



Hallsville ISD Department of Special Education

Director:
Amy Collins

Update for May School Board meeting:

- 1.) What a wonderful time of the year! Just a few more days, but who is counting? We had another successful field day this year. Lots of smiles and student involvement. We appreciate the support!
- 2.) We had great success from the wax museum at North Elementary. Several of our more impaired, nonverbal students were able to participate by using their communication system! In all of our structured learning classrooms we have put a heavy focus on ensuring that *every* student has an outlet for communication. This may be in the form of an IPAD with TDSnap or a picture exchange system. This was an excellent way for our more involved students to get to participate in an activity with nondisabled peers. Kudos to Tara Rangel, speech therapist at North, for supporting these student and teachers.
- 3.) Another excellent opportunity for one of our students occurred recently at the High School. The student in this picture is “total blind.” He uses braille, a cane, and technology to maneuver through his day. He is very bright, plays in the band, and has a great future ahead if he will utilize all of the resources available. Our teacher of the visually impaired (Sarah Land) set up an opportunity for this student to be certified to have a seeing eye dog. The trainer came from Michigan and spoke to all of our visually impaired students at the HS. The student pictured here is an excellent candidate and has been accepted into the program. He and his father will go to Michigan this summer to start the training process. It is long and involved; however, this student has all of the skills to be successful with the support!



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- 4.) Jennifer Nelson and I began meeting with Elementary campus administrators, Dyslexia teachers, campus counselors, and the new Reading Coordinator to review the most recent Kindergarten Dyslexia screener. East and North have shown great improvement in their scores, only flagging 8-10 students respectively. West Kindergarten flagged 46 students, which is significantly higher than the other 2 Elementary campuses. The team mentioned above crafted a plan moving forward to ensure these students participate in an intervention and teachers know expectations from the beginning.

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