Parent Communication
John B. Connally High School

The Holiday Season is upon us

Dear Cougar Family,

It is hard to believe that October has ended and November is here. November brings changing in the weather, the leaves, and is the beginning of the festive joy and beauty of the holiday season. I am often reminded of how our students continue to do amazing work even though they may face some challenges. Our students are always willing to lend a hand to those in need while continuing to put their best foot forward to achieve their goals. During the month of November, people begin to reflect on what they are grateful for and I am super grateful for all of the support for our Connally Community. Our talented group of employees and their commitment to high standards makes Connally what it is today. The great families and friends who are willing to stop in and offer support and the community members that make sure resources are available for our campus is greatly appreciated. We continue to provide parents with information on student progress during this time of the year, so please continue to stay in touch with your child’s teachers.

We have also completed a great fundraising event by our amazing PTA during the Holiday Bazaar which raises funds directly for student scholarships.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our CHS Family!

ALWAYS PROUD OF OUR COUGARS!!

CHS Band

The Connally High School Band had another fantastic season as they presented their production entitled "Nocturnal Creatures." This year the Cougar Band was a finalist at the Westlake Marching Festival, received unanimous first division ratings at the UIL Marching Contest for the 21st year in a row and advanced to the Area Marching Contest. After preliminary competition at Area, the band advanced to Area Finals where they competed for a chance at State. Although missing by just one place, the Cougar Band was named the 1st alternate for State.

CHS Debate:

Connally Debaters have been hard at work and are already well into their season. Here are some highlights:

- Anthony Kern (12): Undefeated 2nd speaker out of 53 and octofinalist at Varsity LD at Hendrickson, tied for 3rd place at Westlake, 10-2 record at local competitions, quarterfinalist and 4th Speaker out of 54 at Austin HS, overall winning record at 3 national Tournament of Champions "bid" tournaments
- Anthony Kern (12): Undefeated 2nd speaker out of 53 and octofinalist at Varsity LD at Hendrickson, tied for 3rd place at Westlake, 10-2 record at local competitions, quarterfinalist and 4th Speaker out of 54 at Austin HS, overall winning record at 3 national Tournament of Champions "bid" tournaments
- Sarah Raymond (10): Top speaker out of 52 and octafinalist at Anderson, undefeated 2nd speaker and quarterfinalist at Lake Travis, winning record at national invitational at Grapevine HS, 9th place at Lampsas Nicole Otutu (12): Program Oral Interpretation finalist at Lake Travis, Anderson, and Lampsas, first-ever National Tournament of Champions Bid Round participant from Connally (Lake Travis),

SEVENTEEN top ten finishes (including 7 final rounds), Michaela Hansen (12): Top 7 finishes in 4 separate events, including 6th in Poetry Interpretation at Hendrickson Thadeus Cantu (9): Novice Extemp finalist at Westlake, Novice Extemp finalist at Chaparral Star, Novice Prose finalist at Chaparral Star, 8th place in Novice LD at Austin HS Halima Hussein (9): Overall winning record in Novice LD debate, 7th place finishes at Anderson, Westlake, and Austin HS Simon Birk & Andrew Wissman: Undefeated 2nd seeds/semitfinalists at Lampsas in Varsity Policy Debate

Genesis Sedillo: Finalist/Bid place in Dramatic Interpretation at Austin HS, 3 top 10 finishes Anthony, Sarah, Nicole, Michaela, and our policy debaters Andrew Wissman and Simon Birk are well on their way to being the largest group ever to represent Connally as State qualifiers. Our season is just beginning, so stay tuned!
A message from the Counselors

Kolean Gudałj, our Advise TX college adviser in the College and Career Center working with Ms. Vi Quach-Vu throughout October have been busy assisting students with college applications, scholarships, exam registration and financial aid.

They work very hard to reach as many students as possible. Some of the work for the month of October:

- **87%** college application rate (2 & 4 year)
- **8** different colleges have visited with our students in October
- **389** one-on-one meetings with **93%** of the seniors
- **66** students have submitted the FAFSA and we are still inputting FAFSA submissions gathered at our very successful FAFSA Saturday event

Visit with the Counselors for “Coffee with the Counselors” (see attachment for dates and information)

PTA—Holiday Bazaar Success

Message from Ms. Rankine:

**Holiday Bazaar Team!**

Thank you all for making the Holiday Bazaar a success! It was just such a great atmosphere this year! I think people just enjoyed themselves and quite a bit of money was made for student scholarships!!

Below is a message from a vendor:

Hi Lisa,
I wanted to thank you, the volunteers, and everyone that made the Holiday Bazaar so wonderful. It was an amazing experience! From the student help getting us into the cafeteria to their help getting us loaded to leave, it was wonderful. All the students were very friendly, courteous, and helpful. The hospitality room was awesome. The food was great and a real treat. We enjoyed the Christmas music and all the entertainment! Just wonderful! Thanks again to everyone who made the day possible. We were pleased with the turn out, and look forward to coming again next year!

Sincerely,
Jim McVey
JimsTreasureTrove

Perfecting Academics With Support—PAWS

Perfecting Academics With Support (PAWS) is designed to provide a structured time for all students to engage in an intervention based on data-driven needs or enrichment that challenges students to graduate with college and career readiness skills—personal, academic, career, and financial to accomplish their goals.

Attendance of PAWS is mandatory. How do students know where to go for their PAWS class? PAWS Rosters will be posted outside the library and other various locations around the school. 3A/7B teachers may also notify students of PAWS location at the end of the 3rd/7th period.

It is important to attend!

PAWS Days: Monday – Thursday, No PAWS on Fridays
Class time: 2:11 - 2:41
Passing period: 5 Minutes
PAWS occurs: 30 Minutes after 3rd/7th Period

How often does the PAWS class change?
PAWS classes change every 3 weeks.

This multi-step approach to providing interventions to students who struggle or need to be challenged is closely monitored. Results of this monitoring is used to make decisions about the need for further research-based instruction and/or intervention.
Helpful Resources: Helping your Student Achieve in High School

https://www.teachingquality.org/content/blogs/nancy-barile/parent-and-family-engagement-15-tips-help-high-school-students-achieve


https://www.cdc.gov/family/autumn/autumn-tips.pdf

How to stay informed:

YOUR SUPPORT DRIVES OUR SUCCESS!!

Below I have given you some links of other ways to stay informed of what is happening on the campus and to get more clarification to some of your questions. If you are not already a member, I would love for you to consider becoming a member of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) to help us make sound decisions effecting your student and the campus as a whole.

Become a PTA member--
www.chsppta.org

The Connally App--

The Connally Website--
http://www.pfisd.net/Page/450

The Parent Portal--
http://www.pfisd.net/Page/5671

The District/ CAMPUS Notifications (subscribe)--
http://www.pfisd.net/Page/837

The School Messenger--
http://www.pfisd.net/Page/4085

Volunteer--for Campus Committees/Booster Clubs/Organizations
http://www.pfisd.net/domain/81

Come Visit Us (please make sure you check in the front office)

Last but not least, ask your student about their day

About Us...

Mission:
The mission of John B. Connally High School is to provide quality learning experiences and to ensure that students are college and career ready while developing personal responsibility and values that will empower them to achieve to their fullest potential.

Vision:
The vision of John B. Connally High School is to realize excellence in teaching and leadership by enabling:
Students to participate in 21st century blended academic opportunities that allow all students to become contributing citizens in an ever-changing world.
Students to be empowered with high expectations that allow all students to take personal responsibility for their actions and the resulting consequences. Students to graduate with postsecondary personal, academic, career, and financial skills to accomplish their goals.

Value Statement:
In Collaboration with our families and community we value: children, first and foremost; safety and security; uniqueness and diversity; high expectations; college and career readiness; learning as a lifelong process; and equal access to a quality education.

We’re on the Web!
See us at:
http://www.pfisd.net/Page/450

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