



## Abilene Independent School District

241 Pine Street • Abilene, Texas 79601 • (325) 677-1444

Dear Parents and Guardians of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

Abilene ISD is excited to announce that on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Abilene Convention Center, eighth grade students from all four middle school campuses will participate in the high school planning event **Hello, High School!**

Since this is the first year that Abilene ISD has provided this experience for our students, there is quite a bit of information that we would like to share with you and your 8<sup>th</sup> grader so that everyone is ready for this busy day. It is especially important that you are aware of the information regarding the Convention Center's policy prohibiting outside food and the requirement that parents who choose to attend must present their driver license or government issued identification card and be processed by the district's background-check system called Raptor. It is also important to realize that while students will have opportunities to discuss high school options and indicate course preferences, everything they do on March 2<sup>nd</sup> is for planning purposes only. Parents and students will be able to continue to plan and make changes to their plans over the coming weeks and then yearly as the students progress through high school.

Event: Hello, High School!

Date: Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Times: **Madison 9:15 – 12:40**

**Mann 9:40 – 1:05**

**Clack 10:05 – 1:30**

**Craig 10:30 – 1:50**

Description: Students will be provided with personalized schedules that will allow them to rotate through various sessions and booths focusing on programs of study, five-year plans, endorsements, course options, career information, certifications, and post-secondary opportunities. Representatives from local businesses, post-secondary institutions, Workforce Solutions, and Abilene ISD will share information with students during the event.

Students: 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from all four AISD middle school campuses will attend.

Parents: Parents and guardians are invited to attend. Due to the nature of the event, limited space, and the structure of the academic presentations, parents are asked to not bring young children or infants.

**RAPTOR REQUIRED:** In order to be admitted, parents must present their driver license or government issued identification card and be processed by the district's background-check system called Raptor. This is the same system used by all AISD campuses to check-in campus visitors. Parents who wish to attend should arrive at the Convention Center at least 20 minutes prior to the start time indicated above to allow adequate time to be screened by the Raptor system. After successfully checking in through Raptor, parents will be issued a badge that must be worn at all times.

**PARKING:** Parents who would like to attend do not need to follow the buses from the campus. Parents can go directly to the Convention Center. Parents should park in the large parking lot on the north side of the Convention Center and enter through the doors that lead to the north end of the foyer. Parents should NOT park on North 6<sup>th</sup> due to buses loading and unloading in that area. The exterior doors on North 6<sup>th</sup> will be locked to outside entry.

Activities:

- Assembly led by AISD high school principals
- High school planning sessions focusing on five-year education plans, endorsements, and course options
- Three career-based academic sessions presented by AISD professionals and Abilene business partners
- Booths: AISD programs of study, JROTC, Workforce Solutions, Post-secondary (ASU, CC, HSU, TSTC, McM)
- Optional Question and Answer session for Parents: While students eat lunch, a high school administrator will meet with parents in the auditorium where he or she will be ready to answer your questions about high school.

Schedule: Each student has been assigned to an individual schedule based on the career interests he/she previously provided; however, students will have the opportunity to learn about all programs and career clusters when visiting booths.

Lunch:

- **NO OUTSIDE FOOD PERMITTED:** The Abilene Convention Center does not allow outside food anywhere in or on the premises of the Convention Center unless it is provided through the event by an approved caterer. AISD Student Nutrition is an approved Convention Center caterer; therefore, AISD will provide lunches for ALL student participants through AISD Student Nutrition at no cost to the student.
- **STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED DIETARY HEALTH CONCERNS:** Students who have documented dietary health concerns should contact Yuditt Gonzales at Mann Middle School, 325 672-8493, to make arrangements for an appropriate lunch that complies with their documented health needs.
- **NOTE REGARDING LUNCHES FROM HOME OR OTHER FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS:** Due to Abilene Convention Center policy, students will not be permitted to have lunches from home or from other food establishments anywhere in or on the Convention Center premises. If your child requires additional food other than that which will be provided at no cost by AISD, please contact Kathryn Walker at Mann Middle School, 325 672-8493.
- Due to limited space and time, parents will not be able to enter the areas where lunch is being served to students. Parent lunches will not be available. Parents who wish to remain at the Convention Center while their students eat lunch are invited to participate the optional Question and Answer session, visit the booths in the foyer, or relax in one of the enclosed patios.

Questions: If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Walker.