

Q: Competition may be good, but the community is too small to start a “Hatfield and McCoy” -type rivalry at present time. How does NCISD plan to keep both schools equal with funding and facilities?

A: We believe that competition between schools, whether within the same district or between schools in two districts is a positive experience when handled appropriately by the staff, parents, and students. NCISD has had a very positive and friendly rivalry between our two middle schools for a number of years. It is important to note that when both high schools house all four grades in the 2011-2012 school year, both are projected to be the same size or larger than NCHS was in 2000.

NCISD prides itself on funding all of its campuses and programs equitably. We currently have 8 elementary campuses, a 6th grade campus, 2 middle school campuses, a high school, a credit recovery center, and a disciplinary alternative learning center that are all unique in their student populations and educational offerings, yet through cooperative budgeting and prudent financial management, all are very successful and all are meeting the needs of their students.

Q: Will Applied Skills be offered at NCHS and PHS?

A: Each year data is reviewed regarding the students in the Applied Skills program to determine addition or deletion of classes required to adequately serve this student population. In the spring of 2010, parents will be notified if changes will be made to the current program.

Q: Will PHS have an ROTC program?

A: ROTC participation has been an important issue for NCISD throughout our planning for the transition to two high schools. There are some issues over which we have no control: ROTC for the same branch of the armed services cannot be offered on two campuses in the same district. That is a government rule, not NCISD’s. NCHS currently offers Army ROTC. We have applied to the Air Force for an ROTC program to be offered at PHS, but that has yet to be approved.

Q: Will Academic Decathlon be offered at both schools?

A: Once a sponsor for that activity is secured, team preparation will begin.

Q: Will PHS offer welding and auto tech?

A: Welding and auto tech will be *offered* to PHS students, but classes will be located on the NCHS campus. Once students complete course selection, parents will be contacted about whether students will go to NCHS for that class or would need to request a transfer to that campus.

Q: If the same programs are not being offered at the schools, how can my child continue with the same program if PHS doesn’t offer it?

A: When possible, NCISD will attempt to provide transportation so that the student may participate in the desired program at one school and still remain a student on their home campus. If that option is not possible, then the student may request a transfer to the campus upon which the program is offered.

Q: Will students who have to be transported to NCHS/PHS because of class offerings lose class time?

A: Students who have classes on both campuses may lose class time. However, we are working on flexible scheduling to help solve this problem. We prefer to move teachers to different campuses instead of students during the school day.

Q: Will we know by March 31, 2010 (the last day to apply for a transfer) whether transportation would be provided for certain programs offered at NCHS but not at PHS, and vice versa?

A: Once course requests are completed and tabulated, both schools will formulate a rough master schedule that should provide numbers indicating demand for courses. The campuses will then begin to formulate a plan to service those student requests. The District cannot say with certainty that those plans will be completed by March 31, however, every effort to do so will be made.

Q: How long is a student locked into a course plan after signing up?

A: We want them to be in for one semester at the minimum.

Q: If your child will be a junior next year at PHS, will they be able to take aerospace engineering?

A: Yes. Your student's current individualized education plan can be modified to channel into the recommended courses.

Q: What is involved in the Engineering Program?

A: The Engineering courses will have a strong base in Mathematics and Science with the Project Lead the Way curriculum as a focus for the studies. Here is a brief description from the web site. For more in-depth review, visit www.pltw.org. All PLTW high school courses have several underlying content areas in common. As students progress through the sequence they will become proficient in: working as a contributing member of a team; leading a team; using appropriate written and/or visual mediums to communicate with a wide variety of audiences; public speaking; listening to the needs and ideas of others; understanding the potential impact their ideas and products may have on society; thinking; problem solving; managing time, resources and projects; researching; going beyond the classroom for answers; data collection and analysis; preparing for two- and four-year college programs.

PLTW's curriculum makes math and science relevant for students. By engaging in hands-on, real-world projects, students understand how the skills they are learning in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. This approach is called activities-based learning, project-based learning, and problem-based learning or APPB-learning. Research shows that schools practicing APPB-learning experience an increase in student motivation, an increase in cooperative learning skills and higher-order thinking, and an improvement in student achievement.

Activities are a method of instruction that involves directed teaching of a particular process or procedure. Activities engage students in learning skills that are later applied in more complex situations. Activities lead students to higher levels of learning.

Project-based learning is a comprehensive approach to instruction that presents a project or relevant activity that enables students to synthesize knowledge and to individually resolve problems in a curricular context.

Problem-based learning is both a curriculum organizer and an instructional strategy that presents a problem, which is relevant and related to the context where students are the stakeholders. Students synthesize and construct knowledge to help them actively grapple with the complexities of the problem and develop strategies to direct their own learning. When students experience a problem in context, they are more likely to make connections and thus see the value in what they are learning.

Q: The NCISD timeline states that it will begin hiring coaches, band directors, etc. for PHS in May 2010. Will these employees have as much experience, training, and organizational skills so that the students currently participating in these activities are assured the same success at PHS?

A: As always, every effort will be made to hire the best professionals for the job.

Q: How will you staff PHS with teachers for AP/Dual Credit Courses who are equitable to those who are NCHS?

A: Staff may be shared between the two campuses until there is an opportunity to hire all the dual credit teachers.

Q: My family lives in the Valley Ranch subdivision. Which school will my son/daughter attend?

A: NCHS.

Q: My family lives in the Oakhurst subdivision. Which school will my son/daughter attend?

A: PHS.

Q: Why can't the parents decide where their child should go to school?

A: Without a structure that zones students to particular campuses, it is extremely difficult to budget, staff, and program a campus with any sort of accuracy.

Q: If I have a senior enrolled at NCHS in 2010-2011, can my 9th/10th/11th grader attend NCHS even though we are zoned to attend PHS?

A: Yes. Under the *proposed* Sibling Rule, any sibling of a senior attending NCHS in 2010-2011 may request a transfer to NCHS. That sibling could finish out his/her schooling at NCHS.

Q: If you employed with NCISD, what do you need to do to enroll your student at PHS when they are zoned to NCHS, or vice versa?

A: Current Board Policy allows employees of the district to select the campus they wish their child to attend. A request for transfer to a school out of the student's assigned attendance zone will still need to be completed.

Q: What is the transfer process? How do you go about it?

A: Transfer forms may be picked up at your student's current campus. Completed forms should be returned to the home campus. The form will then be forwarded to the campus being requested for review and signature. The request is then forwarded to the Office of the Superintendent for approval, and the parent is notified of approval or denial.

Q: Would transportation be provided for a student who opts to transfer to either school?

A: No, NCISD does not provide transportation to transfer students.

Q: What hours will the buses run for PHS?

A: They will most likely run the same schedule as buses for NCHS. Routes have already been worked out and a new traffic light will be installed at FM 1314 and Riverwalk Drive in July, the intersection directly in front of the school.

Q: Will there be a varsity football team as well as a dance team next year at PHS?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the varsity programs at PHS have seniors, or will they only have 9-11th grade students?

A: The 2010-2011 school year will only include 9-11th grade students at PHS, therefore those are the only students who will be involved in varsity programs at PHS. The 2011-2012 school year will have the first senior class at PHS.

Q: Why won't PHS have its own football stadium?

A: Don Ford Stadium doesn't belong solely to New Caney High School. The two high schools will share the stadium, just as many other school districts do when they have multiple high schools.

Q: But Don Ford Stadium currently has New Caney Eagles logos and colors. What's being done to integrate Porter High School Spartans colors and logos?

A: NCISD is currently considering several options to update the stadium, from new paint to a new scoreboard.

Q: I have heard of some student athletes being recruited to stay with NCHS rather than go to Porter as geographically zoned. What are administrators doing to alleviate the pressures on students?

A: NCISD is working very hard to keep students focused on the current school year. There is no PHS yet, so all of the students at the high school are still NCHS Eagles. However, NCISD is not naïve, and we realize recruiting tactics and pressures may exist. We will continue to monitor and investigate all reports of recruiting, as well as varsity placements for retention.

Q: The Athletic Booster Club has raised significant funds for NCHS sports. Is any of this available to Porter athletic programs/athletes?

A: In preparation for PHS, the NABC has re-written its by-laws to accommodate and support PHS athletics. For each school, the Booster Club will have a vice president who represents the interests of both PHS and NCHS. A plan will be implemented so that both high schools will have quality representation through the NABC.

Q: What monies are being allocated to enable PHS and NCHS to put forth properly suited, supplied and protected athletes?

A: All sports programs for both NCHS and PHS will be provided with the resources necessary for success. Varsity teams will be provided with name brand manufactured uniforms, and all teams will be issued high quality software and equipment.

Q: If both NCHS and PHS are competing at the same 4A level against each other, how can the business community be expected to support both?

A: It is common in communities with multiple high schools to show support for all the high schools. For instance, in the community of Kingwood, it is very common to see support for both Kingwood High School and Kingwood Park High School.

Q: When can we buy PHS Spartan clothing, and where?

A: Check back on the PHS section of the website April 2 for details.

Q: What will the NCHS Annex Building be used for in the 2010-2011 school year?

A: A facilities usage study is being planned to determine how to best utilize the space.

Q: What will happen with the combined 6th Grade Campus?

A: In the immediate future, we expect the 6th grade campus to remain as is. It was a recommendation of the facility committee to avoid having a 3rd middle school that would have students sent to both high schools. This was accomplished by pulling 6th graders off both middle schools and having a one grade campus.