HARLANDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent
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Dear Harlandale Family Member;

Come celebrate with us! On August 14, the entire Harlandale ISD staff gathered to enthusiastically kick off the new school year at Convocation. We were honored with visits by Congressman Pete Gallego, Representative Joe Farias, and State Board of Education member Marisa Perez. Keynote speaker Rafe Esquith, the only teacher to have been awarded the President's National Medal of the Arts, reminded our educators that each child is special and every teacher can impact lives in powerful ways.

This first year of the new state accountability system, schools and school districts could receive a rating of either "met standard" or "required improvement." When the Texas Education Agency released the 2013 state accountability ratings recently, we celebrated the announcement that the Harlandale ISD received the rating of "met standard" based on the four index model. The four indexes are 1) student achievement; 2) student progress; 3) closing the performance gap, and 4) post-secondary readiness.

We are also rejoicing that for the fourth straight year the Harlandale ISD has been named one of the Top 50 Workplaces in San Antonio by the San Antonio Express-News. That rating is based on a response to a survey sent to our district employees. Top Workplaces are considered the most successful because their employees believe in them. Because of the value our employees place on working together as a family to educate children, we work in a win-win environment.

The first school-based health clinic in Bexar County is now open. University Health System partnered with the Harlandale Independent School District to house the clinic inside the round building at Collier Elementary, 834 W. Southcross. This clinic is designed especially to meet the health needs of our students. Our school district will reap the benefits of fewer absences, increasing average daily student attendance. Any HISD student up to age 18 can take advantage of the services offered, which will include immunizations, physical exams, Well Child checkups, sports physicals and minor acute care. To schedule an appointment, call 358-TALK (8255).

You are invited to join our celebration at the 38th Annual Cultural Arts Festival on Saturday, September 21. A Descendants' Ceremony will be held at Mission San Jose at 8:30 a.m., followed by an enthusiastic parade of participants that will travel south on Roosevelt Avenue and end up at the Harlandale Memorial Stadium. The fair, which will feature live music, arts & crafts, games and food, will run until 2:00 p.m. on the stadium grounds. Entry to the festival is free and open to the public.

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If you know of outstanding alumni or community members, now is the time to nominate one to the Harlandale Hall of Fame. Any Harlandale, McCollum or Frank Tejeda Academy student who graduated in or before 1998 is eligible. A nomination form can be found at www.harlandale.net.

We dream of the day when we can hand a high school student their graduation diploma in one hand and a diploma for an Associate's degree in the other. The Harlandale Early College High School, which is set to open in the fall of 2014, will bring us closer to seeing our dream come true. The Harlandale Education Foundation assures our graduates that tuition funds will be available as they pursue their goals for college and career.

Harlandale is a visionary district rich in history and tradition. The future is bright, the future starts here, and we have much to celebrate as we continue our commitment to academic excellence for every student in every classroom.

Rey Madrigal
Interim Superintendent
Harlandale ISD

Please note: My new e-mail address is rey.madrigal@harlandale.net