

Good morning, it's January 10, 2013, and welcome to Panther News. I'm _____, _____th grade.

We hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. It's now 2013, and we are in our second semester. Time flies, and before we know it, our STAAR exams will be here.

We want to mention again that the "R" in STAAR represents the word, "Readiness", and this is why these exams will be more complex/complicated ... probably, more difficult ... because they will require that we know our subject content very well so we will be ready for the next grade level.

To be ready for the next grade level ... pass our STAAR exams ... will require hard work from us and our teachers. We will need to be very serious, and work together to make sure that we know our subject content.

So, let's think STAAR as we study, and do our work in the classroom. The only way to move to the next grade level is to pass STAAR ... take it seriously!

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Moving on to the next grade level is important, of course, to continue with our education, and graduate our senior year, but let's take another look at why it's important to pass, and be consistent, or pass from year to year.

Mr. Chambers wants us to mention that he had discussions with his 8th grade classes this past Tuesday ... first day back to class after the holidays ... about another very important reason for passing our grade level from year to year. It's called class camaraderie, or staying together as one class through the school years, until we graduate.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Let's put it this way in terms of graduating class ... sixth graders, you are the "Class of 2019". Seventh graders, you are the "Class of 2018". Eighth graders, you are the "Class of 2017". Ninth graders, you are the "Class of 2016". Tenth graders, you are the "Class of 2015". Eleventh graders, you are the "Class of 2014". And twelfth graders, you are the "Class of 2013" ... this year!

Think this way as you study in the classroom, prepare for the STAAR exams, and take these exams. The students around you ... your classmates ... are a part of your graduating class, and it's important that you stay and pass together as the "Class of 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, or 2013".

Good morning, I'm _____, _____th grade.

Graduating with your class ... your classmates, friends, best friends ... is as important as graduating itself. You are a special group for your graduating year. For example, this year's seniors ... the graduating "Class of 2013" ... will share this year together for as long as they live. When they come back to RYSS for a reunion ... a coming together ... 10, 20, 30, 40, or even 50 years later, they will see each other as classmates, friends and best friends, again.

So, look around you. Look at your classmates in the classroom. These people are your friends and best friends who will share a very special graduating year with you ... if you pass. Of course, do well on your STAAR exams so you can pass, and then move to the next grade level ... and just as important ... stay with your graduating class so you can share that special "Class of 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, or 2013" ... your classmates, friends and best friends.

Good morning, I'm _____, _____th grade.

We mentioned in a previous broadcast that Ms. Torres, Mr. Brown and the "Youth Advisory Group" are working on the project, "Homelessness and Poverty in the Latino Community".

When you can, go to a computer, and read about this terrible situation for millions of people ... many of them, children ... and even do a picture search to see how shocking their condition is. We all need to help our "fellow man" get out of this kind of situation.

There is an organization in Houston called "Coalition for the Homeless". They have a meaningful website, and the address is homelesshouston.org

Become an advocate! What is an advocate? It is someone who pleads or speaks for a cause. He or she takes action to make something happen. So, get involved to help get rid of and prevent homelessness.

Good morning, I'm _____, _____th grade.

By now, we should all know what happened in Newtown, Connecticut a few weeks ago. Twenty students, the principal, the psychologist, and four teachers were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School ... one of the worst gun violence acts in a school in the history of the United States.

And we are sure that you have noticed the new fences and gates around our school. Once everything is finished, we will be in an even safer environment, so don't worry, and tell your parents not to worry. The staff and teachers at RYSS are making sure that we are "super safe"!

To make things even safer, make sure that you go straight home after school. Please don't hang out on campus after hours. The courtyard will have a fence and gate soon, which means that after school and if your parents are not here to pick you up, you will have to stay in this area until you are picked up. And please don't come to school too early, because you will not be allowed in the buildings.

Good morning, I'm _____, _____th grade.

RYSS is a safe school, but we need to make sure that we are even more careful. Make sure that when all of the fences and gates are up that you follow the rules. And one more time, please try not to stay at school too long after classes are over, and try not to come too early.

We've mentioned many times on PANTHER NEWS that you should wear your student IDs. This is even more important now, and make sure that the people around you on campus are wearing their IDs. During the school day, if you notice someone on campus that does not have an ID, and it looks like maybe he or she shouldn't be at our school, go immediately to a teacher or a principal and report him or her.

When the shooting happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Mr. Chambers was so shocked ... he has a 7-year-old granddaughter ... that he had his 7th grade classes write letters of condolence, or sympathy to the Mayor of Newtown. He posted the letters as web pages on the Internet so the Mayor and anyone else could read what the students had to say.

Mr. Chambers wants us to announce for the 7th grade class that the Mayor and others did read their letters, and they sent him e-mail. The Mayor's message follows ... "This is truly beautiful. We will be posting it on our website and Facebook page for all to see."

Another person's message follows ... "I read about your tribute/condolence to the people in Newtown, Connecticut in my local newspaper. You all wrote very beautiful and touching letters. I am sure many, many people are comforted knowing how much you care."

And another person's message follows ... "Your website is a beautiful dedication to the Sandy Hook Elementary School. I have read each letter that was written from your class, and I have shared this website with others including my two sons, ages 9 and 13. We appreciate your heartfelt messages, and hope we can heal together as a country. Your letters have helped, just knowing you care all the way in Texas from Raul Yzaguirre School!"

Mr. Chambers wants us to share this because he is so proud of the 7th grade class. Their letters made a difference in the lives of a lot of people in and around Newtown, Connecticut that are still grieving the loss of the students and teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School. He hopes that the 7th grade students will always remember this special classroom assignment that touched the hearts of others.

“Communities in Schools” is very active on our campus.
To give you an idea of what will be happening:

Today: Reading Tutoring/Vocabulary Review. College and Workforce Readiness – “Military Speaker”.
Homework Completion/Kids College Curriculum. Youth Development Enrichment – Soccer, Xbox, Wii, Board Games.

Friday: Career Awareness – “Career Fairs”. Homework Completion. Physical Activity – Soccer Scrimmage. Fine Arts/Technology – Xbox, Wii.

Some quick announcements:

Mr. Brown wants us to announce that the Service Learning Club will be meeting in his room every Wednesday from 4:15 to 4:45 to discuss and develop different service projects that will support the community.

Mr. Bonilla wants us to announce “The Worldwide GLOBE at Night 2013 Campaign”. What would it be like without stars at night? What is it we lose? Starry night skies have given us poetry, art, music and the wonder to explore. “GLOBE at Night” is a worldwide, hands-on science and education program to encourage citizen-scientists worldwide to record the brightness of their night sky. See Mr. Bonilla for more details.

Teachers please submit your students' writing to Mr. Chambers so we can then contact those students for our broadcasts. We would like for them to have an opportunity to "go live" ... read their compositions ... on PANTHER NEWS ... a great experience!

Again, our e-mail address so you can send your comments and submissions to PANTHER NEWS for broadcast consideration:

panthernewsreport@panthernewsreport.com

Please make sure that you are following the uniform code in your student handbook. Wear your ID badge at all times while on campus. Respect each other as you pass by in the hallways. Stay to your right, and NO BULLYING, please!

Please don't enter the school buildings and walk around the hallways before 7:55am, and don't walk in with open drinks like coffee, hot chocolate and sodas. It has also been called to our attention that some students have been seen walking the hallways late afternoons and early evenings after school. Please stay out of the buildings unless you have approval, or you are with a teacher staying late.

If you see trash in the hallways of our buildings and anywhere on our campus, pick it up, and throw it in a garbage can.

Lunch Menu

Today: Taco Crispy or Chicken Enchilada, Refried Beans, Golden Corn, Rice Krispie Bar, Sliced Peaches.

Friday: Beef Patty and Cheese on Bun, Lettuce/Spinach Salad with Dressing, Baked Potato Wedges, Apple Cobbler.

That's all for now. We'll see you next Monday.
Have a great day, and study hard! Your future depends
on it!