

## **State of the School STORM 2012**

As the mid-point of the 2011-2012 school year is approaches, we take this opportunity to reflect on the past year at Stephen/Argyle Central. The last year has provided a number of highlights in student accomplishments in the areas of academics, arts, and athletics. As we look to the future, we are engaged in planning for the long-term success of our students.

The financial stability of the school district is a focal point of the community in the current year and into the future. During the fall election, a new Operating Referendum was not approved by our local communities. As we continue to deal with declining enrollment, unstable state and federal funding, and increases in operating costs the need for an increase in local funding for our schools will continue. The long-term success of our school district is based upon the support of our communities. The School Board and administration have made reductions in spending and have reduced staff and programs in the past, but fiscal challenges lie ahead in order to maintain the tradition of excellence that has been established at Stephen/Argyle Central. The Operating Referendum will be presented again to the community in the near future to take on these challenges.

The enrollment of the school district is a very important factor in generating school funding and providing a variety of educational programs. The current enrollment of Stephen/Argyle Central is 336 students. This is a decline of 10 students from the 2010-2011 school year. We are currently serving 21 students in our Pre-School program that are projected for Kindergarten in 2012-2013. The following figures are current projected enrollments for the next five years:

2010-2011	344 students	
2011-2012	334 students	(21 pre-school)
2012-2013	325 students	(18 pre-school)
2013-2014	315 students	(21 pre-school)
2014-2015	307 students	(19 pre-school)
2015-2016	293 students	(12 pre-school)
2016-2017	280 students	

The decline in enrollment is affected by fewer students and family mobility. Although we have been fortunate that the decline has slowed in recent years, the decline certainly has a negative affect on revenue and resources. This magnifies the 5-year projections of enrollments for staff and expenditure planning.

Our staff continues to strive to provide a challenging curriculum that prepares our students for a successful future. A new reading series in the elementary, new math standards and curriculum in the Junior High, digital curriculum in Junior High Science, Robotics in the High School, and providing 30+ College in the High School credits are some examples of the commitment to academic excellence for staff and students. The updated and rigorous curriculum will support the academic development of all our students to be successful in the future.

Our SAC Strategic Plan is focused on providing upgraded and safe facilities for our students and staff. At this time, we are in the process of investing in our buildings to become an environmentally positive place for students and staff and more efficient in the

use of energy. This project will focus on the upgrading of lighting, replacement of windows in key areas, and upgrading of the heating systems at both sites. The investment in our buildings are necessary for the long-term use viability of our school system.

As we plan for the future of Stephen/Argyle Central, the focus is on students. Providing safe and environmentally stable facilities, challenging and rigorous curriculum that prepares our students for their future, and securing financial stability to provide resources are primary goals. These goals will provide the guide for progressive development of our 21<sup>st</sup> century educational system. The students and staff would like to thank the communities of Argyle and Stephen for their continued support today and in the future.