Send them news from home!

Order a student subscription to Eagle Lake Headlight

All student subscriptions are for nine months and run from 9-5-85 to 5-15-86. Cost is just $8.00.

($7.61 subscription cost plus $0.39 state sales tax)

To order your student gift subscription, simply fill out this coupon and send it with payment to ***Eagle Lake Headlight, P.O. Box 67, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434.***

Please send a student subscription to:

Name Student _____

School Address _____

_____

_____

Eagle Lake Middle School:

8-period day to greet Middle School students

Among the physical changes students will find at the Eagle Lake Middle School are these refurbished tennis courts. It didn't cost the district a lot of money either, since principal Charles Abel and others did the work.

"Academics come first" at the Eagle Lake Middle School, principal Charles Abel said last week, adding: "We will be teaching on the first school day...it won't be a play day."

That's the attitude the principal and staff have at the school, which expects an enrollment of about 450 students in their 4th through 8th grades. "With all the state changes," the principal said, "it means we will be tightening up even more...we just can't tolerate foolishness."

There are a lot of changes in education because of the Texas Legislature, Abel said, but the nice thing about this district and my campus is that we already were doing many of the things now required. He pointed out the requirement that students reading below grade level must receive special assistance; Last year Abel required such special classes at the school, and this year requires all students to devote more time to reading. "Our district has never looked at doing just the minimum," he said.

While the district will be tackling the problem of writing a discipline plan sometime this school year, discipline is something that doesn't seem to be a big problem on the Middle School campus. "We're old fashioned here...we use the board," Abel said. He also said the school will be contacting parents when discipline problems arise. Over all, however, Abel added, we have a pretty good group of kids.

If there are any students about to enter Eagle Lake Middle School (or any other Rice district school) for the first time, they should immediately contact the school principal. This ONLY includes students who have not previously contacted the school or registered with the district.

Although the economy of the district seems to have declined, assistant school superintendent Charles DeShaze predicts there will be as many as 50 new students in Rice CISD schools this year.

On the academic side, the school has new textbooks for math and science; students will find a new computer literacy class available the first semester, and another computer-related class second semester.

That new class is being designed by Bill Carpenter, who has been around the Rice District for some time. After a stint as counselor at Rice High School, and at Columbus High School for the 83-84 school year, he became coach at the middle school last year, and this year becomes assistant principal, replacing Larry Varley. Also a former coach, Varley now is principal at the Hallettsville junior high school, although he will contique to live in Sheridan.

Additional computers have been added to the school's equipment, and all computers now are from Apple. They not only will be available for special computer classes, but are being made available for any other class as an open lab.

8-period day

Another, and perhaps larger change since it affects all students is the addition of another class period at the school. Last year's seven periods have been shortened by three minutes each to make room for eight periods. The new 8th period is designed to fit last year's state requirement for tutoring for students who need the help.

The tutoring was available last year, but only as an after school class. Some local educators referred to it as a joke, since no one wanted to stay after school. This year, while the district board of education hasn't made it mandatory that students attend tutoring classes, principal Abel has made it mandatory at the Middle School.

By researching records, and keeping abreast of current class progress, students will be assigned to tutoring. Any other unassigned student who wants help now will have the time available to get it. Other students will be assigned to a study hall.

The additional class period didn't lengthen the day...the final bell still rings about 3:15 p.m., Abel said, depending on the school bus schedule. Athletic students not in a tutoring class will report to their coaches at 2:45 p.m., and probably will practice until about 4 p.m. or 4:15 p.m. as in the past.

The principal also noted:

There will be new faces on the staff this year, as usual. However, Abel is proud to point out the district is able to replace quality people with quality people. There are 29 teachers, five aids, a maintenance crew and the principal and assistant principal.

Communications between the school and the parents is a high priority. Letters and memos will be sent to parents explaining many changes, and urging parents to contact the school if the staff can be of assistance. "With all the changes it is essential parents keep up," Abel said.

The tennis courts at the school have been repaired with little cost to the district. The cracks and holes have been filled in, and new nets are on order. A new green surface paint will be applied soon, with court-stripes to follow.

He is working with Eagle Lake police chief Ben Johnson to have the Lions Club develop McGruff program installed at the school.