

# New Tech News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2008

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 1st Year a Great Success
- TAKS results
- Expansion for 2008-09
- Incoming freshmen
- SAT prep this summer!
- Parent volunteers needed

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## First Year at Manor New Tech High

Hello Parent Partners in Education:

Wow! What an inspirational year it has been for our first year at MNTH. The success of our students and staff, the parental support, and school operations was phenomenal and exceeded our expectations by leaps and bounds. I witnessed students taking charge of their education, achieving academically, working collaboratively and applying 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in their learning while at the same time developing soft skills, such as public speaking, planning and organization, and delegating workloads.

This year we had numerous study tours that consisted of individuals from all walks of life from the Texas Deputy Commissioner of Education

to the Senate Education Chair of Louisiana, Senator Nevers. Our students led every study tour that came through MNTH and the part-



**New color marquee for MNTH on May 9—made possible by MEF and Applied Materials**

ing comments by our visitors were always how amazed they were at our students' openness and ability to convey their learning in a mature and articulate manner. The culture of Manor New Tech

transcended every barrier and our students rose to the challenge that has left a footprint on our first year for years to come.

Thank you all for your commitment and support this year as we embarked on this journey of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and high school reform. Our students rose to the occasion as is evident by our State Assessment Scores, attendance (we had the highest attendance rate in the district!), and student buy in.

As summer approaches we want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to everyone coming back next year. Thank you all for a great year!  
—Steven Zipkes, Principal

## Counselor Update...PSAT/SAT Prep

We strongly recommend the following timelines and steps for preparing MNTH students to take the SAT.

**2007-2008 Academic Year**  
All current 10<sup>th</sup> grade students took the PSAT in October of 2007 and received their results after the Winter Break. As a result of taking

the PSAT each student received access codes and directions for a personalized online SAT tutorial program based upon how each student performed on the PSAT. I strongly encouraged each student to utilize this program over the summer to focus on specific areas that were identified as in need of

improvement.

**2008-2009 Academic Year**  
All Juniors will take the PSAT again in October of 2008. A personalized online SAT tutorial program based upon how each

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If you would like to receive e-mails about upcoming Parent meetings, please contact Merry Rightmer, rightmer@austin.rr.com

*“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. There is a fundraising committee, communication & newsletter committee and various projects planned throughout the school year. If you would like to receive e-mails about upcoming parent meetings, please contact Merry Rightmer at: rightmer@austin.rr.com 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. We are in need of books (reading level 9-12) and

magazines for all classrooms. The teachers are putting together a “wish list” which we will share with everyone in August. Watch out for more information posted on the color marquee in front of the school and the local newspaper, *The Manor Messenger*. Thank you for all your help over the last year and we look forward to seeing you again in the Fall!

## Welcome Freshmen!

We are glad to welcome the next new class of students to Manor New Tech. At the time of publication, there were 115 incoming freshmen with 20+ on a waiting list.

Our campus is also being expanded to accommodate the new class as well as 8-10 new teachers being

hired on for the fall. There will be a two day summer camp for 9th graders on August 5th & 6th. There will also be a welcome back dinner for all students and their families, staff and teachers the week before school starts. You will be able to meet your future class mates, talk to teachers

and pick up your class schedule.

Check out the recommended reading list for incoming 9th graders, which focuses on world geography. Have a safe summer and we'll see you all in the Fall!

—Sue Carlson, parent

## PSAT & SAT Preparation...

*(continued from cover)*

student performed on the PSAT will be created. I strongly encourage each student to utilize this program over the Spring & Summer of 2009 to focus on remaining areas of concern.

### **2009-2010 Academic Year**

I will recommend students take the SAT for the 1<sup>st</sup> time during the June 2009 administration. If a student is not happy with his/her results they should take the SAT for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time during the October 2009 admini-

stration. These dates will be provided each student with plenty of time to get scores returned so they can be utilized during the college selection/application process.

—David Greiner, Counselor

# New Tech Videos Now On line



In a year of firsts, Manor New Tech High School became the first campus in the Manor Independent School District and New Technology Foundation family to have its own YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/ManorNewTechHigh>), displaying examples of students' digital projects and other campus activities. While the channel itself has had almost 1,300 individual views, some student videos have already received close to 3,000.

One video, "Skinny Men/Food Life" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLcMTmWDHTI>), has received almost 4,500 individual views, and a student commercial, "Look Into My Eyes" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYKXv8M6K2c>) has been used in New Technology Foundation presentations across the nation.

"It's like a giant, cyber-refrigerator door where we can

hang the kids' work," said Les Simpson, Digital Literacy Instructor and Campus Media Coordinator. "Giving the students a place to showcase their finished projects adds authenticity and legitimacy to what they are learning, and the real possibility that their work can be seen by a global audience inspires students to push themselves and strive for excellence."

Judging by comments left on *(continued on page 4)*

*"As cool as it is, YouTube is just the tip of the iceberg... wait and see*

*what happens next year"* -

*Les Simpson, Digital Literacy Instructor*

## Tips For Healthy & Safe Summer Living

Summer should be a nice break from the stress of the school year and a time to relax a bit. It is important though to still keep your health status a top priority. Here are some tips to help you stay healthy and safe during your summer break:

- Exercise Regularly. However, if you plan on exercising outside you should do it early in the morning or later in the evening. Avoid the extreme heat during the daytime!!
- Limit sun exposure, particularly during the peak hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Always wear sunscreen. You should apply sunscreen prior to exposing your skin to the sun. Use a sunscreen with a SPF of 15 at the very minimum, preferably higher. Reapply sunscreen at least every 2 hours.
- Drink plenty of water to

stay hydrated. Limit consumption of sugary and caffeinated drinks.

- Be safe by avoiding risky activities that could result in an injury.
- Eat a balanced diet including lots of fruits and veggies! Be cautious around swimming pools. Never swim alone and make sure the pool has a life-guard on duty.

Enjoy your break and be safe and healthy!

—Bridget Wildschuetz



### Spring 2008 TAKS Results

#### 9th grade

ELA - **86%** met standard – Academically Recognized  
Math - **63%** met standard – Academically Acceptable

#### 10th grade

ELA - **96%** met standard – Academically Exemplarily  
Math - **78%** met standard - Academically Recognized  
Science - **82%** met standard - Academically Recognized  
Social Studies - **95%** met standard – Academically Exemplarily

As a result of our math scores we expect MNTH as a campus to be rated "Academically Acceptable" for the 2008-2009 school year.

—David Greiner, Counselor



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**Honoring the past...building for the future**

## Tentative Calendar for Volunteers 2008-09

**July:** Planning for back to school dinner

**August:** Newsletter out to parents, new and improved website released

**August 5 & 6:** Summer camp for Freshmen

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

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

**October:** Fundraising project, newsletter

**November:** Newsletter

**January 2009:** Newsletter

**February:** Newsletter

**April:** Newsletter, formal dance

**June:** Newsletter

# Summer/Upcoming Events

*(continued from page 3)*

some of the video pages, the audience is indeed worldwide. "This video should go down in history," wrote user Hass Kungen of Sweden for the student remake of Star Wars (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pIWB62WH8s>).

Other comments have been received from as far away as Canada, Mexico, Germany, and The United Kingdom.

The YouTube Channel has been so successful that Simpson has been asked to present his strategies at this summer's New Tech Foundation All Schools Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

But Simpson is quick to point out that the YouTube Channel is only a first step in his plans for Manor New Tech High School. "As cool as it is, YouTube is the tip of the iceberg. Just wait until next year."

—Les Simpson

\*\*\*Special note: Les Simpson was named **Region 13 Secondary Teacher** of the year! This is the first time in Manor ISD history a teacher has been named Region 13 teacher of the year. He is now eligible for the State secondary teacher of the year.

## Upcoming Events

Manor Education Foundation—MEF Golf Tournament: Friday, August 15th Shadow Glen golf course. To register contact: Geovanna Ricaldi, MEF Executive Director 278-01606 or [Geovanna.Ricaldi@manorisd.net](mailto:Geovanna.Ricaldi@manorisd.net)

