

## **Building Futures Together in West ISD**

By David Truitt, Superintendent

Wow, it's hard to believe, but the first day of school is just around the corner. With the approval last spring of the new West ISD District of Innovation plan, the first day of school is set for Wednesday, August 16, 2017. Over the past several months, the West ISD district leadership team has been working hard to help ensure this is the best start to school in the history of our outstanding school district.

The district-wide theme for the 2017-2018 school year is "Building Futures Together." Around the district, students and parents will see "construction-themed" decorations, events, and slogans as we hope to keep the main focus of our work on the students in preparing them for the next grade level and even life after graduation. Our students are constantly "under construction" and "at work" as we strive to find the best possible ways to meet their unique and individual needs.

I love this theme, because it provides us the constant reminder that we must prepare our students for the day after they walk the graduation stage at the Ferrell Center at Baylor University. After our graduates receive their diplomas from Dr. Sparks and Mr. Snook, we want our seniors ready for the next stage of their lives. Whether their next step entails a two or four year university, trade school, a licensing program, the military, or job, we want our students to be college and career ready for life after West High School. This theme also reminds us that our construction projects are not yet finished. West ISD will continue the work on the 1923 and 1957 buildings, the athletic complex, the new support services building and bus transportation lot, the clean-up of the Intermediate School site, the current Administration Building, and strategic planning on how we hope and desire to education our elementary-aged students in West, now and in the future.

With the start of school comes many important dates and opportunities for our students and parents to meet their new teachers and other staff members. At West Elementary School, the "Meet the Teacher and Bring your School Supplies Night" is set for Monday, August 14, 2017, at two different times. Prekindergarten through Grade 2 may come from 5:30-6:15 PM, and Grades 3 through 5 may come from 6:15-7:00 PM. Following this event, West Middle School is hosting its "Schedule Pick-up and Meet the Teacher Night" from 7:00-8:00 PM on the same night. Our families with multiple students on each campus can stop by each campus and meet their teachers on this special night.

West High School has set Thursday, August 3, 2017, for FISH Camp for all incoming Grade 9 students from 12:00-2:00 PM. "Schedule Pick-Up and Meet the Teacher Night" is on Thursday, August 10, 2017, from 7:00-8:00 PM. The "Meet the Trojans Community-wide Pep Rally and Football Scrimmage" is set for Saturday, August 12, 2017, at Trojan Field. The introduction of all fall sport participants is at 6:00 PM, followed by the scrimmage at approximately 6:30 PM.

The first West High School varsity football game of the season is Friday, September 1, 2017, at 7:30 PM at Trojan Field versus Rockdale High School. The team will scrimmage against Waxahachie Life School and Maypearl High School on Friday, August 18, 2017, at Maypearl and against Marlin High School on Thursday, August 24, 2017, at Trojan Field. The West High School volleyball team begins play this week. All three high school teams will play Blum High School on Monday, August 7, 2017, beginning at 5:00 PM in the West High School Arena. The teams will play the next night at the same times versus Crawford High School in the West High School Arena as well.

As you can see, we have many exciting events coming up over the next three weeks. My hope is that you will come out to support our amazing students and staff members. We are truly blessed in West to have so many fabulous reasons to showcase our students, staff, campuses, and work. I believe with all my heart that the 2017-2018 school year is going to be the greatest in the history of West. I hope you will join the fun and enjoy the ride. Go Trojans!