

Dream. Believe. Achieve. – Odyssey '08

2007 – 2008 Annual Report of the Texas School for the Deaf



Cover Picture: TSD Work Training students Luz M. and Shaun W. were having a routine day working in housekeeping at the Hyatt when they crossed paths with then Senator Barack Obama. How's that for making a little history!



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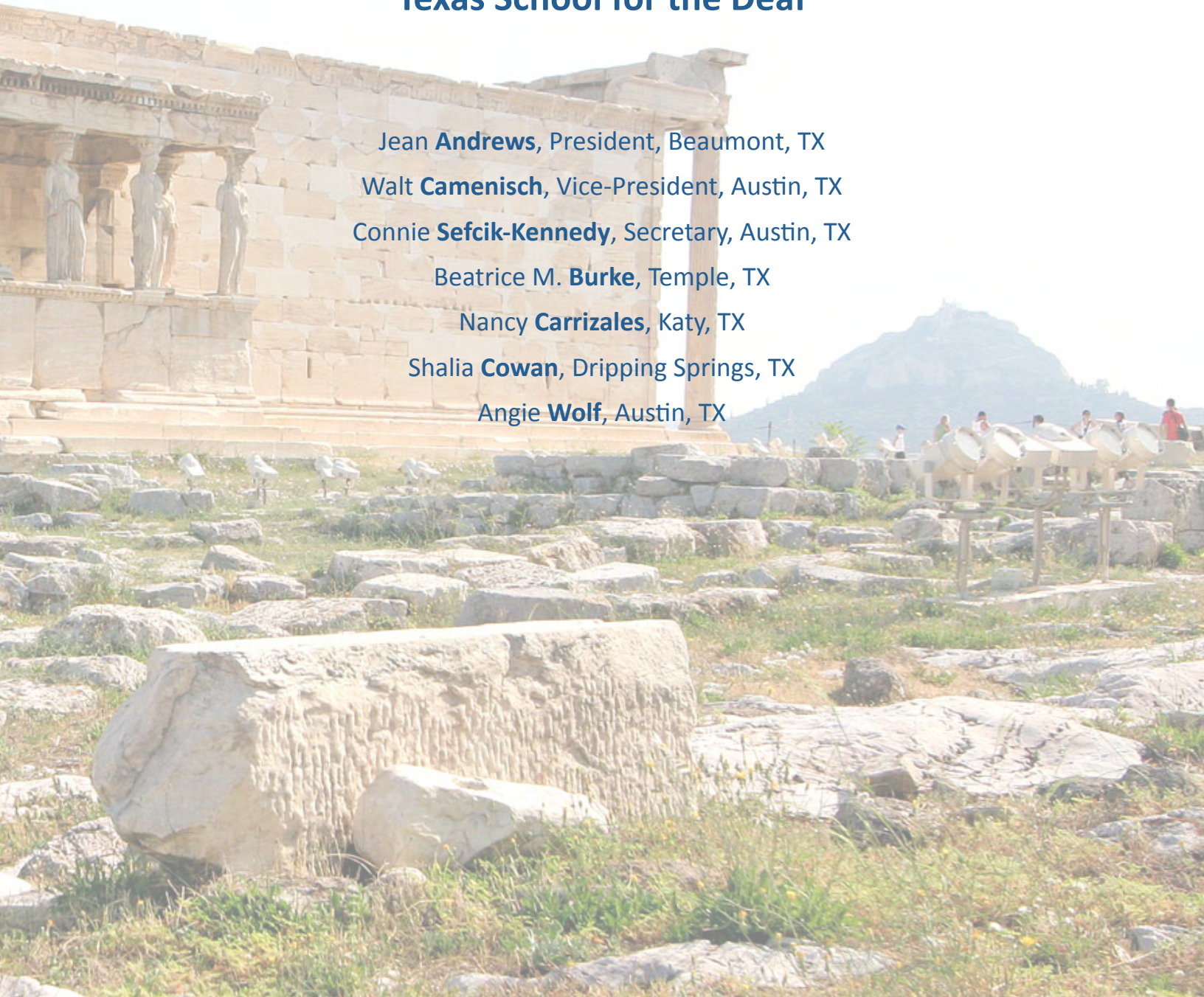
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*“A journey of a
thousand miles
begins with
a single step.”*
Chinese Proverb

Our Vision

The Texas School for the Deaf is recognized as a local, state and national leader in the field of Deaf education.

Our Mission

Is to ensure that deaf students achieve personal excellence in an environment where they are able to learn, grow, and belong. We believe in providing an exemplary education and student life program that fosters learning in a visually accessible, safe and positive environment. We also strive to improve the lives of deaf students and families in Texas by providing complete outreach services.

Our Beliefs

- Education is a responsibility shared by the students, home, school, and community.
- All students achieve their maximum potential in a school that recognizes, values, and accommodates their unique abilities and interests.
- Treating people with dignity and respect is essential to a healthy and productive environment.
- The development of the whole person socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally is imperative to success.
- Involving people in decisions that impact their lives promotes ownership, commitment, action, a sense of value and pride.
- A full signing environment enhances the quality of life for the students, families and the TSD community.
- Deaf students flourish when educated in a language-rich environment designed to meet their communication, language, and educational needs.
- A rigorous, standards-based curriculum and specialized programs are the foundations for success in literacy, career/work, and life skills.
- Competence in technology is critical for equal access to communication and information.
- Highly qualified staff motivate and empower students to reach their maximum potential.
- Exposure to and experience with Deaf Culture enrich the lives of students and their families.



Dear TSD Community and Stakeholders,

The theme for the 2007 - 2008 school year was Dream. Believe. Achieve. - Odyssey '08.

Every new school year at TSD has a theme, a tagline and logo to match it! This year's Odyssey began with an inspiration from the ancient Greeks. Our logo became the torch of learning surrounded by the Greek "key" representing harmony and eternity and our tagline — Dream. Believe. Achieve. — was selected to represent the limitless possibilities available when a community of learners believes that anything is possible!

Throughout the school year we introduced the influences of Greek culture and mythology on our daily lives. Our elementary students were surprised to learn that they were wearing shoes with the name of a Greek goddess (Nike) and similarly so, high school kids to learn that their favorite rock group had a mythological name (Styx).

Since its establishment in 1856, Texas School for the Deaf has improved the lives of many thousands of young deaf Texans by providing a language rich environment where students have access to the full range of instructional, residential and support services designed to meet their individual needs.

In that respect, this year was no different.

I congratulate all the wonderful staff and students that have been involved in this year's *Odyssey*.

Sincerely,



Claire Bugen
Superintendent



“Success is not a place at which one arrives but rather the spirit with which one undertakes and continues the journey.”

Alex Noble

Odyssey ‘08 Teaches Kids How To Learn, Not Just What To Learn...

Early Childhood and Elementary Department

- Served 115 students in the Parent Infant through 5th grade this year.
- Professional development opportunities were provided for all our teachers, attending to various Region XIII workshops and other workshops to enhance classroom instruction and student support.
- Teachers were able to participate in our campus-specific professional development Tuesdays provided by our Curriculum Specialists and Support Staff.
- Enhancing the use of technology — as additional classrooms are graced with ActivBoards and Elmos, increasing access to American Sign Language and English within the ASL/English bilingual model.

Early Childhood

- Our growing ECE program continued to focus on achieving goals for assessments, technology, first language acquisition, and exposure to second language.
- ECE Teachers provided monthly parent-workshops covering language acquisition, ASL, ADHD, and other developmental/age-appropriate topics.

Elementary

- Travis County Sheriff’s Office and RunTex continued their partnership for our Elementary program.
- Social Skills classes achieved another enriching year.
- Greek Festival 2008 marked the first annual International Festival for our department.
- 3rd Annual Ranger Day — this year marked another successful year, we had such superb community partnerships and events. Thanks to the committee, parents, community, and school personnel for making this event a great success.
- Students participated in competitions through Fine Arts and ASL classes: Gallaudet National Competition ASL and Essay Winners and the NTID ASL Competition.
- Reading First is a Success for K-3rd Grades: We received a grant to continue for another year! Our Literacy Coach and Literacy Aides as well as teachers have supported such growth in individual students this year.
- Positive Behavior Support continued for another year, with positive results in terms of supporting all students.
- TAKS, MAP, and SAT were valued and students were supported to prepare for these assessments. Our Outcomes Specialist supported our 3rd and 5th grade teachers to prepare our students for the Student Success Initiative. We provided TAKS Forces and an Accelerated Instruction Program in the summer.
- 5th Grade Student Council: Our 5th Grade Student Council decided to do weekly news — thus dubbing their production: The Junior Rangers News.





HIGHLIGHT:

Reading First Grant is extended for an additional year with \$92,500 to support the federal goal of all students reading on grade level by 3rd grade.



“Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you’re climbing it.”

Denis Waitley

Special Needs Department

- Served 72 students this year

Transition Statistics

- 33 Students in Community Based Vocational Instruction (working in community sites as training)
- 17 Students in Supported Employment (employed in community sites for pay)
- 20 Students in Volunteer Services in the community
- 10 Students in ARCIL classes in the community (12 weeks each course)
- 5 graduates

Transition

- Increased number of students receiving paid employment and increased number of students who were actually hired by the community work site following supported employment training.
- Worked with agencies to meet student needs: DADS, DARS, DACT, ARCIL, Cap Metro, Southwest Center for Higher Independence, Goodwill, and Catholic Charities.
- Increased our Person-Centered Planning to include four students for this year.
- Modified the “Student Interest” survey to gain student interests/preferences for jobs.
- Participated in numerous trainings related to the new Federal regulations of Indicator 13 and 14.
- Updated our Individual Transition Plans to Transition Services which included post-secondary goals, coordinated set of activities, supportive annual goals, student interests considered, parent input and permission to contact agencies, student involvement, agencies involvement, transition assessments, and services stated.
- Set up training on “Working and SSI Benefits” and invited parents/community to attend.

Instructional

- Speech/Language Pathologists taught a communication class and Associate Psychologist taught a social skills class to 11th and 12th graders.
- Developed, trained staff, and implemented our new comprehensive literacy and communication plans.
- Revised and implemented the use of portable Picture Communication books for all students; more streamlined and individualized.
- Established the Autism Focus Group for staff to attend to receive trainings in communication, behavior, strategies, Applied Behavioral Analysis, Autism 101, mind development, etc. and to serve as a support and discussion group for questions, problem-solving, etc.
- Trained on STAR/FACTER for functional approach to assessment/instruction; trained on Applied Behavioral Analysis techniques.
- Revised Admission Review Dismissal Autism Supplemental forms to reflect new State regulations.



- Focus on literacy and writing with training devoted to these areas.
- Participated in the Beginning Teacher Induction and Mentoring grant program; 4 SND teachers were trained as mentors and 5 beginning teachers participated.
- Provided additional mentoring through Lead Teachers for each grade group (Elem, MS, HS, Transition).
- Provided our own SND New Employee Orientation in addition to TSD NEO for specifics to our program/expectations.
- Mainstreaming one student into Elementary for reading/language fundamentals, recess, math, and Circle of Friends.
- Mainstreaming of one student into CTE for Culinary Arts.

Assessment

- Implemented/completed the TAKS-ALT assessments for all SND students on-time and completed accurately.
- Recognition for activities/service on review committees by Texas Education Agency.
- Revised our own assessment expectations-Special Needs Assessment Portfolio.

Positive Behavior Support

- “Positive Behavior Support” team developed a PBS manual with lesson plans of expectations to be taught and followed by all staff/students.
- Developed new lesson plans on “Events” and student/staff dress code.
- Developed and implemented lesson plans for staff to conduct with students addressing rules for problem areas.
- Developed and implemented our new “guidelines for success”—S.T.A.R. (Students and Staff Thinking and Acting Responsibly)
- Had blue horse hooves painted at the North Bus Zone to depict “boundaries” for student safety.
- Developed, distributed, and trained students on emergency expectations in relation to severe weather, lockdowns, and fire.
- Developed and distributed portable “S.T.A.R.” guidelines for staff to carry and use as needed in any location.
- Reduction of behavior incidents from new programming.



HIGHLIGHT:

Texas Education Agency recognizes SND teachers for their role in reviewing activities and objectives for the new TAKS-ALT assessment.



*“One may walk
over the highest
mountain one step
at a time.”*

John Wanamaker

Events

- Awarded monthly prizes to our new “STELLAR STAFF” and “STELLAR STUDENTS” recognition program; tickets are given out to pinpoint a specific “positive”; monthly drawings are then conducted to award prizes.
- Held a new Teacher and Staff Ice Cream Sundae “Appreciation”.
- Distributed “Thank You” pizza cookies to all support departments of the Business Division.
- Held an “Appreciation Happy Hour” for teachers, teaching assistants, and support staff such as SLPs, OT, PT, and Behavior staff.
- Held our annual Thanksgiving Feast whereby the largest number of parents/ community partners attended and shared our meal.

Outreach/Presentations

- Observation and consulting with AI/AU students in Palestine, Tyler and various states/parents/LEAs.
- Consulted with Leander ISD in relation to transition programming.
- In-home training for 1 student with autism whose parent needed assistance in learning to work with their child in the home environment.
- Participated in research study by a UT Doctoral candidate on “Use of Sign by Hearing and Deaf Children within Autism Spectrum Disorder”.
- Presented to TSD Counselors on Autism.
- Presented to the Arkansas School for the Deaf on Transition and Literacy.
- Presented in Houston at a conference for Low-Functioning Deaf Students on Learning Centers.





*"For every mountain
there is a miracle."*

Robert H. Schuller

Middle School

- Served 80 students

Assessments

- Benchmark Testing Writing
- Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)
- State assessments: TAKS, TAKS-Accommodated, TAKS-Modified
- SAT 10

Academic Competitions

- Mathcounts 2008 competitions
- TSD — January 7th-11th
- Regional — @ UT on February 16th
- RIT/NTID — April 4th-6th —
MathCounts team placed 3rd



Battle of the Books

- May 15th-16th
- California School for the Deaf-Fremont
- Metro School for the Deaf
- New Mexico School for the Deaf
- Texas School for the Deaf — entered 4 teams



Gallaudet National Essay 2008

- Ages 9-14 Essay
- 1st place winner who was published in "Celebration" magazine
- Earth Day Celebration including Poetry & Art Contest

Sertoma American Heritage Essay Contest

- 1st place winner awarded a \$1000 college savings bond
- 2nd place winner awarded a \$500 college savings bond

Professional Development

- Region XIII and TSD provided trainings throughout the year
- TEKS/TAKS Middle School Success Initiative Reading Series
- Lexile in the Reading Classroom
- Content Literacy Strategies for Secondary Social Studies
- Journaling in Science
- TEKS/TAKS Holistic Scoring Writing for Secondary 7-12
- 8th Sense for 8th Grade Math instruction
- Geometry/Math TEKS connections



Professional Development (cont.)

- Using graphing calculators
- Reading strategies in all content areas
- Test Taking strategies
- Differentiation in the Classroom
- Key Vocabulary/Definitions for consistency

Social/Emotional

- *Second Step* violence prevention curriculum was used with several 6th grade classes. This program addressed the issues of interpersonal violence among adolescents. It is designed to reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior and increase social competence through empathy training, interpersonal problem-solving, behavioral skills training and anger management. Teachers and students applied this learning in daily school activities.

Owleus Bullying Prevention Program

- This program is to provide a safer and positive school environment in which students can learn, grow and belong. Target goals are to reduce existing bullying problems and to achieve positive peer relationships.
- Two Middle School teachers participated in “Train-the-Trainers” sessions and planned weekly lessons for implementation in 2008-2009.

Methods of Academic and Personal Success (MAPS)

- This was a course for 8th graders to develop skills in building positive interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, team building and goal setting.
- Communication Applications, a graduation requirement, was offered to 8th grade students. The students demonstrated knowledge of various communication processes, used appropriate interpersonal-communication strategies, communicated effectively, and made and evaluated formal and informal presentations.

Power of Positive Students

- Gold Honor Roll
- Silver Honor Roll
- Outstanding Citizens

Principal’s Pride

- 5-6 students were recognized every six weeks with lunch at Doc’s restaurant
- “Caught Being Good”
- Bulletin board displayed student’s acts of kindness each six weeks that was recognized at each POPS assembly
- “Ranger Bucks” — a positive behavior program
- “Students of the Week” — 2 students from each grade recognized
- WALL OF FAME — student recognitions displayed in the entry lobby

HIGHLIGHT:

TSD Middle School students win 3rd place in national MathCounts competition at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York.





High School

It was a banner year for our 220 High School students with our commitment to “Make a Statement” about assessment, academics, athletics, career and technology preparation and co-curricular activities. Our odysseys literally transported us around the globe to China for the culmination of our year long coursework in China Studies.

Assessments

- We made a statement by raising the bar on our commitment to increased performance on state assessment tests.
 - » Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)
 - » TAKS, TAKS-A, TAKS-M
 - » SAT 10
- Along with all Texas public school students we participated in the Fitnessgram assessment of students as we reviewed “healthy fitness zones” for our students.

Academics

- We began our implementation of the new state graduation plans and reviewed required course content and credit requirements of those plans:
 - » Distinguished
 - » Recommended
 - » Minimum
- Project CAN was introduced in high school this year to bring a more practical and relevant approach to learning emphasizing bilingual approaches to instruction supported by technology and community education.
- Chinese Studies brought our students a rich curriculum focused on the people, culture, geography and economy of this massive world power.
 - » Intensive year-long course
 - » Two-week trip to China (Beijing, Tianjin, Xi’an, Shanghai)
 - » Interaction and site visit with our Sister school — Tianjin School for the Deaf
- With support from teachers, parents and students we added a new Academic Bowl elective to our curriculum.
 - » First year of Academic Bowl class
 - » Placed 4th place in Regional competition
- ASL classes planned and presented a variety of activities for Deaf Awareness Month.
- Advanced Placement courses were offered in English, US History and World Geography.
- We developed a partnership with University of Texas science department.



HIGHLIGHT:

International Studies students traveled to China and visited our sister school Tianjin School for the Deaf.



HIGHLIGHT:

62 students graduated in 2008 and 38 were accepted into post-secondary programs.

Positive Behavior Support

- Increased teacher/staff supervision
- Behavior expectations posted in classrooms and hallways
- Real World sessions were provided by TSD Counselors
- “Make A Statement” awards reinforced PBS

Parents and Community Relations

- HS Site-Based Team

Career Technology Education

- Art and Visual (Technology) exhibits were big hits at the Scarbrough Building, the Austin Children’s Museum and the TSD and Deaf Artists Tour.
- “Diamond in the Rough” 2nd Annual Culinary Experience at the Hilton. Our students helped prepare culinary dishes with a well-known Hilton Diamond Chef.
- A new partnership with Twomey Auto Body shop-CEO offered TSD students great real world experience in Auto Collision and Repair.
- Partnership with IMS (Image Micro System) continues to employ many TSD students.
- One CTE student recruited to work in a prestigious architectural firm based on his TSD CTE training.



Training Offered

- 11 teachers offered CTE classes including Diversified Career Preparation (DCP).
- 185 students took at least one CTE class and many took a coordinated sequence of multiple classes.
- 20 DCP II students worked off campus.
- 35 DCP I students worked on campus.

ASL DISTANCE LEARNING

- 2 full time ASL teachers provided Distance Learning to 9 different school districts in Texas serving more than 70 students.

Transitional Program

- 19 students were served in a combination of on and off campus living environments.
- 6 students in 2nd year living off campus and working full time.
- Transition outreach presentations made in Houston, McAllen and San Antonio.



Future Olympians Fair Well In Athletics

The students at the Texas School for the Deaf participate in a variety of competitive sports. Our athletes compete against other public and private schools as well as other deaf schools across the nation. The high school teams are members of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), and the middle school teams are under the Austin Inter-Parochial League (AIPL). We have 35 different sports programs, which serve about 150 athletes from 5th to 12th grade.

Middle School Athletics

Flag Football

- The 5th and 6th graders have the opportunity to play flag football obtaining basic fundamentals and skills necessary to prepare them for 7th and 8th grade football. We are a member of AIPL and we play against other private schools around Austin area.

Tackle Football

- The 7th and 8th graders play tackle football in the AIPL League. In few years' hiatus, the program resumed last fall. We won 6 games on a tough and independent schedule. We went 6-2. We will play in AIPL league next fall.

Volleyball

- We have a strong volleyball program and they are usually consistent on an annual basis. We play in AIPL league and the girls have prepared themselves well for next level (7th/8th). The 5th/6th team won consolation championship in AIPL tournament. They went 4-5.
- The 7th/8th grade girls program enables them to be ready when they enter high school (junior varsity or varsity). The girls have shown tremendous improvement with understanding of the game as a whole. They went 4-8.

Girls and Boys Basketball

- We have 4 teams — 5th/6th grade girls, 5th/6th grade boys, 7th/8th grade girls, and 7th/8th grade boys — and they did well throughout the season. 5th/6th grade girls won AIPL consolation championship and went 9-9. 7th/8th grade boys won 2nd place in AIPL tournament and went 18-4. The 5th/6th grade boys came up short, losing in the consolation championship game and finished 4-13. The 7th/8th girls finished the season 1-15 on a very tough schedule.

Track & Field

- We have co-ed track program for 5th/6th and 7th/8th graders. We participate in AIPL. We hosted annual AIPL Meet at TSD and our 7th/8th grade boys won AIPL championship, defeating all other AIPL schools! As a whole, the kids showed various skills such as running, throwing, and jumping.

“Winners take time to relish their work, knowing that scaling the mountain is what makes the view from the top so exhilarating.”

Dennis Waitley



HIGHLIGHT:

Lady Ranger Basketball Team earns a National Championship for TSD with their stellar performance.

Tennis

- Last Spring was a down season for us – only 3 players for 5th/6th grade co-ed team and 2 for 7th/8th grade co-ed team. They participated in AIPL tournament playing both singles and doubles. They didn't win anything but they showed stubbornness and commitment to from the start to the finish.

Softball

- In our inaugural season, our girls went 4-2. The girls were pleasantly surprised with their own improvement and this program helps them prepare for high school softball. The softball program is for students in 6th through 8th grade. We play an independent schedule, playing teams mostly from San Antonio area.

High School

62 athletes continue to be recognized and praised in our district as well as across the country.

Football

- Won 10 games
- Qualified for the Bi-District playoffs and won the first round game
- Named "Team of the Year" by Dave Campbell's Texas Football



Cheerleading

- Brought more fans and the excitement to the football game
- Placed second in the Southwestern Classic in Arkansas
- Placed fourth in the Clerc Classic in Minnesota
- Placed 5th in the UCA competition in Dallas

Volleyball

- Ranked #2 in the nation among Deaf Schools
- Broke the school-record for the most wins in one season (26 wins)
- Qualified for Bi-District playoffs, and won first round game. It's TSD's first ever win in state play-offs



Girls Basketball

- Posted a winning, 19-win season
- Won Clerc Basketball Classic (national tournament)
- Named as National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Council “Team of the Year”



Boys Basketball

- Posted a winning, 15-win season
- Placed FIRST in the Southwestern Classic (5th time in the last six years)

Wrestling

- Had a successful winning season as usual. It is their fifth straight winning season
- Two wrestlers placed in the top four in the Texas State Wrestling Tournament

Softball

- Ranked #2 in the nation
- Participated in the Hoy Tournament in Maryland and placed 2nd
- Raised different level of competitiveness and able to compete with any team on any given day

Track & Field

- Named “Team of the Year” by USA Deaf Track & Field
- Boys team won first place in the Berg/Seeger Track Classic and won district track (our 5th in last 7 years)
- Girls track team placed second in the Berg/Seeger Track Classic and third in the district meet
- 17 tracksters qualified for state competition
- Our very own Delvin F. won the 400M run in the state track meet
- Placed 4th in state track meet



HIGHLIGHT:

Boys Track Team won first place in the first-ever Berg/Seeger Classic and was named “Team of the Year” by USA Deaf Track and Field.



“Success and happiness are not destinations, they are exciting, never-ending journeys.”
Zig Ziglar

Wisdom And Guidance Came From The Delphi Support Services Team

- Admissions, Records, Assessment, Speech, Audiology, OT, PT, Transition, Counseling and Behavior Support services provided TSD students with opportunities to learn, grow and belong during the 2007-2008 school year.
- TSD admitted 122 new students and 7 returning students.
- TSD’s Audiology department acquired a new Verifit Test Box with financial support from the TSD Foundation.
- The High School Counseling team initiated a “Real World Counseling” seminar series for 9th-12th graders focusing on four topics: Personal Safety, Dating and Healthy Relationships, Substance Prevention, and Taking Care of Yourself.
- A TSD High School Counselor and a High School Speech and Language Pathologist collaborated to pilot a developmental social skills/pragmatics to students with delayed language and social skills.
- College Day had 10 colleges and post secondary programs as well as community agencies providing high school students the opportunity to attend small group presentations and informational booths.
- 43 scholarships were granted to 20 graduating seniors.
- 31 graduating seniors were accepted to four year colleges and community college programs.
- The Career/Guidance Counselor piloted the DecisionMaker program with a ninth grade class with the goal of preparing these students to develop better decision making skills that will assist them in life after graduation.
- The Middle School Counselor initiated a 6th grade “positive action” curriculum addressing substance prevention, peer resistance skills, and personal safety.
- Elementary students participated in a series of special safety awareness programming offered by the Travis County Sheriff’s Office and RunTex. Topics included: Stranger Danger; Being Safe Around Animals; Fingerprinting and Crime Scene Investigations; How to Say “NO”; Helmet Safety; Boat/Water Safety. The year culminated with an all day Ranger Day activity including community agency informational activities as well as fun activities.
- TSD’s Vision Specialist gave an Usher’s Syndrome presentation to parents throughout Texas through a distance education workshop coordinated by the Texas School for Blind and Visually Impaired.
- TSD provided vision support services to 10 students with dual sensory impairments and 7 additional students with possible vision support needs.



- The Elementary Speech and Language Pathologist collaborated with classroom teachers to continue the implementation of the researched based Reading First program.
- TSD hired a Career and Transition Coordinator who, in collaboration with all department administrators and teams, will be responsible for developing and supervising career development, planning and transition services for students at TSD.
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program – TSD began it’s partnership with Dr. Tammy Weiner from Gallaudet University collaborating to initiate the program as part of our continuing efforts to provide a safe and civil School. Students in grades 3-8 completed a survey and a core team of 15 people representing the instructional team, residential staff, counselors, behavior staff, parents, and community participated in a two-day training provided by Dr. Weiner.
- Positive Behavior Support (PBS) – The school-wide team continued to oversee the development of school-wide behavior standards, implementation of lesson plans, and review of behavioral data to determine what “hot spots” of behavioral concern need closer monitoring. A new web-based behavior report database, RAMP, was purchased.
- TSD developed and implemented the Dating Violence Policy and procedures as required by the House Bill 121.

HIGHLIGHT:

In partnership with Gallaudet University TSD implemented the Olweus [pronounced OI-VEY-us] Bullying Prevention Program. This is a comprehensive, school-wide program designed for use in elementary, middle, or junior high schools. Its goals are to reduce and prevent bullying problems among school children and to improve peer relations at school.



*“I consider a goal
as a journey rather
than a destination.
And each year I set
a new goal.”*

Curtis Carlson

Herculean Efforts From The Business And Support Services

Purchasing Department

- Processed 2,600 purchase orders totaling \$2,958,107.59 and also purchased a new 47 passenger bus.

Risk Management Department

- Participated in the State Office of Risk Management’s Risk Management Program Review (RMPR). This review consisted of the completion of standardized reports with over 600 questions, campus tours, document review of policies and procedures and staff interviews. Examples of areas covered were:
 - » Risk Management structure at TSD
 - » Worker’s Compensation & Return to Work Program
 - » Human Resources
 - » Safety & Health Program
 - » Emergency Plan and Business Recovery
 - » Property, Supplies and Consumables
 - » Physical Security & Crime Exposures
- TSD completed the District Audit Report Questionnaire as per Texas Education Code which requires school districts to report the results of their security audits to the Texas School Safety Center. The Risk Management Department continued to implement the Emergency Operations Plan for TSD which included:
 - » Testing of amber light system and fire alarm system
 - » Performance of emergency drills and fire drills
 - » Development, training and testing of emergency communication systems
 - » Participation in the Central Texas School Safety Consortium
 - » Participation in the Capital Area Shelter Hub plan
- All TSD employees received training on:
 - » Safety (hazard awareness, lifting, etc.)
 - » Security (wearing badges, monitoring visitors, equipment security, etc.)
 - » Chemical Safety (material safety data sheets, secondary container, etc.)
 - » Emergency Procedures (communications, fire safety, tornado shelter, lockdown, etc.)
 - » Specific training and updates were given to the Executive Leadership Team, School Leadership Council, Supervisors, Health Center Nurses, Safety Officers and Security Officers





Security Staff

- Continued to provide 24/7 coverage of the facilities and campus events and handled over 1000 key requests. In addition Security staff provided coverage for the many facility events from outside requestors.
- Thirty-five Department Safety Officers were established to support department safety training which included emergency communications, infection control (i.e., MRSA and hand washing), emergency drills, holiday safety, and chemical safety.

Accounting Department

- Improved efficiencies in processes which resulted in a significant reduction in late payment penalty fees assessed. The total of late payment fees for Fiscal Year 2008 was \$990.96 compared to the \$4,255.28 in Fiscal Year 2007. The Payroll Accountant moved from the Accounting Dept. to Human Resources. While a new Trust Fund System was inaugurated in the Cashier's Office.

Maintenance Department

- Renovated two classrooms and offices for the new Career Center in the Ford/CTE Building. New roofs were completed on the Kleberg Building, Pease Building and the Business Office. All seven of the lower cottages also received new roofs as well as new exterior lighting. We finalized an updated HVAC/Climate Control System in the Central plant along with the replacement of new gas lines behind the High School Gym.

Cafeteria

- Revised the school lunch menu to reflect student tastes and enhance their health. Reductions in the fat and cholesterol content of the menu and increasing whole grain breads, fresh fruits and vegetables were also accomplished. These menus now offer more choices and reflect more of today's student tastes. Our menu is designed to do more cooking from scratch rather than utilizing prepared foods.

Transportation Department

- Traveled over 250,000 miles transporting students to and from school, work programs, SND community trips, mainstreaming and field trips.

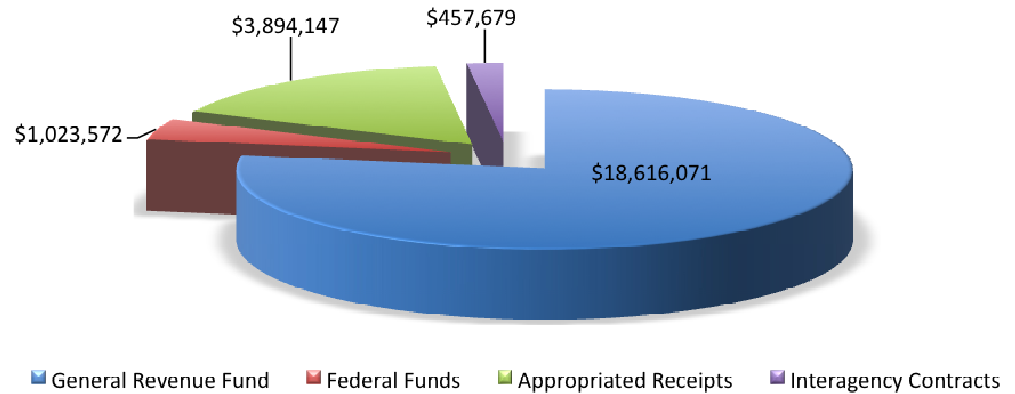
HIGHLIGHT:

TSD shines in the State Office of Risk Management Audit that looked at compliance with over 600 safety items. Staff praised for "having a keen sense of awareness about safety and risk management".



“The fireworks begin today. Each diploma is a lighted match. Each one of you is a fuse.”
Edward Koch

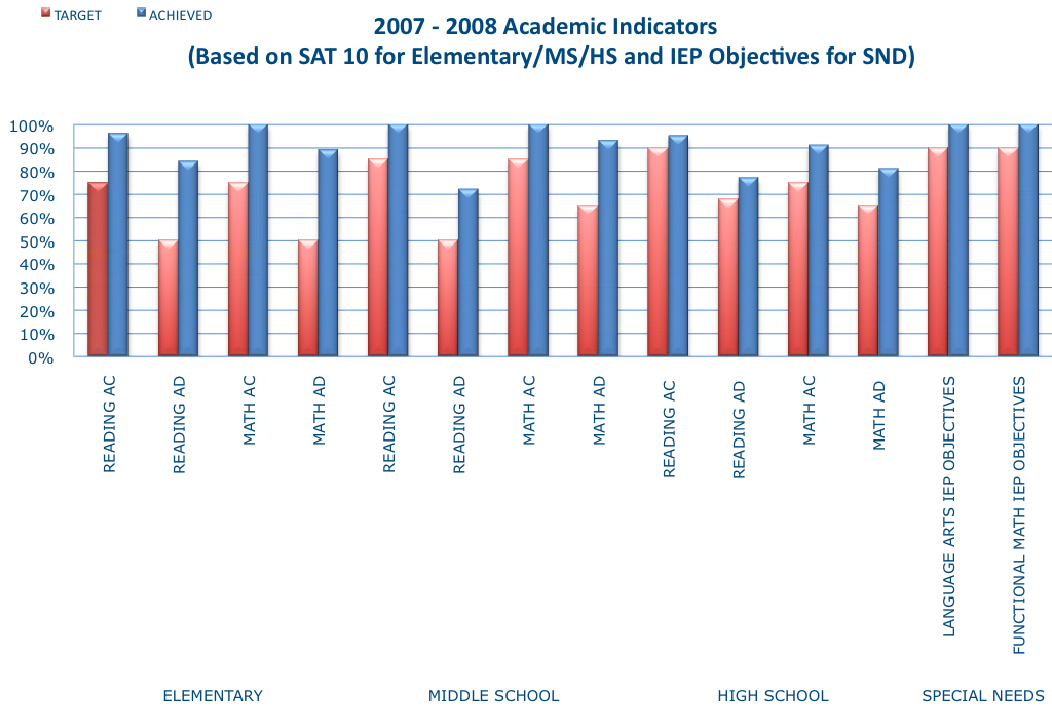
The Pythagorean School of Budget and Performance Measures FY 2008 Revenue



TSD Performance Measures	
Percent of academic courses in which students obtain a passing course grade	97%
Percent of objectives mastered by Special Needs Department students in academic core areas	94%
Percent of eligible students graduating under approved State Board of Education rules for graduation	96%
Percent of graduates accepted in post-secondary education	46%
Percent of career and work courses in which students obtain a passing course grade	99%
Percent of objectives mastered by Special Needs Department students in work core areas	99%
Percent of life skills courses in which students obtain a passing course grade	97%
Percent of objectives mastered by Special Needs Department students in life skills core areas	97%
Percent of students demonstrating progress on their individualized residential plans	84%

Performance measures are reported to the Legislative Budget Board on a quarterly and annual basis. These academic outcome measures are qualified results or impacts of TSD instructional programs.

Accountability Data



HIGHLIGHT:

From Reading First to Bookworms on to Battle of the Books and the Academic Bowl — TSD students keep raising the bar on their level of achievement.



*“Whether you think
you can or whether you
think you can’t,
you’re right.”*
Henry Ford

The Texas assessment program has been completely revamped for the 2007-2008 school year. SDAA II, the assessment that special education students could take at their instructional level, is no longer administered. Now, all students must test at their enrolled grade level with State-determined passing standards. The general assessment, TAKS, continues to be offered. TAKS (Accommodated) replaces TAKS-Inclusive and is now offered for all grades and content areas. TAKS-Modified was introduced for the first time in 2007-2008, but the passing standards for this modified assessment have yet to be determined by the State. TAKS-Alt, the assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, was implemented as an operational assessment in 2007-2008; it was just a field test during 2006-2007. For these reasons, Texas schools are unable to adequately compare all assessment results from 2006-2007 to 2007-2008.

Percentage of TSD Students who Passed (gr. 3-11)			
Reading/ELA		Math	
TAKS**	TAKS-Alt	TAKS**	TAKS-Alt
34%	98%	35%	78%
Statewide results for TAKS and TAKS-Alt are not available at this time. A large percentage of TSD students participated in TAKS-Modified, the assessment that currently does not have established passing standards.			

Student Grade	Reading/ELA				Mathematics			
	Met %	Not Met%	Met %	Not Met %	Met %	Not Met%	Met %	Not Met %
	TAKS**	TAKS**	TAKS-Alt	TAKS-Alt	TAKS**	TAKS**	TAKS-Alt	TAKS-Alt
3rd	83%	17%	N/A	N/A	83%	17%	N/A	N/A
4th	75%	25%	100%	0%	71%	29%	100%	0%
5th	43%	57%	80%	20%	38%	62%	100%	0%
6th	67%	33%	100%	0%	67%	33%	75%	25%
7th	36%	64%	100%	0%	78%	22%	50%	50%
8th	60%	40%	100%	0%	40%	60%	40%	60%
9th	13%	87%	100%	0%	20%	80%	83%	17%
10 th	12%	88%	100%	0%	9%	91%	83%	17%
11th	19%	81%	100%	0%	12%	88%	100%	0%

N/A = no students participated at that grade level
Includes the primary administration for Exit Level

Includes all three retesting opportunities for grades 3, 5, and 8

_____ ** TAKS, including TAKS (Accommodated)





HIGHLIGHT:

This year's downtown Scarbrough Window Display, *Decked for the Holidays*, designed by Texas School for the Deaf students won the 25th Annual Barbara Jordan Media Award in the "Special Contributions" Category. The exhibit was applauded for its use of media to publicize activities, events and products from an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the better understanding of persons with disabilities.

Educational Outreach Center on Deafness Provides Food of the Gods

The TSD Educational Resource Center on Deafness (ERCOD) works collaboratively with families, school districts, and agencies to meet the unique learning, communication and language needs of children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing including those who may have additional disabilities and who are being educated in their local communities.

Growing Numbers

- Comparing our total outreach numbers (172,025) in 07-08 to our previous outreach numbers is 06-07 (124,231); our service numbers are up 38%!
- ERCOD and TSD Staff answered 2214 requests for assistance or referrals and web hits and distributed information added up to 147,908.
- 2608 participants were served in a variety of workshops and training sessions.
- 474 visitors graced the TSD campus for tours of programs, facilities and a snapshot of life in our learning and living community.

Family Involvement

- Our Family Involvement Liaison has made great progress on building a statewide parent network including a state chapter of Hands & Voices.
- 192 family members participated in ERCOD's mobile and on-site Family Weekend Retreats.

Curriculum Support

- Our technology outreach expanded to include our new Math Signs Project. Through videos developed for the web, participants can receive instruction in ASL and SEE signs for math vocabulary from the Texas curriculum.
- ERCOD hosted 31 Deaf Education Teachers and Supervisors from across the state at the DIY: Differentiated Instruction for YOU! workshop at TSD.
- Environmentally Summer Programs, with their "GO GREEN" theme, served 211 students from early childhood through high school age.

Special Events

- ERCOD co-hosted the NAD National Leadership Training Conference for deaf adults and welcomed 100 participants and a host of presenters and visitors from across the nation.
- 19 Mainstreamed Students attended the Spring Discovery Retreat.
- 200 tracksters from across the nation were involved with the first annual Berg - Seeger Invitational Athletic Event.



Statewide Collaborations

- ERCOD collaborated with Lamar University, Austin Children’s Museum, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Austin VSP to share the works of nationally known Deaf and Hard of Hearing Artists as well as TSD student artists in an exhibit called Deaf Artists in the Community and Schools.
- ERCOD and TSD staff helped plan and coordinate the biennial Statewide Conference on Deaf Education in Galveston July 22 - 24. 826 attended and 11 TSD staff presented workshops and training.
- Communication Skills Workshop (July 13 – August 8) for mainstream interpreters, parents, and ASL teachers drew its usual crowd that topped out at 534 in attendance!
- ERCOD statewide collaboration continued with participation on the Birth – 3 Leadership Council, Texas National Agenda Collaborative, State Plan on Deaf Education Committee, Statewide Conference Planning Committee, and the DARS Advisory Board.
- Outreach participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program by sharing how the arts at TSD reflect identity, creativity, and the belief systems of the Deaf community. The visitors were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Cyprus, India, Jamaica, Montenegro, Nepal, Serbia, and Sierra Leone.

Development Activities

- Mösdeux Film Crew shoots a series of episodes called “The Deaf Family” – a situation comedy filmed at TSD - with some students cast as actors, and others from video technology classes mentored and coached in production techniques while assisting the crew. TSD culinary students enjoyed the help of the crew chef during the production and assisted in food service to the cast and crew while on location at TSD. ERCOD hosts were later able to invite Mösdeux back in the spring to work with Discovery Retreat students.



“To travel, to experience and learn — that is to live.”

Tenziing Norgay



HIGHLIGHT:

News 8 Austin/Time Warner was named TSD's Partner of the Year at the Austin Partners in Education Salute 2008.

- TSD Arts students receive the Barbara Jordan Media Award from the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities Awards Program for an outstanding contribution to a better understanding of persons with disabilities. TSD students' holiday display in the windows of the historic Scarbrough building in downtown Austin featured giant multimedia posters, holiday inspired art and incredible video compilations that told the story of deaf and hard of hearing students at TSD.
- Diamond Gala at the Hilton Austin, TSD's Culinary Arts students tested their skills for the second annual Diamond event. Coached by the professional staff at the Hilton Austin, students prepared and presented an exquisite four-course, wine-paired banquet along with a silent auction fundraiser to support school needs.
- TSD has enjoyed a long-time partnership with the Austin SERTOMA Club, which has held fundraisers to support school needs and student activities for more than 30 years. This year, ground was just broken on a first-class, golf practice green — a gift to TSD from Austin Sertomans to begin a golf program in 2008.
- Partner of the Year – Time Warner - The Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) proudly recognizes, News 8 Austin/Time Warner Cable, as our 2007-2008 Partner of the Year. As the beneficiary of the second annual Kars & Kids event, TSD was the site of the largest and most successful Kars & Kids fundraiser. Hosted by News 8 Austin/Time Warner, it featured a classic car and hot rod show with more than 100 entrants, a family-friendly carnival with games, rides and activities, and food and refreshments from local-area sponsors and TSD groups.





Thanks to our Greeks Bearing Gifts

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A+ Federal Credit Union
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SweetLeaf Teas
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Texas Association of the Deaf
Texas State University Delta Zeta
Sorority and Alumnae Chapter
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Time Warner Cable
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TSD Booster Club
TSD Foundation
Twomey Auto Works
United States National Guard
United Way Capital Area
The University of Texas
Intercollegiate Athletics
USA Triathlon
Zachary Scott Theatre
Zax Pints & Plates



Texas School for the Deaf

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