

September 21, 2015

Even as we begin the fifth week of school, it is still somewhat awkward to carry on as if the summer is over. Yet, as I review the past few weeks of school, I can tell that students have shown their first week of school [excitement](#). They have been taught [procedures](#), have visited the [library](#) for the first time this year, and have become engaged in all kinds of [extra-curricular activities](#). Our teachers have been through various [staff developments](#), engaged their students in rigorous lessons, and are now preparing for the first six weeks grade reports.

Because time does fly by, it is important that we begin with the end in mind. For students, the end might mean the final report card, or that last opportunity to [cherish](#) moments with friends and classmates; for teachers it almost always means preparing students for an SAT/ACT, STAAR, or End of Course exam; and for those of us in central administration it absolutely means making plans for the coming school year.

During tonight's School Board meeting, we will present to our Board the beginnings of discussions related to secondary [block scheduling](#) and a [delayed start time](#), also for secondary, in preparation for the coming school year. Although we are not certain of the outcome, we look forward to meeting with teachers, students and parents during the coming months and making a final decision by January 2016.

This past week was as exciting a week as any I have had. First, I was able to enjoy a couple of days in College Station for some required staff development. While I was in College Station I enjoyed Texas [A&M traditions](#) and was able to visit with a [life long friend](#). As soon as I returned to Del Rio I stopped by the 16 de Septiembre celebrations at the [Plaza Brown](#) where I was honored by the Mexican Consulate. According to Mr. Ricardo Santa Ana the [Reconocimiento Ohtli](#) is the first of its kind awarded in Del Rio.

The very next morning, I had the opportunity to travel to [Region 15](#) in San Angelo and be part of a celebration in honor of [Raquel Cardenas](#), Region XV teacher of the year. This is the second year in a row that one of our teachers represents Region XV as teacher of the year. A Chavira Elementary co-worker described Mrs. Cardenas as always willing to support her fellow teachers, constantly looking for ways to improve her own teaching, and besides sponsoring Student Council and UIL academics, she is continuously looking for opportunities for her students. Her co-worker also happened to mention that she had the highest 5th grade Math STAAR scores in the District. Well deserved!

The following two days I absolutely had numerous emails, meetings, and other stuff to catch up on, but was fortunate enough to participate with our middle school and high school students in some of their after school activities. Thursday afternoon I visited DRMS and saw the 8th grade [football](#) team battle against Eagle Pass on the football field. After sharing in the heat with the football team, [Pom Team](#), parents, and [cheerleaders](#), I was able to step inside the gym and see our middle school [volleyball girls](#) dominate against Eagle Pass. It was especially nice to see the [Varsity girls](#) visit the middle school to encourage and support our young Queens. To round out the night I visited Walter Leverman Stadium to see our [JV Rams](#) and [company](#) in action against San Antonio Southwest.

Friday night was equally impressive. Our [band](#), [cheerleaders](#), [Belles](#), Sapphires, trainers, [coaches](#), and [fans](#) celebrated [touchdown](#) after [touchdown](#), a nice [victory](#), an impressive defensive stand, and continued excellence from our place kicker. [Tyler](#) Hopkins used to be our secret weapon, now everyone knows how good he is – Great Job! Although I was impressed with the victory, I was not surprised. Early in the morning I visited a Lamar third grade classroom and saw a [spirited teacher](#) engaging her [students](#) in some serious math. I knew then it was going to be a great day.

As the excitement of the new school year turns into the routine of this year, I want to take a moment and remind everyone of how wonderful and blessed this community is. Some districts transition from great to good to poor as their population transitions from suburban to urban; other districts falter because oil booms of yesterday become today's economic burdens; and still others never seem to get off the ground. However, in Del Rio, we enjoy economic stability, a wonderful student population that regenerates itself and a community committed to the success of our schools. I hope we will continue to work together and make this community be all that it can be.

**“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt**