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Welcome back, Students!



ELMS building changing

While the physical plant at the Eagle Lake Middle School is changing considerably for the 1986-87 school year, there are many other things that remain the same as last year, according to principal Charles Abel.

That statement in itself may be the biggest news at ELMS this year. After a year or two of changes in studies brought on by Texas legislators, most students will find that their worries about entering a new grade don't have to also extend to worries about a new grading system or new teaching regimen.

However, as anyone who pays attention at all knows, there are some major physical changes going on at Eagle Lake Middle School. Under construction is a four-room addition to the cafeteria wing that will give the third grade students in the Eagle Lake area a permanent place to hold classes.

Until that is finished, third graders will be in the main building displacing other students and teachers who may find they have one class in one room in the morning, and have to move around to other classrooms at another time. The principal of floating classes isn't new in education circles, but it hasn't been needed recently in Eagle Lake until.

Abel said that for the first six weeks there will be disruption as workmen put the finishing touches on the new classrooms. When those are finally completed, third graders will move into them and leave the other students, mostly sixth graders, free to regain their classrooms on a permanent schedule.

By the way, if a parent thought the new classrooms would be ready for school, because of what they read or heard, just remember the old adage that you shouldn't believe what you hear or read until you see it. During the summer a spokesman for Drymalla Construction of Columbus said that if the weather doesn't delay construction the new ELMS addition could be ready for Fall Classes. That was reported in the Headlight. But, last week a Rice school district administrator said the addition never could have been ready in time for classes to begin on Sept. 2 even if it hadn't rained all summer.

Whenever it is completed, Abel hopes to have a public open house to show it off.

Schedule change

With the addition of 70 or so third graders to the ELMS campus some parents were concerned that the morning and afternoon traffic

would become even more difficult. To help keep that from happening, the schedule for ringing the last bell has been changed, giving those in the lower grades a slightly shorter school day.

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be let out of school at 3 p.m. to either get on the school bus or be picked up in a private car.

Then, at 3:15 p.m. the final bell for other students, in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be rung. Hopefully by then the younger students will have cleared the campus.

Also, the school bus boarding point has been moved from in front of the school to just down the street toward the cafeteria.

Thanks to the crew from the city that new bus parking point has been marked with yellow no parking stripes.

There are other exceptions to the final bell schedule. If you will remember Texas law now calls for a mandatory tutoring class if a student appears to be failing a subject.

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