



Please send a student subscription to:
Name Student _____
School Address _____

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.**

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)

Sheridan School reading class in second year; school day early

The first bell of each school day will come earlier this year than some Sheridan School students might have expected, but not that much earlier.

Principal Bill Gohlke last week outlined some of the changes students in the school's elementary and junior high classes might expect.

He topped the list with the note that the school day will start 15 minutes earlier than last year, because of some school bus route changes. He also noted that one in the classroom: the business of educating the area's young students will continue on a serious line.

Like all the other schools in Texas, the staff of the Sheridan School started following the newly adopted teaching plan of "essential elements." That of course will continue this year.

As Gohlke sees it, the essential elements not only provide a course preparation plan, but help teachers somewhat to organize their lesson planning.

As for the students on the receiving end, Gohlke didn't say the essential elements had a direct effect on learning, but did comment that the school's students did pretty well last year when given the state-wide tests.

In an effort to help the education program even more, Gohlke will discuss with teachers the seminars some administrators attended this summer concerning the "lesson design cycle." That program not only provides help to a teacher on how lessons should be planned and executed in a classroom teaching situation, but it also is part of the new teacher evaluation program ordered by the state. The theory appears to be multi-directed with a single goal: one line is to help standardize some teaching methods, and at the same time let teachers and administrators know how the evaluation process is to be done. The student is to be the beneficiary with better teachers and teaching methods.

Even while the tide of change continues its sweep of education, the daily schedule at the school won't be much more different this year than at the start of any other year.

The 8 a.m. daily school start is necessary because the bus route has to be coordinated with the schedule at Rice High School. Sheridan teacher and coach Benjie Machac still will be the morning driver for the

school, and principal Gohlke continues as the afternoon driver. The bus will start its route about 20 minutes earlier, meaning the first student to be picked up probably will meet the bus about 6:50 a.m.

Gohlke will be able to devote a little more of this time to his duties as principal since this year the new band director in the school district, Bill Waggoner, will come to the school in the morning to teach band. Gohlke has been the band teacher, and those classes in the past were scheduled in the afternoon. Students who do not take band will be supervised that period by Gohlke who called the time an opportunity class—it will be spent in reading enrichment, or simply will be spent by students who need a little time to catch up on some other school work.

Kindergarten students, expected to number about 22 this year, compared to last year's 18, also will start their school day at 8 a.m., but will be excused at 11 a.m.

Kindergarten lunch

However, the kindergarten students for the first time will be able to eat lunch at the school. The hot lunches will cost students 85-cents. Parents can pick up their kindergarten students about 11 a.m. if the child doesn't eat lunch at the school, or about 11:15 a.m. if they do eat at the school.

Reading emphasis

The school will continue the program on reading emphasis that it began last year. Gohlke said the staff at the school wants to make sure its student can read, and is concerned about the nation-wide call for improvement in essential reading instruction.

The program appears unique. The elementary grades all schedule reading classes for the same period, but not all students on the same grade level report to the same class.

If a student in the fourth grade is reading only at a third-grade level, that student reports to the third grade reading class. It works also in the other direction. A fourth grader reading above that level, can report to the fifth grade reading class.

Gohlke said the school took special pains last year when it implemented the program. Letters and memos were sent to parents explaining what they

were doing and why; students were involved, with the idea of preparing the students who would be moving down a grade. There was some fear that those students might not understand why they were being taken out of their peer group and placed with younger children.

Gohlke reports that the teachers are really sold on the program, and students have accepted it without major problems. Teachers, he said, now can concentrate on their own grade level, instead of planning reading lessons for multi-level students. Students who are moved to lower grades have found they can compete on an even level, and students who move up really are excited about such a giant accomplishment, and thus try harder.

On other academic matters, Gohlke said all of the teachers in the school will be involved with tutoring. Students not going to tutoring classes will be able to leave the campus between 2:50 and 2:55 p.m. Last year they were excused at 3:15 p.m.

Students who stay for tutoring will be excused from school at the 3:15 time slot, and because there is only one bus run, will have to make their own arrangements to get home. Only four or five students were affected last year by the No Pass, No Play rule, and this year, Gohlke thinks marginal students will buckle down harder because of it. "It made students aware that if they want to play sports, or participate in other activities including the band, they will have to hit the books."

In talking about sports, the Sheridan and Garwood schools combine to field a football team. Sheridan's participation may be a little thin. Last year's sixth grade was an all-girl class. This year the principal said one new boy has moved into the school's district.

Facilities in good shape

Gohlke proudly mentioned the physical condition of the school this year, giving most of the credit to custodian Jerome Anselmo Jr. Not only did he make sure all was clean, but he painted several classrooms, and just last week replaced some of the worn floor tile in the entryway. As school opens, Gohlke said he has been able to hire a maid for the school for a half day, to help keep the school in good shape.



Computers have moved into almost all of the Rice District schools, because of the state requirement that computer literacy be offered either to 7th or 8th graders. The computers above are the new Apple machines to be used at Eagle Lake Middle School. The Radio Shack computers that school used in the past have been sent to Garwood. Other Radio Shack machines have been purchased for Garwood as well. Second semester, the computers in Garwood will be sent to the Sheridan School.

Sheridan PTS supports school; special speaker scheduled Sept. 10

Reggie Briscoe, long-time school supporter, is president of the Sheridan PTS this year and said last week the group is planning to continue its year-long backing of the Sheridan Elementary and Junior High School with even more dedication.

To start the year off on the right foot, Briscoe has been in contact with state education officials to secure a special speaker for the first PTS meeting of the year.

That meeting will be held

Tuesday, September 10, at 7 p.m. in the Sheridan School Cafeteria. The speaker and other details will be announced.

The Sheridan PTS is an integral part of the school, and helps purchase items that otherwise might not be available to students. This year the organization is planning to purchase computer equipment to complement the machines the Rice school district provides for the new computer courses to be offered to 8th graders during the second semester.

Last year during Christmas break, new heating units were added to each classroom to solve the cold-weather problems there—and it made quite a difference he said.

The staff includes 10 teachers, two full time aides and one part-time aide. New this year are Fran Hisevsky who will teach 4th grade. She comes from the Garwood school, and will be replacing Georgia Childs. Gohlke expects about 135 students, about the same as last year.

As in the other schools, math

and science books are new. Gohlke said the teachers are looking forward to them too, and several teachers have come in to pick one up so they can get started. Sharing computer equipment with the Garwood school, Sheridan 8th graders will take a computer literacy class in the second semester.

Teachers also will have a somewhat different schedule, since the state now requires that they have a 30-minute lunch period with no school duties assigned; and, their non-student conference period must precede or follow the lunch period.