

July 2010

▶ PARENT GUIDELINES,
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, CALENDAR



▶ REQUIRED PARENT/STUDENT
ORIENTATION, SCHOOL SUPPLY
LISTS, IMPORTANT TERMS



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ORGANIZATION, **NEW SCHOOL**
HOURS



Advantage Academy

ON BEHALF OF THE ADVANTAGE ACADEMY COMMUNITY, WE WELCOME YOU AND YOUR CHILD(REN) TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR.

Our campuses have been designed as personal, rigorous and supportive environments that use the Switch On Your Brain© Program framework to provide your children with an outstanding education. Although we still have several weeks of summer left before school starts, we are eager to begin communicating and sharing information with you.

Required Parent/Student Orientation

Parent/Student Orientation is *REQUIRED* as outlined in the Parent Guidelines. Parent/Student Orientation helps parents create realistic expectations and offers a great deal of information to assist both parents and students in making the best of their experience. Each Parent Orientation covers academic requirements, parent & student expectations, traffic management plan, student life, and many other helpful topics.

Please choose one of the following dates:

Monday, August 16	Kindergarten-5 th Grades	6:30 pm
	6 th -12 th Grades	7:30 pm
-OR-		
Tuesday, August 24	Kindergarten-5 th Grades	6:30 pm
	6 th -12 th Grades	7:30 pm

Meet the teachers and other parents at Meet the Teacher night following the Parent/ Student Orientation. Familiarize your student with the classroom; learn about classroom expectations and goals; and meet other parents.



New Parental Requirements

Parental involvement in children's education allows kids to perform better in school, and navigate more easily some of the challenges of growing up. Advantage Academy is committed to providing opportunities for parents to get involved in the lives of their children.

As part of the condition of continued enrollment, parents must commit to partnering with the school to:

Required Parental Activities

1. Attend the annual Parent/Student Orientation;
2. Attend a Parent-Teacher Conference, once per semester.
3. Complete a parent survey
4. One other activity (volunteer, observe in a classroom, assist with a class party, etc.).
5. Participate in fundraising endeavors.



Switch on Your Brain™ Classroom

Over 150 years ago, Brain researchers predicted that if we don't teach our children to think we would end up with a pandemic problem in education. Today we are reaping the fruit of that statement.

Recognizing that we have "hit the wall with the current approach in education, 'thinking' and how the brain does this thinking, is the obvious outcropping to move education forward and is the heart of the "Switch On Your Brain™" Classroom. This approach applies the revolutionary discovery that the brain can change itself through thinking, and, in doing so, astonishing transformations in the classroom and in life happen. Scientists (including Dr. Leaf's research) have shown that learning problems can be cured; intelligence raised; memories sharpened and thoughts rewired.

Additionally, neuroscience shows us that each person thinks in his or her own unique way . . . often termed the "hard questions of science" because this means we cannot categorize and label anyone as we are each our own category. The "Switch on Your Brain™ Classroom" recognizes and develops the unique gift (how we each uniquely think) in each student using the "Geodesic Information Processing Theory". This enables students to move into being the uniquely gifted individuals they are, each with their own unique way of thinking.

Teaching students to think and in doing so, empowering them to change their own structure and function of their brain for the better will have profound and long lasting effects on their potential.

VOLUNTEERING

We know our school is a better place with parent, guardian, grandparent, and community volunteers! Children who have parents or guardians who volunteer at school receive a positive message that says, "Your education matters to me." They also learn the value of community involvement. We hope you will find your own volunteer niche at Advantage Academy, whether it be through tutoring, in the classroom, office, PTO/committees, and/or field trips. There are many ways to be involved at Advantage Academy. Please contact our Parent Involvement Facilitator or talk to a parent volunteer to learn how you can become involved. Sign-ups are *ongoing* and are also held at Parent/Student Orientation and at the first general PTO meeting for the year or email infoadmin@eaisd.org.

Get a heads up and complete your Annual Volunteer Application today at advantageisd.com! You will find the link on the Parent/Student Resource page under forms. Please call or email if you have any questions about volunteering. No amount of volunteerism is too small.



PTO: Parent Teacher Organization



This is a group of parents, teachers and staff who become members of the organization and who volunteer to organize events, activities, extracurricular, and cultural activities to enrich the school experience for our children.

Membership per adult is \$5 each year. The class with the highest amount of adult members in the PTO gets a prize! Any adult can join; parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and guardians are welcome. If you don't have time to volunteer, we understand, but ask that you become a PTO member and attend our meetings to support those who are volunteering and to learn about what is happening at your school. Uniform passes are given out at each meeting.

SCHOOL HOURS

Kinder-5th Grades
8 am-3:10 pm

6th-12th Grades
8 am-3:35 pm

Early Release
K-5th Grades 12:30 pm
6th - 12th Grades 1:00 pm

Important Terms

TAKS™ - *Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills* -The TAKS test is designed to measure the extent to which a student has learned and is able to apply the defined knowledge and skills at each tested grade level. Every TAKS test is directly aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

TEKS - *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills* - The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills comprise the state-mandated curriculum that establish what every student, from elementary school through high school, should know and be able to do.

HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL - This is a team of parents, teachers, and staff who meet regularly to discuss and plan for positive parental involvement at our school.

METACOG - The Metacog© is the tool of the SWOYB process. It is a graphic way of writing that is brain-compatible and as such, enhances brain function and increases thinking and intelligence. This brain-friendly way of writing looks like the branching of a tree with leaves and is patterned as closely as possible after the structure of the nerve cell.

Please review the enclosed documents and contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have. We look forward to a wonderful and exciting school year.

FYP (Flexible Year Criteria)

Students who meet the standards for promotion to the next grade; pass all state and/or local assessments; and meet attendance criteria will end the school year on **May 20th**. Those who **do not** meet the criteria above will remain in school through **June 3rd**. Please see the FYP insert for more information.



618 WEST WHEATLAND ROAD
DUNCANVILLE, TEXAS 75116
214.276.5800
INFOADMIN@EAISD.ORG
WWW.ADVANTAGEISD.COM

School Lunch

SCHOOL MESSENGER

Our school uses the SchoolMessenger Notification System to provide timely communication to parents and staff members on matters such as attendance, low lunch balance, general interest activities and campus and district emergencies. The SchoolMessenger notification system is similar to a “reverse 911” system.

In order to enhance our ability to accurately deliver that information we kindly request that you create your own contact preference profile using SchoolMessenger’s Contact Manager web site. The Contact Manager feature allows you to control the ways in which you prefer to be contacted. It also works like a mailbox, giving you a place to review messages you may have missed.

Information & instructions will follow at a later date.

ONLINE CALENDAR



The District Calendar provides parents and staff a central location to organize, view and set automatic notifications of all district and campus events. The power of our online calendar lies in its capability to allow users to select multiple calendars and view them at the same time in one view. This feature can be used for example, by a parent who has children at both an elementary school and a high school. They select both the elementary and high school calendars to combine them into one view. Now parents can view all relevant activities and events and easily spot any conflicts. Calendars and events can be printed using a variety of filters and can be exported to a PDA. Users can also configure event reminders and new event notifications that are automatically sent to them via email.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US

Advantage Academy takes Home to School Communications seriously. That’s why there are plenty of ways to keep current with what’s happening at Advantage Academy. Newsletters, SchoolMessenger, Notes from the Teacher and many others all work together to keep you informed. Check our website often for helpful information and resources. News Alerts, Sports, Fieldtrips, and so much more can be found anywhere you have internet access whether it’s at work, home or on your phone. So, bookmark advantageisd.com today and stay connected with us!



- Search for events using keywords.
- View cancelled event notifications.
- Print calendars and events in a variety of formats.
- Export specific event(s) to a PDA and/or Outlook.
- Set automated email reminders on individual or groups of events.
- Subscribe to selected calendars for automated email notifications of new events or changes.



Advantage Academy offers nutritious meals in our café where all students can enjoy a healthy breakfast and lunch.

We participate in the National School Lunch Program which provides free or reduced-priced breakfast and lunch for those students who qualify. You can apply online on our website **beginning August 1st**. We encourage everyone who may qualify to apply.

See the School Lunch Talk brochure included in your packet.

Please note, all NEW students (even those with returning siblings) must bring a lunch from home or money to purchase meals until an application is submitted and processed.



New Backpack Requirements

Effective August 2010, if Advantage Academy students wish to use a backpack, they are required to use the official nylon drawstring backpack available in the school office for \$10. Backpack purchases support the athletic department. GO EAGLES!

MyNutriKids.com
Secure Deposits. Interactive Menus. Nutrition Information.

With current national attention being focused on children’s health and wellness issues, Advantage Academy’s Child Nutrition Department is excited to provide parents a convenient, easy and secure online prepayment service to deposit money into your child’s school meal account at any time. This service also provides parents the ability to view your child’s account balance through a web site called MyNutrikids.com. By having money in each child’s account prior to entering the cafeteria, we find the lunch lines move along much faster so your child has more time to eat and be with friends.

See the School Lunch Talk brochure for more information.

Advantage Academy *Athletics*

ADVANTAGE ACADEMY ATHLETES ARE CHARACTER IN ACTION

Our athletic programs are members in good standing with the University Interscholastic League (UIL)

Advantage Academy is pleased to announce that all our campuses now offer an athletic program. Each of our four sites features their own respective athletic program representing the school district in various arenas. We have a strong conviction that academics is our first priority. Our goal is to train up great men and women that will be productive on and off the field. We hold our athletes to high academic standards while offering help in every area of study.



SUPER STATS

Many of our student-athletes have graduated and gone on to play their perspective sport well beyond high school. Last year, one of our alumni Lauren Smith received a softball scholarship from Paris Jr. College. She has received high honors on the field making All Conference Player but has also been recognized academically by making the Dean's List. We have had other athletes go on and be academically successful in many areas ranging from Nursing School to Nuclear Engineering.



Our school not only participates on the athletic field, but we also offer competition in UIL Academic and One Act Plays. High School practices begin August 10, 2010 with Jr. High competitions beginning after school commences.

ATHLETIC FEES

Jr. High Boys & Girls

- 1 Sport = \$50.00
- 2 Sports = \$75.00

Varsity Boys & Girls

- 1 Sport = \$100.00
- 2 Sports = \$150.00

PHYSICALS

All students must have a physical to participate in Athletic activities including cheerleading. Students must have his/her physical prior to August 10, 2010. Any participation in practices or games is not allowed until after the physical form is submitted to the school. UIL physical form can be found at www.uil.utexas.edu.

