

## September 15, 2014

Because of the excitement created by the rain on Friday, I feel the need to begin this blog in reverse order. Let's begin our discussion with Friday instead of Monday. Activities for our first home football game started out with a lot of energy and spirit. First, our team was coming off of a big win against San Antonio Holmes. Second, because it was parent's night, our senior [football](#) players, [cheerleaders](#), athletic trainers, and [Belles](#) were escorted on to the field by their supportive parents. Third, because it was our first home football game of the season, our stadium was filled to capacity.

By 7:00 PM, our [band](#) and drum [majors](#) were ready to go, by 7:30 the coin had been tossed and the players were lined up. However, by 7:31 PM the uninvited [storm](#) (which we expected after the game) had everyone seeking shelter. I can only hope that those of you who experienced the down pour and heavy winds woke up on Saturday without a cold or body aches.

Although we did not get to see our students participate in the traditional Friday night activities, we did have the opportunity to see a lot of people care for one another in a time of crisis. I also had the opportunity to see some of our District Police Officers go out of their way to ensure everyone was safe and under cover. Special thanks to Officer [Shaffer](#), Officer [Alarcon](#), and Officer [Moreno](#) for going above and beyond their duty!

Compared to Friday, the rest of the week may not seem as exciting; however, the reality of it was far from mild. On Tuesday and Wednesday I was able to see our students and teachers at their best. At DRMS I saw our students hard at work and at play. [Students](#) and [coaches](#) engaged in various Physical Education activities that promoted healthy life styles. Seeing them enjoy the nice sunny day almost made me envious. After observing them for a while, I visited Mrs. [Martinez'](#) Speech class. I am thankful that she allowed me to share my public speaking experiences with them.

On Wednesday I visited Buena Vista Elementary. Although I visited various classes, Mrs. [Eich's](#) class was quite impressive. After observing the class for a few minutes, two [wonderful students](#) came up to me and offered a tour of their class. Clearly these students are learning more than just reading and math. Their teacher is turning them into true leaders.

Wednesday afternoon I returned to DRMS for their football activities. It was awesome! I saw a young man return a punt for a touchdown; I had the opportunity to see the Cheerleaders, Pomp Squad, and my own daughter, perform at half time; eat wonderful snacks being sold by Mr. Reed's five [robotics](#) teams (Robo Squad, Reed Rowdies, Dia De Los Robots, ZOObots, and K.I.T.S.); as well as visit with lots of supportive parents. Unfortunately, my camera malfunctioned and there is very little visual evidence of all these wonderful activities. I look forward to my next visit.

[Our Master Teacher Academy](#) is one more piece of valuable training made possible by the EEIP Grant. This past Tuesday I saw, first hand, how our first year's academy will focus on innovation and excellence in classroom teachings. Each of the 22 participants will actively engage in discussions, collaborate with those passionate and successful in their practices for student growth, read articles and books, and work on improving and building teacher capacity for the improvement of instruction for all learners. Upon the completion of our local academy, members will begin a cohort through Region IV where they will complete months of coursework to prepare for the assessment to earn a Master Teacher Certification in either math or reading. We look forward to the success of our cohort and once again thank you for striving for personal growth in your profession!

Although Friday was memorable, but not enjoyable, a cool Saturday quickly came and made up for the rain on Friday. Saturday I had the opportunity to see our [senior](#) band students receive their letterman jackets at their annual Band-O-Rama [fundraiser](#). Not only did they receive their jackets, they also had the opportunity to wear them all night in this unseasonal cool night.

In closing this blog, I want to briefly remind our teachers of the value you add to our students each time you invest time in planning a lesson. I want to encourage each of you to continue to improve upon our Planning Protocol process. Each day our Instructional Coaches and C&I department, with your participation, add more planning documents, assessments, and resources to our SharePoint. I am hopeful that you will use these newly developed resources to aide you as you strive to engage your students at the most rigorous learning levels possible. I am confident that together we are building tomorrow's leaders.

*"He who labors diligently need never despair, for all things are accomplished by diligence and labor."  
—Menander*