

Eighth Grade Presentation

April 20, 2009

The following is information that was provided today to eighth grade students in Mrs. Pritchett's science class.

The end of the year is approaching and the following information is important to eighth graders to ensure they are informed, eligible and prepared to participate in events and activities. Also provided is a description of awards presented at graduation so that as members of the class are later recognized, all students will know more about the significance of the honors bestowed.

Eighth Grade Field Trip

Eligible students will participate in a field trip to Wild Waves on June 11th. Students will report to school that day for school but can have swimming suits on underneath their school clothes. They will be called to the commons for further information and expectations at approximately 9AM. Students will then board the busses and spend the day at Wild Waves. Lunch will be provided as part of the activity. To be eligible for this event, students must be on Honor Level I or II and have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher at the mid-term progress report which is Wednesday, May 13th. Students below 2.0 will remain at school that day to work on assignments.

Graduation and Graduation Party Eligibility

To be eligible for graduation, students must be on either Honor Level I or II and must meet Dieringer School District Standards of Excellence requirements. Seventeen "Standards" points must be earned to be eligible. Quarter grade points, a math project, a writing project and an exit exam are used to achieve points. Students will be notified by June 11th if they will not be eligible for graduation. If not eligible for graduation, students will not be permitted to participate in the graduation party. Students not graduating will be promoted to ninth grade unless otherwise informed by the principal. Students were given a personal standards point sheet with the points they have earned thus far at an informational meeting in Mrs. Pritchett's classroom. Parents can also be informed of their child's status by contacting Mrs. Kelly.

Graduation Exercises

Graduation returns to the North Tapps Middle School gym this year on June 18, 2009. All middle school students will be dismissed at 10:54AM that day so staff can prepare for the ceremony. Beginning at 5:30PM graduating students and their parents can elect to have family portraits taken in the commons or library prior to graduation. Portraits can also be taken following graduation during the reception. Pictures will be available online for ordering during the month of June. Rules for graduation include: "Dress is Sunday best, no tuxes, formal attire or limousines".

Beginning at 6:45PM, students should be taking their places in the back hallway to prepare to enter the gym. Mr. Keaton prepares students for the event in the days leading up to graduation, so don't be concerned that your student won't know what to do. The program lasts for approximately 90 minutes and includes student speeches, presentation of diplomas by the Board of Directors, special awards and normally a student performance. Seating is first come, first served and there is no limit per family. Following the ceremony, guests move to the commons for a reception and refreshments.

Graduation Party

Immediately following the reception at 9:00PM, students are permitted to change into comfortable clothes in the locker room. Students then come back to the commons for a dance or they can have informal pictures taken with their friends in the library. During the dance it is likely that a photographer will also be taking pictures. Light refreshments will be available at the dance. Other activities for the party are currently being planned by the eighth grade parent committee. The evening will end with parent pick up at midnight.

Graduation Awards

Standards of Excellence Commendations

Students earning 25 Standards of Excellence points and above are recognized at graduation. In addition to notation in the graduation program, these students also are called upon to stand and be recognized by those in attendance.

Service Above Self Award

Each month the Rotary Club recognizes eighth grade students that have acted in a selfless manner by doing good deeds in the school, home or

community. These students receive recognition during the school year by attending a Rotary Club meeting in Summer as well as being recognized by friends and family at graduation.

Ruggles G. Larson Gold Cup Award

Students earning 3,500 or more Bulldog points during their NTMS careers are recognized with a gold cup at graduation. This cup is given in Honor of Mr. Larson, former Dieringer Middle School principal who created the point system as a way to get students active and involved.

Paul Methner Award

Paul Methner was a quiet but helpful young man that suffered severe seizures while at school. Despite efforts to save Paul he later died and his class requested that an award be presented to the boy and girl that most closely represented Paul's characteristics of friendliness, helpfulness and fun.

Eric Jilbert Award

Eric Jilbert was a very smart and funny young man with a bright future until he was stricken with cancer and later died during his eighth grade year. Despite the chemotherapy that sickened and weakened Eric he never complained and always participated in any activity and sport available. Each year an award is presented to the boy and girl that best represent Eric's characteristics of intelligence, humor and courage.

Thomas E. Spencer Award

Mr. Spencer, Mrs. McIlrath's father, was a voracious reader, and he loved books of all types. As a Dieringer graduate, long-time resident and community member, Mr. Spencer was a strong supporter of schools and Dieringer kids. He passed away in 1998, and his family decided to honor his name with a scholarship that each year is presented to the top language arts boy and girl in the eighth grade.

Carl D. Hill Music Award

Mr. Hill, who is a resident of the Dieringer School District was once our district's superintendent and is credited with founding the music program for our district. Mr. Hill was a strong supporter of music and enjoyed attending concerts of Dieringer students. When he retired the music award was created and is given each year to the band student that demonstrates the ideals of commitment and leadership for the Dieringer Middle School Band.

Honor Society Award

Students that have earned all “A’s” during their North Tapps Middle School careers are recognized at graduation for this outstanding achievement.

Atkinson Scholarship Award

Orlo Atkinson was a pioneer in the Dieringer School District and one of the earliest school board members. He was a strong advocate for academics and felt that students willing to work hard to earn top honors should be recognized. Because of this, the Atkinson Scholarship Award goes to the eighth grade student earning the highest marks over their Dieringer career.

Will Julum Sportsmanship Award

Will Julum was a long time resident and member of the Dieringer School Board of Directors for 32 years. While on the Board Will oversaw many programs and construction projects. He was instrumental in ensuring that any student wishing to participate in middle school sports would have an option to play. He also took steps to make certain that the North Tapps Middle School facility was suitable for football so that when numbers permitted that sport could be offered at the school. Will always enjoyed watching students participate in a wide variety of sports and he would often be seen in the stands cheering on Bulldog teams. Following Will’s untimely death in 2007 the school felt it was important to recognize his contribution to athletics in our district. Subsequently the Will Julum Sportsmanship Award is presented to the eighth grade student that best represents the qualities of sportsmanship at school and on the field of play.

William Fowler Award

William Fowler was a teacher in the Dieringer School during the 1960’s and was the type of teacher that students respected and loved. Graduating from Lincoln High School in Tacoma in the 1950’s, he was an exceptional athlete and student. As a teacher he emphasized these same qualities of athletics and scholarship but he also stressed the importance of citizenship. When he died an untimely death in the late 1960’s, members of the eighth grade class that year proposed that an award be given in his honor. Since that time, the William Fowler Award is given each year to the eighth grade boy and girl who best represent the ideals of citizenship, athleticism and scholarship. Students in the eight grade class select this award.