



Nazareth Independent School District

PO Box 189 —101 S 1st Street

Nazareth, TX 79063

Phone (806) 945-2231 ~ FAX (806) 945-2431

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Greetings to our parents and families:

As some of you may already know, the Texas legislature enacted House Bill 4545 last year. To put it simply, Nazareth School is required to give 30 hours of accelerated instruction to any student who does not pass a STAAR test, per subject (passing is Approaches, Meets, or Masters). If a student is not present for testing, the school is still obligated to provide the 30 hours. Failing two STAAR tests would result in 60 hours of accelerated instruction and so forth.

HB4545 was passed in June of 2021, giving us minimal time to process and plan how best to proceed. This year we have been using our tutorial period in secondary and small group pull-outs in elementary to fulfill this requirement. The current method does not work for a number of reasons. Most significantly, holding accelerated instruction from a prior year while learning new content creates a split-focus for our students and staff.

Moving forward, we plan to facilitate our accelerated instruction during summer school. This will help level knowledge gaps and provide a smooth start for the following year. Summer school will provide a timely, efficient, and focused learning environment to help students grow where they need it. Our teachers will be reaching out in the spring (prior to testing) if a student may be at risk of not passing a STAAR test. Please take that opportunity to support your student during STAAR prep.

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In the past, summer school for elementary and middle school has been voluntary. As we move forward, Nazareth School will be meeting our HB4545 accelerated instruction requirements during summer school. As such, we are giving families time to process this and plan accordingly.

The Summer school window will open on May 31st and will close on June 30th. The exact schedule is to be determined. Any trips or vacations planned after June 30th would have no impact.

As principal of Nazareth School, I believe that your children are our focus and not the STAAR tests. Our students and teachers achieve amazing results, but this is not because we focus on tests or legislative requirements. We focus on your children and teaching them what they need to be successful. Maybe I am splitting hairs but I am certain that STAAR tests produce an immeasurable amount of stress and pressure. The legislature has added one more component schools need to address and a weighty consequence for not passing. Here at school, we plan to focus on supporting our students, helping them grow the best they can, and working our hardest. In the end, we will follow the rules laid out by the legislature and as always, we will stay focused on our students and provide them the best education and support we are able.

Sincerely



Robert O'Connor

Principal

Nazareth School

Superintendent
Dr. Kara Garlitz

Principal
Mr. Robert O'Connor

Secretary
Mrs. Mona Brockman