



DICKINSON

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



A GOOD PLACE
TO CALL HOME.
DISD

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The opportunity for a quality education has long been an important determining factor in choosing a home. Dickinson ISD is located in an area with an affordable tax rate and has the added benefit of a homestead exemption that is twice the typical amount of neighboring school districts. DISD is experiencing unparalleled growth which financially strengthens the school tax base. 900 acres are currently under residential and/or commercial development. Over 3000 acres are projected for development starting in 2000. With a stable economic base and a limitless quality of life amenities, opportunities abound for students and parents who appreciate a proud tradition with an exciting future.

WELCOME TO OUR DISTRICT

The theme adapted for the Dickinson Independent School District for the year 2000 is "Passport 2000-Journey to Success." The District has already made great strides on this journey and is poised for the new millennium. **One important milestone in the journey occurred in 1999 when DISD residents approved a \$47.4 million dollar bond referendum to renovate and/or increase student capacities at all seven campuses and to build one new elementary school. DISD's first project is to build a \$9.3 million elementary school for 750 students in Bay Colony.**

In addition to a solid infrastructure, the district features a strong, diversified curriculum, a relatively small enrollment of about 6,000 and an excellent student-to-teacher ratio of 16 to 1. The per pupil expenditure of \$4,355 is substantially above the state average. In addition, the district attracts outstanding teachers with salaries averaging \$29,264. Nearly 45% of the district's teachers and administrators hold Masters degrees or higher and at least half have been with the district for 10 years or longer.



DISD will build a new elementary school within the master-planned community of Bay Colony. (Artist's Rendering.)

NATIONALLY RANKED PERFORMANCE

For 2 years in a row "SchoolMatch" of Columbus, Ohio, the nation's largest school selection consulting firm, **ranked Dickinson ISD in the top 10% of the nation's school districts.** They cite DISD for "providing what parents consistently want in public education." The survey bases its findings on important factors such as competitive academic test scores, teacher salaries, teacher to student ratios, and expenditures for continued improvements. SchoolMatch maintains information on all public school systems across the U.S. and accredited private schools throughout the world.

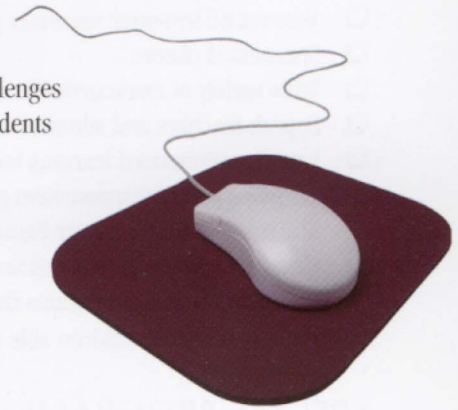
The firm's rankings were featured by such impartial media sources as NBC's "Today" Show, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*. As part of such a select group of schools, Dickinson ISD is proud to be recognized for meeting all of the important needs of its students.

THE TOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Dickinson ISD offers pacesetter programs combining proven traditional methods of education with new teaching tools and technology. These provide numerous, innovative ways for its students to excel. Some of these include:



- Computer-enhanced classes
- Extensive reading and writing labs
- Gifted programs that provide additional educational challenges
- COIN (Career and Occupation Info Network) helping students determine their best career path
- IMPACT learning for students with moderate to severe disabilities
- HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) one-on-one mentoring at elementary schools
- Varied athletic programs
- Band, Choir, and Drama
- Air Force ROTC



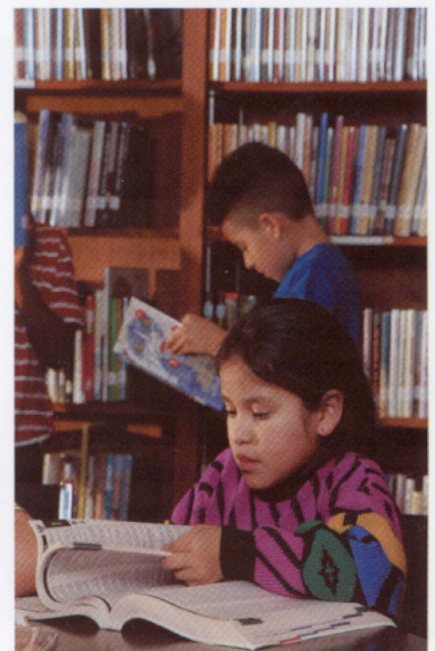
In addition:

- DISD received **\$537,000 in grants to improve and enhance instruction** in areas of math, reading, bilingual instruction and parent involvement, parenting classes, and counseling students at risk.
- DISD has **18 student computer labs containing more than 435 computers.** Secondary schools have specialized labs for writing, computer math, vocational education and computer applications.
- Dickinson **offers advanced placement courses** to students in English, Spanish, History, Government, Economics, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Received \$5,000 grant** from Toyota and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics for a summer Algebridge Camp.
- DISD received a **\$4,000 grant** to increase opportunities for student learning in math and science.
- Barber Elementary **collaborates with UH/CL to provide a professional development site** for Early Childhood teachers.
- McAdams Junior High students are now offered geometry in the eighth grade allowing them to **accumulate two high school math credits** before entrance into DHS.
- With the **trimester system, DHS is able to offer students more opportunities to succeed** and new electives relative to their lives such as Technical Writing, Visual Media Careers, Sports Medicine and Principles of U.S. Space Program.
- All secondary math teachers have been trained at the Algebra Institute** in math.
- Students homework, attendance, and other vital **information is available 24 hours a day to parents** via the DHS Communicator II Voice Message System.

YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Dickinson ISD serves as a catalyst for excellence. Many students from the district have earned recognition for their accomplishments, which are too numerous to list in detail. Here are just a few of those honors and achievements:

- DHS graduating Class of 1999 received nearly **\$400,000 in college scholarships.**
- DISD rates in the **top 20% of the surrounding 15 neighborhood school districts in SAT scores.**
- DISD is home to the area's **\$4.2 million dollar science wing.**
- DHS graduates have included a Heisman trophy winner, a World Series Winning Baseball Pitcher, a nationally recognized actress, Hollywood screenwriter, U.S. District Federal Judge, 2 professional baseball players, professional musicians, an award-winning martial arts expert and chief of staff of an area hospital.
- DISD is the only high school in the Gulf Coast area participating in College of the Mainland's Dual College Credit Program, which **enables students to earn college credit for classes** they are taking to fulfill high school graduation requirements.



MORE CHOICES FOR LEARNING

The essence of DISD is its learning environment that provides the freedom to create and succeed. It is easy to see why the District has earned a place among the state's leading echelon of school district's when you consider the following facts:

- Year-round trimester volunteer pilot program
- Specialized classes
- Wide variety of extracurricular activities
- Superb teachers and administrators
- Latest computerized learning tools
- On-going facility improvement programs
- The schoolwide Perimeter Parade and Success Express at Silbernagel elementary to encourage TAAS success.
- More than 600 DHS students are enrolled in 17 various education programs to develop skills they can use to get jobs.
- Three new reading programs Benchmark Phonics, Accelerated Learning and Frameworks Reading will help the district meet its goal of having all children able to read by the 3rd grade.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

DISD offers a wide variety of special programs to meet a variety of student needs from Gifted and Talented Programs to Honors Programs to Early Childhood and Advanced Placement Programs. The following are a list of special programs offered by the District:

Gifted and Talented Program, K -12
Honors Program, Grades 9-12
Technology Integrated Into All Schools
Junior High School Block Schedule
Cooperative Education, Grades K-12
Early Childhood Education, Age 3-5

Advanced Placement Program, Grades 7-12
Computer Education, K-12
High School Trimester Schedule
High School Credit Courses at Junior High
Career/Technology Education, Grades 8-12
Special Education, Grades Pre-K-12

The Help One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) program have shown very significant gains in their reading ability as reflected through a standardized test given to each student. For example, the Sibernagel and Little Elementary programs boast over 300 volunteers tutoring one hour each week to help students increase their reading ability. In addition, Silbernagel Elementary's SIBS (Silbernagel Interested in Boosting Success) program provides mentoring from community leaders who volunteer their time on a weekly basis. These community leaders include presidents of banks and corporations, as well as executives representing other leading industries in the Bay Area.

DHS assistant principal, Jim Rubach, received a grant and developed a program using the COIN technology. Students use computers which assist them in choosing a career, sending off for college enrollment information, and writing entrance essays. Success sisters pairs high school girls with junior high girls for math tutoring.



TAAS AND SAT SCORES

A major goal of the district is to assist in the development of well-rounded, productive citizens with a broad range of interest, abilities, and experiences. Student performance is an important measure of a student's success. Dickinson schools are consistently improving performance on state and nationally standardized tests. Dickinson ISD regularly produces National Merit Scholars, award-winning musicians, and athletes receiving scholarships from around the country.

In 1998, 10th grade students increased their TAAS Math scores over 22% above the previous year's scores, a record breaking performance. Sibernagel Elementary third graders were first to answer the Superintendent's Reading Challenge with a group TAAS score of 99. K.E. Little Elementary's 1998 4th grade TAAS reading scores were an all-time high of 93 out of 100.