



# Yorktown Junior High School

P.O. Box 487 Yorktown, Texas 78164 361/564-4200 ext. 3 Fax:361/564-2289

**Sylvia Hernandez**  
Principal

**Susan Franke**  
Secretary

**Deborah Brockman**  
Counselor

October 26, 2011

Dear Parents,

As you know, we are ending the 10<sup>th</sup> week of school. Enclosed you will find your child's progress report. Remember, this is just a checking point. It is important for you to schedule a teacher conference if your child is not doing well in a subject area.

As most of you know, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has replaced the TAKS test with the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test. The STAAR test is more rigorous than the TAKS. According to TEA, tests have changed to increase students' college and career preparedness.

The test length will increase, with the number of items increasing by as much as 15%. In Reading, critical analysis will be emphasized more than literal understanding. In Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, process skills will be assessed in context, not in isolation, allowing for more authentic assessment of these content areas. In Mathematics and Science, the number of open-ended (griddable) items will increase. In writing, students will need to write two essays instead of one.

Students will have their first benchmark test next week beginning Monday. The following is the schedule that will be followed:

October 31st	Monday:	8 <sup>th</sup>	Science
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday:	8 <sup>th</sup>	Social Studies
		7 <sup>th</sup>	Writing
November 2nd	Wednesday:		Math (all grades)
November 3rd	Thursday:		Reading (all grades)
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Friday		2 <sup>nd</sup> day Reading for Dyslexia students

Teachers will hold individual STAAR conferences after the results come in. STAAR tutorials will begin shortly after that. STAAR tutorials will be assigned to students who do not do well on the benchmark test.

The "Breakfast with Dad" held on October 14<sup>th</sup> was very successful. We appreciate the participation.

A- Honor Roll students enjoyed eating lunch at the Texas Outpost on Tuesday, October 18, as a reward for their outstanding work.

The annual Veterans' Day celebration will take place on Friday, November 11, at the football stadium beginning at 9:30.

The National Junior Honor Society will sponsor "Pennies for Patients." We encourage sending your loose change to school in support of this fund raiser for cancer victims. The campaign will begin on October 31<sup>st</sup> and end November 18<sup>th</sup>.

The UIL writing events will take place at the Yorktown Junior High campus on Thursday, December 1. Speaking events and the UIL art contest will be held on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Yorktown Junior High. All other events will take place on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Falls City. Please encourage your children to attend UIL practices.

We will have an early out on November 23rd to begin the Thanksgiving holiday, and school will resume on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas Concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "S" and "H".

Sylvia Hernandez  
Principal