



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Aug. 18, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

The last time I wrote you, I recapped the incredible year we had in 2016-2017—replete with athletic state championships, fine arts achievements and academic successes.

We certainly have a lot to cheer about in CFISD, and that continued over the summer as we celebrated more than 8,000 combined graduates between the June and August commencement ceremonies. We also celebrated a first for our district when one of our Cypress Lakes High School alumni, De'Aaron Fox, was drafted fifth overall by the Sacramento Kings in the NBA Draft in June.



This summer has been an especially busy one for our facilities team, as we will open four new campuses in 2017-2018: Bridgeland High School (No. 12), Wells Elementary School (No. 55), Hoover Elementary School (No. 56) and the Matzke Elementary School replacement campus.



They have also completed our new natatorium by Pridgeon Stadium, a cold food storage warehouse near Cypress Woods High School and several renovations at campuses like Dean and Watkins middle schools and Adam and Bane elementary schools.

I would like to give an early reminder that we will hold a Board of Trustees election in conjunction with the general election on Nov. 7. I believe it is all of our civic duty to register, study the federal, state and local issues/candidates and cast an informed vote—so please do!

This is an exciting time to be a part of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. We are expecting 116,000 students to walk through our doors on the first day of school on Aug. 28, and we can't wait to deliver an unparalleled educational experience to every one of them.



Thank you for showing your #CFISDspirit, and for being a part of #CFISDforAll as we give the entire community something to cheer about in 2017-2018!

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Aug. 27, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

After gathering further input from Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and emergency response teams in our area, I have made the decision to **keep CFISD schools and facilities closed through Friday, Sept. 1.**

We are tentatively planning to resume normal school hours on **Tuesday, Sept. 5.**

Many Cypress-area neighborhoods are flooded, and many residents are still not able to leave their homes or neighborhoods. The county's priority is to save as many lives as possible, and we want to help accommodate this need by keeping more residents off the roadways.

Travel on many area roadways is hazardous for both bus drivers and commuters alike. Please continue to exercise caution if travel is a necessity.

School closure is never a decision we take lightly, but it is currently the best option for all our students and staff as we support those who have lost everything and ensure all buildings are safe for school.

Please continue to monitor the district website and social media pages for official updates.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Aug. 31, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

Our wonderful facilities, maintenance and operations teams worked hard last week to help prepare our campuses for the arrival of Hurricane Harvey. This week, those same dedicated employees are busy assessing the damage caused by the heavy rain and flood water we received.

Due to their forethought and ongoing assessment, we are confident that very few of our facilities sustained major damage and will be able to be fully restored by the time that schools reopen.

One of our campuses, Moore Elementary School, was not so fortunate. Our team assessed the campus and determined that it will require a significant renovation project this fall. After meeting with my leadership team, I made the decision to relocate Moore to the old Matzke Elementary School building (13102 Jones Road) for at least the fall semester until renovations are complete. Although it is never easy to leave your home campus, we feel like this is the most viable option for the Moore community given these difficult circumstances. More information will be made available to Moore families and staff members in the coming days.

Now for the big question: when will school start? We are giving our crews another day to completely assess the damage and form repair timelines. I will meet with my leadership team again tomorrow, and plan to announce a decision about the first day of school by **tomorrow, Sept. 1, at 3 p.m.**

I continue to keep all of you who were affected by the floods in my thoughts and prayers, and want you to know we are here to provide support and assistance. Many of you have inquired about how to help, and here are a few ideas to get started:

- **Donate supplies.** We are accepting donations today through Sunday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Berry Center (8877 Barker Cypress Road). See <http://www.cfisd.net/cfisdhelps> for more information.
- **Donate financially.** We have set up a link to accept credit card donations. All money received is tax-deductible and will be applied directly to the relief efforts for our students and staff that have been affected. See <http://www.berrycenter.net/ce>.

- **Volunteer.** There are many community groups needing help with the cleanup of houses. See <http://www.cfisd.net/relief> for a list of those who have notified us of where help is needed. This is a great activity for student groups to assist with as well.

Thank you to everyone for pulling together during this difficult time!

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Sept. 2, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

After receiving notification and new information from our municipal utility districts (MUDs) that serve our campuses, we have learned that several campuses are affected by sewage issues.

Facing these challenges, I have informed the Board of Trustees that I made the decision to delay our school start date to **Monday, Sept. 11**. All staff will report on **Thursday, Sept. 7** to prepare for the revised start date.

I realize this is disappointing to the parents and students who were anxious to return to school, but as I said in the Board meeting, this is a dynamic situation. It is difficult to predict other issues we may face in the coming weeks.

This has been a once-in-a-millennium event for the Greater Houston area. To ensure the immediate needs of our community are met, the school district continues to provide a point of distribution (POD) at the Berry Center through Sunday, Sept. 3 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Because of this delay, we have extended the free feeding sites at Holbrook and Owens elementary schools and Cypress Lakes High School through Sunday, Sept. 10 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

I am so sorry to have to make this change in our school return date. I appreciate your flexibility and continued support as we navigate this historic event.

Please continue to monitor social media and the district website for updated information.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Sept. 8, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

Welcome back to school—again! I realize we are starting 2017-2018 a couple weeks later than we originally planned, and I appreciate everyone's patience during this difficult time.

Certainly, Hurricane Harvey has proven to be a dynamic and unprecedented event for the CFISD community. So many of our neighbors have been displaced from their homes due to flooding and damage, and we want to remember those folks in our thoughts and prayers and continue to provide support as they get back on their feet.

You may have heard that Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath has waived the nine student days we have missed due to the flooding. I can assure you that our teachers and staff are going to provide each student with the same outstanding curriculum and instruction they would have received had we started on Aug. 28.

The outpouring of support for so many of our friends and neighbors impacted by this tragic event has been inspiring to see. People from different backgrounds and zip codes have all come together to support this community. That makes me extremely proud, not only to be a CFISD resident but also an American.



Without a municipal government that covers the entire district, CFISD stepped up to provide temporary shelter, support other shelters and school districts with food and

supplies and help operate our own point of distribution at the Berry Center that provided assistance to more than 5,000 community members.



On a personal note, I want to thank you for your prayers, encouraging comments and emails during this difficult time. I have been a superintendent for 27 years, and this was the most challenging and dynamic event I have ever experienced in that role.

For most of us, this event will be in our rear-view mirror rather quickly. But for a significant group of people in our community, this was a life-changing event. The theme we live by in CFISD is *Opportunity for All*. Let's make sure all of our community, with our continued support, has the opportunity to rebuild their lives this year.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Sept. 27, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

One of the great events that we put on for our high school students each fall, **College Night**, is scheduled for a two-night showcase on Oct. 3 and 4 from 5-8 p.m. at the Berry Center.

All ninth- through 12th-grade students are invited to browse and visit with representatives from more than 200 colleges, universities, technical and specialty schools—as well as service academies and all branches of the military.



As a special change this year, we will open up the event to all Katy ISD high school students, since their event was canceled due to flooding.

For more details, including an event flyer and registration information, [visit the College Night page on the district website](#).

This will be a great opportunity for students considering postsecondary opportunities, and I encourage you to take your high school student for an enjoyable and informative experience.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Oct. 16, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

The Cy-Fair Community Health Center opened its doors on July 5 at 7777 Westgreen Blvd. near Cypress Park High School, and has been offering a multitude of services to the CFISD community ever since.



The Cy-Fair CHC is the sixth clinic of the Spring Branch Community Health Center network, and is the first of its kind in our area. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., clinic services include:

- pediatrics, including physicals and immunizations;
- adult medicine;
- dental (primary and preventative); and
- nutrition, including nutrition counseling and weight management.



Future planned services are mental health (counseling services) and an OB/GYN prenatal program.

Our CFISD transportation department will transport students who have a completed consent for treatment form on file and are attending one of the six participating schools:

- Hopper, Kahla and Thornton middle schools; and
- Cypress Lakes, Cypress Park and Cypress Springs high schools.

For all who qualify, a sliding fee scale discount is offered. Potential patients can speak with the Cy-Fair CHC eligibility specialist to verify program eligibility. The clinic also accepts Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, Marketplace and private insurance.

To make an appointment, visit www.sbchc.net or call 713-387-7180.



Cypress Park HS students and associate superintendents Roy Garcia (left) and Roy Sprague (back right) with me at the Cy-Fair Community Health Center.

This is an outstanding facility that I am proud to have on CFISD property. I hope that you can take advantage of this great health resource in our community!

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



— MESSAGE FROM THE — SUPERINTENDENT



Nov. 16, 2017

Dear CFISD community,

Although it is important to do throughout the year, the Thanksgiving season has a way of reminding me about the things I am thankful for—both personally and professionally.

I am thankful for the people in **our school community** who stepped up and helped those in need during **Hurricane Harvey**. I appreciate the continued support and assistance from individuals and faith-based organizations for the families that lost so much during that devastating storm.



I am thankful for the courageous **veterans** who have protected this country for 241 years. Service men and women like Cypress Creek High School 2005 graduate **Kevin Jensen**, husband of Cypress Ridge High School counselor Jessica Jensen. I recently learned of Kevin's heroism as he saved his captain's life following an IED explosion in Afghanistan, and I was incredibly proud of his representation of our country and CFISD.



I am thankful to have **great parents** who set a positive example for me and continue to do so. They have been married 64 years. I take great comfort in knowing that in my 57 years on this earth, they have prayed for me every day.

I am thankful for my **school family**, who through some of our most difficult times as a school district continue to support me and send kind notes that make a difference.

I am thankful to work with a **Board of Trustees** whose every decision is based on how they can best help the students and staff of the CFISD community—a group of men and women who believe that all children should have a chance to be successful.



Finally, I'm thankful for **three outstanding children** who have made me proud for the past 32 years, as well as **four beautiful grandchildren** who bring me joy every time I see them. I am blessed to be able to spend Thanksgiving with all of them.



Sometimes we can lose sight of how blessed we are. Certainly, things are not perfect and could always be better. In the grand scheme of things, however, to live in this country and experience the freedoms we have is a blessing that only 5 percent of the world's population enjoys.

I encourage you to take a moment to count your blessings, as well. Enjoy your Thanksgiving break and I'll see you back on Nov. 27!

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Feb. 14, 2018

Dear CFISD community,

My worst fear as a superintendent is the loss of a student. Today, I was shaken as I heard the news out of Florida about a school shooting claiming the lives of multiple students.

My deepest sympathies go out to the Stoneman Douglas High School community in Parkland, Fla., where there are reports of 17 deaths including students and staff.

There are no words that can ease the pain of a tragedy of this magnitude. Counselors will be available to speak with students who may have questions or are struggling to comprehend. We also plan to increase CFISD police patrols as a precaution. Nothing is more valuable than the lives of our students, and we are committed to protecting them.

Thank you for your support and trust in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



March 25, 2018

Dear CFISD community,

The fifth annual Superintendent's Fun Run was one for the record books—literally! We registered a record amount of participants, gained a record amount of sponsorships and, in the end, it resulted in a record amount raised for the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation.



(L-R) Myself; Leslie Francis, director of marketing and business relations; Dr. John Ogletree Jr., Board of Trustees president; Marie Holmes, Cy-Fair Educational Foundation executive director; and Heath Rushing, Memorial Hermann Cypress and Memorial Hermann Katy CEO display a check worth \$100,000 for the CFEF.

I was honored to present a check for \$100,000 to the CFEF, exceeding last year's total by more than \$30,000. This is a significant amount of money that is going to change the lives of students in CFISD and enable the CFEF to form an endowment that will result in scholarships for graduating seniors.

Years ago I envisioned a six-figure goal from the fun run, and the CFISD family made this dream a reality sooner than I expected. That family atmosphere was certainly on display Saturday.

Student volunteers and performers showcased the service, hard work and talent that our young men and women are known for. District employees planned and organized a top-notch event. They volunteered throughout, gave significant monetary contributions and rallied school running teams.



Hamilton MS staff gather after completing the 5K run on March 24.

Our business and faith-based community showcased its incredible support through sponsorships, vendor booths and giveaways. Event underwriter Memorial Hermann Cypress, which had already sponsored the popular GoNoodle Plus software for our students in 2017-2018, brought in GoNoodle performer Arnstar to entertain guests and lead warm-ups. He was a huge hit with the students, parents and staff!



Arnstar from the GoNoodle group "Blazer Fresh" leads warm-ups for student participants in the fifth annual Superintendent's Fun Run on March 24.

The fun run is an incredible event that helps remind me how thankful I am to work, live and laugh in such a wonderful community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making the vision a reality, and for living our message of *Opportunity for All*.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



May 20, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

This is the time of year when I typically prepare an end-of-year message reflecting on the successes of the school year and the exciting future ahead. I had this message queued up for Friday, but could not bring myself to push send. In light of the horrific news out of Santa Fe ISD, the tone felt insensitive.

There will be a time for that message, surely, because we *have* had an overwhelmingly successful school year. But it has not been without its challenges. I include the two major public school shootings in Parkland, Fla., and Santa Fe, Texas, among those challenges, because when one school community suffers, we *all* share in their grief and seek ways to eliminate future threats to our students and staff.

In an effort to end the year on a positive note, I have asked our chief of police, Eric Mendez, to **increase police presence** on every campus. I was pleased to learn from Chief Mendez that the CFPD's thorough recruiting efforts recently resulted in a fully-staffed police force. This will be a tremendous help in bolstering the protection of each of our 91 campuses and support facilities.

I have also communicated to each principal the need for a strict enforcement of dress code. Through the end of the school year, we are asking that **no students wear trench coats or other heavy clothing** that could potentially conceal weapons. While we want students to dress in clothing that is comfortable in their learning environment, we feel any extra safety measure that assists our officers and administrators should be utilized.

I ask that you assist us through this transition by communicating these efforts to your students. During these anxious times, vigilance is key.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



May 25, 2018

Dear Parents & Community Members,

The last week has presented some challenges for educators as we evaluate our school safety protocols and seek ways to strengthen security measures. Many of you have sent me questions and concerns via email, and I appreciate the feedback as we work together to better protect CFISD students and staff.

In light of two major school shootings since February, I have already started meeting with district leadership and law enforcement officials to review current procedures and discuss potential changes for the 2018-2019 school year.

I continue to stress how fortunate we are in CFISD to employ approximately 100 well-trained, professional police officers who work diligently 24/7 with every campus to provide a variety of safety measures to prevent what occurred in Parkland, Fla., and Santa Fe, Texas. Besides being available to respond in the time of a crisis, CFPD officers provide many proactive measures, such as investigating all potential threats, monitoring social media and tip line reports, making home visits, mentoring students and providing classroom presentations.

We will continue to look at ways to enhance our campuses in order to make them even safer. We ask for everyone's patience, understanding and support as we make modifications to practices and procedures for how our students, staff, parents and community members access our campuses next school year.

As always, we encourage use of the [tip line](#) and if you hear or see something, say something. While no plan is perfect, we will all have to work together as a team to keep our campuses as safe as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



June 1, 2018

Dear CFISD community,

Nine months ago, we were preparing to open our doors to students and staff. Instead, we opened them to first responders, displaced flood victims, volunteers and even the National Guard.

Hurricane Harvey certainly dealt us an unexpected blow at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, but as usual, we all came together and put *Opportunity for All* into action. Many heroes of the classroom, like Duryea Elementary School Principal Kenneth Henry, turned into heroes of Harvey.



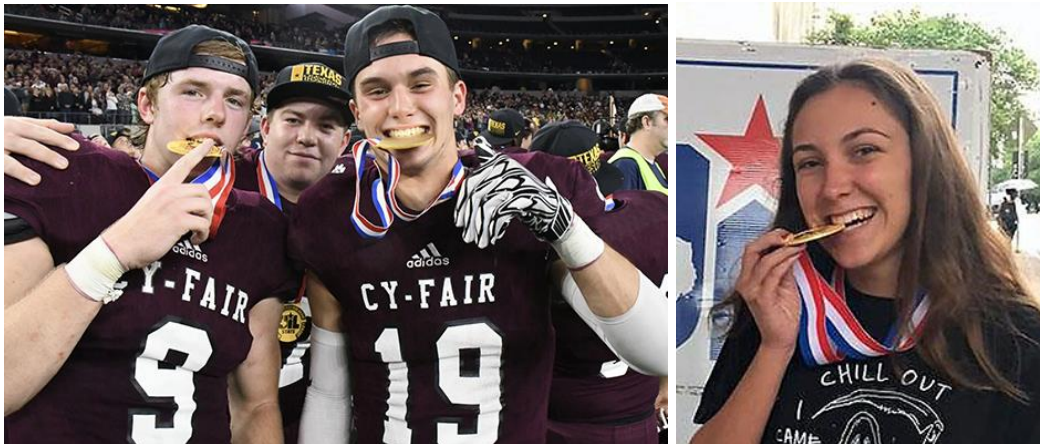
The district showed its resilience no matter the obstacle or weather event (Mother Nature even threw a little freeze at us!). We came together, we rebuilt, we grew stronger as a result.

Our students never slowed down, earning incredible accomplishments in the classroom, concert halls and playing fields. While fine arts students gave gold performances...



The Cypress Falls HS honor choir performs as a TMEA Honor Choir at the state convention on Feb. 15.

...UIL state champions tested the strength of gold medals!



Cy-Fair HS football players celebrate winning the state title at AT&T Stadium Dec. 23. Cypress Creek HS senior Samantha Billings won first place in feature writing at the UIL Academic State Meet May 4-5.

One of the stabilizing forces for CFISD this year was an award-winning school board, whose members are always seeking the best for our students, staff and taxpayers. It continues to be a pleasure to work with this group.



Our amazing Trustees celebrated the Bobcats' state football title at the January 2018 Board meeting.

While I don't know what challenges await us in 2018-2019, I know that in November you will have the opportunity to select members of our own legislative body as well as state leaders who will determine the future of public education. I encourage you to become engaged. Keep tabs on our [Community Leadership Committee](#). Vote for candidates who support universal public education!

Despite all the challenges the community has experienced, I encourage everyone to finish strong as we head toward the summer—then enjoy time with family, be safe and relax! We still have a lot to cheer about in this district, including 12 high school graduation ceremonies that are currently in progress!



As 8,000 seniors walk the stage at the Berry Center, a school year that began with devastation will end with hope for a brighter future. That's what I call #CFISDspirit.

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



June 21, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As promised in [a message I sent toward the end of the school year](#), our district safety and security committee has already begun meeting to plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

In an effort to improve the safety measures currently in place, one of the decisions that came out of our meetings is to require **all high school and middle school students to use clear backpacks** beginning in the fall. Band and athletic bags, as well as drill and cheer team bags, will still be permitted.

Additionally, the maximum purse size permitted in grades 6-12 will be **6" x 9."**

Elementary school students will be allowed to continue using traditional backpacks.

More details about these new policies can be found on a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page on our district website](#).

We are living in a difficult time requiring difficult decisions from school districts. While these changes present an inconvenience to our students and parents, we must continue to be vigilant to protect the safety of our students and staff.

The safety and security committee will continue to meet throughout the summer. Further plans and decisions will be communicated to the community as soon as possible.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Mark Henry, Ed.D.
Superintendent of schools