

Dear parents, guardians, and students:

August 12, 2011

I would like to welcome you to the 2011-12 school year at Graves Middle School. Let me begin with a friendly reminder, school starts **Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 8:15 am and ends at 2:30 pm**. You are invited to bring your child to school on the first day, but please have your child get to school early so he/she can find his/her classes and not arrive late. We are also planning to have a school **orientation** for 7th graders and anyone who is new to Graves on **Wednesday, August 24th from 6:00-7:30 pm** in the field house. Additionally, we will post students' first period class schedule on the front office window by Tuesday, August 30th and students will receive their full schedule on the first day of school in their first period class. Please remember that backpacks are not permitted at Graves Middle School.

As I begin my first year as the principal of Graves Middle School, I am very excited to start the new school year for many reasons. First of all, based on our preliminary results on the CST state test, our students and teachers did a great job last year and we anticipate a big improvement. A couple of things that we are most proud of are the 89% passage rate on the 7th grade writing test and that 77% of our students who took the Algebra CST test were proficient or advanced. Furthermore, I am glad to announce that Mr. Jaime Martinez will proudly serve as the full time assistant principal at Graves this year. I am also happy to share that we are planning to add some new electives this year and we will also continue our work with our instructional consultants so our academic program allows your child to maximize his/her potential and so we reach the district vision of success for every student.

We are also in the process of implementing a new school wide discipline plan that rewards appropriate behavior and uses a strong and consistent progressive discipline approach for those students who make inappropriate choices. Our goal is to do whatever it takes to keep a clean and safe campus where students are academically challenged, loved and cared for, and where everybody works together as a team to ensure that we all achieve great things together.

Finally, I look forward to working closely with the PTSA and ELAC to continue to support our GMS staff and students. As I mentioned previously, I have an open door policy and invite you to share your ideas and opinions with me so that we can maximize your child's educational endeavors. If you have any questions please give me a call at (562) 944-0135.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew C. Fraijo, Ph.D.
Principal
Graves Middle School