



WEST OSO ISD



TEACHING AND LEARNING NEWS BULLETIN

Office of the Assistant Superintendent

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THE FIRST DAY, THE BEST EVER

Monday, August 25, 2008 marks the first day of the 2008-2009 academic year. New beginnings, new challenges, new opportunities, every year those of us who are in the education business have the opportunity to start over.

Our WOISD students are thinking the same thoughts. Maybe this year I will do better, maybe this year my teachers will like me, maybe this year I will not be in the office as often, maybe this year. . . . As we plan for the first day, let us make it the best day ever for every student. As you begin the first day, the student that sits before you or stands before you is someone's son or daughter. Each and every day should be the best day ever for every student.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

The key to success in the classroom is [classroom management](#). Classroom management refers to all of the things that a teacher does to organize students, space, time, and materials so that instruction in content and student learning can take place. Classroom management includes the rules for the classroom as well as the procedures. Rules have consequences while procedures do not. Educators sometimes confuse the two concepts. The three most important student behaviors that must be taught the first day are: (1) rules; (2) procedures; and (3) routines. The only way to have responsible students is to have procedures and routines for which the students can be responsible.

LESSON PLANS – ROADMAPS

Lesson plans are **ROADMAPS** to good teaching. Roadmaps that are clear, concise, and on target arrive at a predetermined destination. Lesson plans must be relevant and be rigorous. Lesson plans that include a variety of activities and engage the learner will produce results. Lesson plans that compliment the scope and sequence will yield results. Lesson plans that are practiced/rehearsed will yield results. Lesson plans that include guided practice, independent practice, and small group instruction will yield results. Lesson plans that account for every minute of the designated time allotment will yield results. Lesson plans taught with enthusiasm and intent for every student to be successful will yield results. You, our **WOISD** teachers, are the architects of the lesson plan.

PROFESSIONAL DRESS

You dress for four main effects: [Credibility, Acceptance, Authority, and Respect](#). We do not have a second chance for a first impression. We are the role models for our students. Our District has a dress code for WOISD students and West Oso ISD employees. Many of our employees wear a uniform to conduct their duties. Our teachers and administrators have a dress code. Clothes should be neat, clean, and appropriately sized. Tennis shoes and flip flops are not acceptable footwear. Tennis shoes are for our coaching staff when they are engaged in physical education activities or athletic activities. If there should be a medical problem, advise your immediate supervisor. Unfortunately, jeans have become a concern. Jeans and a T-shirt as everyday wear is not acceptable. Campus administrators have the responsibility to review and enforce dress code standards.

INCENTIVE PAY

West Oso ISD has written incentive pay grants for every campus. West Oso High School staff is currently preparing their individual folders so they may be eligible for their incentive pay on September 30, 2008.

West Oso Elementary will be eligible for incentive pay based on student performance this coming year (2008-2009). WOE teachers, take time to review the criteria for eligibility and begin working towards meeting or exceeding the goal. WOE teachers, begin preparing your folders. West Oso Elementary is eligible for incentive pay based on the [2008-2009 Texas Educator Excellence Cycle 3 Grant Application](#).

John F. Kennedy Elementary and West Oso Jr. High School will be eligible for incentive pay based on student performance this coming year (2008-2009). JFK/WOJH teachers, review the criteria and begin preparing students as well as your documentation folder. John F. Kennedy and West Oso Jr. High School are eligible based on the [2008-2009 District Awards for Teacher Excellence \(DATE\)](#).

We are fortunate to have written and received each of these grants. It is important to know the criteria for eligibility and work toward attaining the stated goal in the grant. West Oso ISD will continue to search for incentive grants that will reward teachers/staff for the time, effort, and dedication that is devoted to our WOISD students.