones, video games, etc. to keep you up late at night.
- Eat balanced meals. Grab a healthy breakfast in the cafeteria each morning and make sure you allow some time at lunch to re-fuel your mind and body for your afternoon classes.
- Use your Physical Education activity days to re-

lieve some stress. If you aren't in P.E. this trimester, find some time each day to do some type of physical activity. Something simple like going for a walk or jog or even jumping rope if you have limited space would be great.

- Avoid consuming large amounts of caffeine. Go to bed earlier if you are having a hard time staying awake. Besides, Manor New Tech is way too exciting to feel sleepy! Get involved in school activities, build relationships with your classmates and teachers, and think POSITIVE!

Have a healthy start to the school year by falling back into good health!

—Mrs. Bridget Wildschuetz

# Teacher Classroom Wish Lists

As the campus grows, all the teachers could use a bit of help in fully stocking their classrooms. Some of the items on their new school year “wish list” are the following:

- Kleenex
- Paper towels
- Liquid hand soap (**NOT** the antibacterial gel cleanser)
- Liquid dish detergent
- Large dish tub (for sanitizing students' goggles)

- 2-3 three hole punches
- Scientific graph paper
- Plastic storage containers - ANY size
- Baby wipes
- Computer Screen cleaning sheets
- Soccer balls, basketballs
- Nerf soccer balls, basketballs
- Jump ropes
- Post It self stick easel pads—white (qty 4-8)
- Magazines for the classrooms (National Geo-

graphic, scientific journals, computer magazines, arts, etc)

- Books (reading level 9-12)  
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The website for New Tech has been updated recently. You can now read the parent newsletters on line! There is a section for parents on the web site. Please provide Elenor Harden your feedback as to what you would like to see on line.



**Check out the NEW design of the Manor New Tech website...send your feedback to: Elenor Harden**

## World Studies Welcomes Sophomores!

World Studies is a class that is offered to all 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Like all the other humanities courses, it is team-taught. What that means is that students take both English and Social Studies in one class. Ms. Ehler and Ms. Acevedo will teach this year’s course. Every project will combine historical research with literature and writing. Therefore, students will learn content and skills that are aligned with the TEKS and that will help them prepare for the TAKS in both English and Social Studies.

The Social Studies focus will be on World History. Because of that, students will be exposed to literature from different regions of the world and many time periods in history. Some titles that are being considered for this year’s projects include, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Since our students will

need information from both fiction and non-fiction texts in order to complete projects, it is important for parents to be aware of current projects and classroom activities in order to support their student and help them keep up on all readings.

In addition to learning the humanities content and skills, all students enrolled in World Studies will also have the opportunity to improve their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Those skills include: work ethic, oral proficiency, technology proficiency, numeracy, and collaboration. Projects and coursework will be designed so that students can work on improving in those areas as well as monitor their own growth through various assessments. For instance, in order to help students improve their oral communication skills, all projects will have a component in which students present their work to a panel of peers

and community members. Students will be expected to dress professionally, show quality work, prepare to answer questions about the content learned, and be enthusiastic during all their presentations. There will be no exceptions to any of those components. So students, please bring all your enthusiasm to class!

In terms of parent visitors and volunteers, the World Studies teachers would like to extend a heart-felt welcome. Please feel free to visit their class in room 116. Whether your student is currently enrolled in the class or will be taking it in the future, please come by. You can visit or help critique student presentations at any time throughout the year. It is not necessary to make an appointment. However, if you’d like to contact the teachers, their e-mail addresses are: [claudiaacevedo@manornewtech.org](mailto:claudiaacevedo@manornewtech.org) and [stephanie.ehler@manornewtech.org](mailto:stephanie.ehler@manornewtech.org)



### **Calendar for Aug Sept Oct**

**August 20:** NEW Manor New Tech High website released; Newsletter NOW available on the website!

**August 21:** Back to school dinner for all students, parents & staff

**August 22, 2008-** 8th Annual School Resource Fair at Excel HS Cafeteria from 9:00–1:00

**August 25—FIRST** day of school (8:10 a.m. start today)

**August 25-29:** New Tech's 2007 Yearbooks available to last year's students for FREE

**September 1—NO Classes!** School holiday

**September:** Open House and Parent Volunteer meeting at MNTH

**October 3:** End of 1st 6 weeks marking period

**October 15:** PSAT exam



### **Manor New Tech High School**

10323 U.S. Hwy 290 East  
Manor, TX 78653

### **New Tech FAQ's**

**Q:** *What school supplies do I need to get for my child before school starts?*

**A:** *A pen and a notebook, lock for gym locker.*

**Q:** *Does New Tech participate in UIL?*

**A:** *Yes. Since 2007 was our first year, we did not participate in events. This year we are looking into academic UIL competitions and other events, such as science and history fairs.*

**Q:** *What organizations are available for students at New Tech?*

**A:** *We are expanding this year to offer student council, the national honor society, Key club, and the Business Professional of America. If students would like additional organizations on campus, they can submit a proposal to the administration for consideration.*

**Q:** *I've read about "team" grading. Does my child work alone?*

**A:** *Yes, students do work on their own. Student contracts are created for each class regarding team roles and consequences. Individual responsibility is very important.*

**Q:** *Will New Tech participate in events with Manor High?*

**A:** *New Tech will have its own graduation ceremony, a prom and class rings.*