

September 22, 2014

Having the opportunity to write this blog, keeps my mind occupied as I think about the best way to share the events of the previous week with every reader. I must admit that on more than one occasion this weekend, I thought about how easy this task would be. Even though this week may have had the normal challenges, it was mostly full of success stories and student excitement. For example, during Monday night's Board meeting, we presented the Share Point curriculum repository to the school board. It was exciting to see so many months of hard work begin to take shape. From [YAG 's](#) to Road [Maps](#), to Exemplar [Lessons](#), to Electronic [Resources](#), our C&I staff, along with Instructional Coaches and teachers, are putting together a tremendous resource center for our district. I am hopeful that these resources will help guide Planning Protocol sessions and serve as a resource to develop the most engaging and rigorous lessons for our students. Although this is a work in progress, we are excited about how it is beginning to unfold.

Success stories and excitement continued on Tuesday as I had the opportunity to return to DRMS and observe our students participating in middle school [football](#). This time I made sure my camera worked. Even though we fell short of a win against our burnt orange rivals, I still enjoyed seeing the [b_a_n_d' s](#) precision and elegance. The [Pom](#) Team was not only large in numbers, but in rhythm and spirit. And of course our middle school [cheerleaders](#) had fun leading the crowd. A special treat, was standing on the sidelines and seeing up-close action as our [quarterback](#) passed the ball successfully to our [receivers](#).

Wednesday, I, along with Dr. Garza, traveled to San Angelo where we met up with Mr. Limon, DRMS principal, and Mrs. Maria Hudgins, ESL teacher at DRMS. The four of us were invited to attend a Region XV Superintendent's meeting where Mrs. Hudgins was honored as the Region XV [teacher of the year](#). Excellent job Mrs. Hudgins. While in San Angelo, we took time to visit Angelo State University. To our pleasant surprise, we immediately ran into some [familiar faces](#), Jacqueline Rodriguez and Crystal Jane Morales, DRHS Class of 2014. They both shared that college was lots of fun (and hard work) and also reminded us that their favorite high school teachers were [Mrs. K. Arredondo](#) and [Nurse Janna](#).

On Thursday, I was invited to DRMS where representatives from Blue Bell Ice Cream presented [Mrs. Maria Hudgins](#), with a book, buckets of ice cream for her family, and enough ice cream to feed the entire [DRMS student body](#). It sure was nice to see all those smiling middle school faces. The day ended with a freshman football game at Walter Leverman Stadium.

Friday morning I started the day at the Ramada Inn where I was able to launch a [PowerPoint presentation](#) that I am presenting to as many civic groups as possible. My goal is to inform our community leaders of the many success stories our students and staff have experienced, the academic needs of our community, and our plan for improvement. I must admit that talking about winning two competitive grants, an early literacy initiative, the Abydos writing initiative, construction projects, and the Planning Protocol along with Share Point makes me proud of the work we are engaged in. "Hats Off" to all our SFDRCSISD family.

Next, I stopped by the S.W.T.J.C. (Rio Grande College) to be part of the dedication of the Charles and Polly Chandler building. It was nice to see our [ROTC](#) post the colors, our [Mariachi](#) wow the crowd, and our young students from [Lonnie Greene Elementary](#) lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The perfect day ended with a perfect evening at Walter Leverman Stadium. Our [students](#) were tremendous fans, the [band](#) was perfect, and the high score (28 to 16) had our [ROTC students](#) along with our [cheerleaders](#) doing lots of push-ups. I heard a fan say, "We officially have an air assault offense." His comments certainly were reflected in [Albert Vasquez](#)' - #33 two amazing touchdowns; [Cesar](#) Escajeda's - #32 second quarter score that gave us the lead; and [Shane Creamer](#)'s - #87 diving touchdown. By the way, to ensure the senior class was represented on the scoreboard, defense sensation [Rick](#) Rivera - #40 played offense just long enough to catch the extra point's conversion in the end zone. Very nice!

As I close this blog, I want to remind our teachers that this week I will begin some informal campus visits. I encourage you to be open with me and my staff as I ask about your concerns. Although I like to hear of what is working, I am most interested in knowing what needs fixing. Does the AC work? Do you need more resources? How is your digital connectivity? How can we help? I look forward to working with each of you and am certain that through collaboration we will make this District and this community the best model for Texas education.

"I look forward to a great future for America – a future in which our country will match its military strength with our moral restraint, its wealth with our wisdom, its power with our purpose." — John F. Kennedy