

A Message From Rice Superintendent Michael Lanier

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Rice CISD first opened its doors as a consolidated independent school district in 1970 bringing together the districts of Eagle Lake, Garwood, and Sheridan. Rice High School has been the centerpiece of the district housing grades 9 – 12 and will be joined this year with the opening of Rice Junior High for students in grades 7 – 8.

I am very excited about the opportunities that this will immediately afford our current students and overwhelmed by the possibilities that will exist

for secondary students in our district in the future.

As RHS and now RJHS are the centerpieces, the cornerstones of our district have been and will remain the community schools. Secondary schools, in my view, are places for students to begin to search out and build their place in our society.

They start to focus on their career interests and the education it will take to realize their dreams. We are all familiar with the old saying, "A building is only as good as its foundation." That also holds very true for a child's education.

The Garwood, Sheridan, and Eagle Lake campuses have been and will continue to be the places where those foundations are built.

Our community schools have provided our students with the background and tools necessary to be successful at the secondary and post secondary levels.

Our continued improvement across the district on the State assessments as the measurement of student achievement attests to that fact.

We will continue to strive to provide these important community campuses with the

resources needed to ensure the continued success of our students.

I am very proud of the work that we have done at Rice CISD during my career and very honored that you allow me to be a part of your child's education.

As a student, I received as fine an education as I could have asked for at Rice. Many people - teachers, administrators, staff, and tax payers made sacrifices and committed themselves to ensure that I was afforded that opportunity.

I will always be grateful to them. Today's students deserve

just as much consideration.

I would be remiss in my job and in my responsibility to repay the debt to those that came before me if I did not shoulder that responsibility and strive to provide the best that I can for our students. They deserve all that we can do. Our future depends on them and how well we have done our job.

I would enjoy the opportunity to visit with you or anyone that has an interest in our district. Have a great year! I know I will.

Sincerely,
Michael Lanier
Superintendent, Rice CISD

Rice Offering Encore Presentation By Dr. Rita Pierson To Teachers and Parents

By request, Dr. Rita Pierson will be back at RCISD on Dec. 1, 2009 at the Eagle Lake Primary School. "Dr. Rita" will present to teachers at 4:30-6:00 and will present to parents and grandparents from 6:30 to 8:00. She brings laughter along with

valuable insight to her presentations.

With more than 30 years of experience in education, Houstonian, Dr. Rita F. Pierson, provides a wealth of knowledge and wisdom for educators and lay persons alike.

She earned her Doctorate Degree in Educational Administration at Texas Southern University, and holds a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling.

Rita is a celebrated educator whose passion is to help all

children (especially those from an impoverished background) realize their fullest potential.

She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, and has served as an elementary school administrator and guidance counselor, in addition to having taught at every level of the public school spectrum (elementary, middle, and high school).

During her teaching tenure, she was twice voted "Teacher of the Year".

Rita developed and implemented school/community involvement for a large elementary school, as well as organizing and training an in-school crisis team for students in need of immediate intervention.

A dynamic and motivating speaker, Rita's training sessions and workshops on poverty, educational leadership, early childhood development, and parental involve-



Dr. Rita F. Pierson

Title I and Parental Involvement At Rice CISD

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As parents, we want our children to follow their dreams and accomplish their goals; as educators, we know that the future of our students depends on the education that they receive today. Parents are an important part of the education of their students. Research indicates that when parents are involved in their child's education, regardless of background or income level, children do better in school. They have increased attendance, lower drop-out rate, better test scores, fewer discipline problems, and higher college attendance rates.

To promote parent involvement, Rice CISD has a local Parent Involvement Policy to encourage parents to be involved in the education process. Each year, in late spring, parents, teachers and other staff members are invited to attend planning meetings to provide input for the upcoming school year. The Parent Involvement Policy for the district and each of the campuses are discussed at these meetings and there is an opportunity to suggest changes and to evaluate the parent program/policy. To ensure that everyone is aware of the Parent Involvement Policy, it is published below. Parents, teachers and staff members have the opportunity to make suggestions to improve,

modify, or expand the Policy if needed.

Rice CISD Parent Involvement Policy

Rice CISD believes that the involvement of parents is critical to the success of students and views the participation of parents as regular, two-way, and meaningful communication concerning academic achievement and school activities that promote student success.

To promote communication and involvement, RCISD provides opportunities for parents to be involved in planning and implementing the Title I, Part A program, as well as jointly developing, distributing, and evaluating the Parental Involvement Policy. The District Improvement Plan shall incorporate activities from the Parent Involvement Policy.

The district will:

Involve parents in the joint development of the Parent Policy and the plan for parent activities as specified by law.

Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist campuses in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

Build the capacity of both the

campuses and the parents to ensure strong parental involvement as specified by law.

Coordinate the parent involvement activities provided by federally funded programs.

Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the parental involvement policy.

Involve parents in the activities of the campuses served under Title I.

As a part of the continuing improvement process, RCISD is interested in receiving input that will improve the parent program and Parental Involvement Policy.



ment are innovative, practical, and research based.