

NEW DIANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
1379 US HIGHWAY 259 SOUTH
DIANA, TEXAS 75640

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 34
LONGVIEW, TEXAS



NEWSLETTER

NEW DIANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRING TO DREAM...WORKING TO FULFILL...SOARING TO SUCCESS

EDITION NO. 7, FALL 2021

Greetings and welcome to our New Diana ISD Fall 2021 newsletter. It would appear as a broken record or perhaps Deja' Vu; this year, much like last year, schools across the nation and our state are grappling with the Delta Variant of COVID-19 and the recent surge in positive cases. No doubt your family, much like our school family, has felt personally the cruelty in which this virus has impacted our daily lives.

Many lessons were learned last year, however, challenges remain. But through it all, I am glad to report that we are in school and the number of positive rates are beginning to decline both in students and staff. Changes from last year's opening center around the district's stance to not provide remote instruction as it was quickly determined to be unsustainable in a district our size and the firm belief that students learn better while in school. Also, a noted change has been our ability to fill the gym and stands with cheering and enthusiastic fans for extracurricular programs are the lifeblood of any school and its surrounding community.

However, most importantly as I begin this newsletter, I need to inform our district constituents that the Board of Trustees has called a tax rate election which will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Last spring it was discovered an error in the District's compressed tax rate for fiscal year 2020/2021. The tax election, if approved by voters, will correct this error. From a previous legislative session, H.B. 3 brought about a tremendous overhaul of education finance resulting in a reduction of property taxes statewide, and the State of Texas taking greater ownership in the funding of public education; thus, lessening the burden to the local taxpayer. The complexities of the tax code are immense and it will come at no surprise that errors would be made. Some districts have mistakenly overtaxed while others have inadvertently undertaxed. New Diana ISD is in the latter category and adopted a tax rate for fiscal year 2020/2021 of \$1.110872 which was lower than allowed by State law by one half of a cent. In the past two years, the district's tax rate has dropped by a total of seven and one half cents. Additional attachments to this newsletter will illustrate what the impact of this increase would be to the average homeowner as well as preview of the ballot language which illustrates that a tax rate of \$1.116172 will result in an increase of \$63,230.71 in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the current year as compared to the preceding year. Residents who are 65 and older and have applied for the 65 and older homestead exemption are unaffected unless significant improvements are made to the home. If you are not registered to vote, the deadline is Monday, October 4, 2021. Early voting begins on Monday, October 18, and ends Friday, October 29, 2021, with election day on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact district administration for assistance and or clarification.

Now that the elephant is out of the room, let's talk about the start of this school year. The regulars are back such as football, volleyball, band, and cross country. Homecoming is Friday, the first of October against Queen City. Also, look for "A Murder on the 518" as the high school drama department brings back its fall production to the stage in our Norton Lovell Auditorium. This year our band has accepted an invitation to march at the Memorial Day Parade in Washington D.C. We are super excited for this opportunity and for our band and our community to be recognized on a national scale. Boys and Girls soccer is also back for its second year and our golf program has expanded down to the elementary. For the first time our high school is offering Culinary Arts, and through a gracious partnership with Baylor Scott & White, we now are afforded a full time trainer to assist our athletic and extracurricular programs. Elementary students are now afforded Art, and the Robotics program continues to gain in popularity. We are excited once again to offer each second Wednesday of the month a lunch for our senior citizens with a student led program. More information on these items can be found through our social media platforms of Facebook and Instagram or the district website at www.ndisd.org

On the construction front our new state of the art Girls Field House is nearing completion while our under construction Agricultural Barn will host animals and student projects later this school year. The East Stadium Drive project will be open in time for Homecoming, Friday, October 1st to provide additional school event parking, and will provide much needed traffic relief for parent drop off and pick up at the Middle School.

Trustees last year approved the district's third Strategic Plan. The five pillars of the plan are: Teaching and Learning; Human Resources; Funding and Finance; Facilities; and Regional Partnerships. The plan's lifespan is between three and five years. Approximately thirty-seven committee members including school personnel, students, parents, and community members participated in its development. The plan also includes the district's mission and vision statements. A critical component of the plan is that of creating a Master Facility Plan. The Huckabee architect group was hired last spring to begin this assessment and recently reported their initial findings. A final report along with recommendations are expected in December. These recommendations will help guide our conversations about the future needs of New Diana ISD.

Our community is growing!! No doubt you have seen the many new housing developments coming into the area. And, no surprise as a result, our student enrollment continues to increase. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) classifies New Diana ISD as a fast growth district. In a bold move, Trustees last spring halted new transfers into the district. Grandfathered will be students who were already enrolled in the district. Annual growth less the COVID year of 2019-20 has been and continues at approximately 5% and greater. Thus, as mentioned earlier, it is imperative that the district continue being vigilant regarding facilities, and maintenance. Increased enrollment also brings the possibility of New Diana ISD becoming a Division I AAA school. This could potentially change the landscape of schools that we currently compete against in sports, music, and academics. Band continues to increase its participation numbers as well with the addition of a third director to meet their needs.

If you have made it this far, as always, I extend a great appreciation to our Board of Trustees for the immense time and effort they put forth in helping to manage and give input into the operations of the district. I also wish to extend gratitude to our staff for their continued strength and resilience in always putting students first and always having their best interest at heart.

New Diana ISD, as mentioned earlier, is considered a fast growth district which comes with many challenges. Thank you to all of our parents and community for helping to make our schools the very best they can be.

Best regards,

Carl E. Key
Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION
903-663-8000

HIGH SCHOOL
903-663-8001

MIDDLE SCHOOL
903-663-8002

ROBERT F. HUNT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
903-663-8003

MAINTENANCE
TRANSPORTATION
903-663-8000 Ext 8402

District Website

www.ndisd.org



US VETERANS ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM TO BE HONORED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021 AT NORTON LOVELL AUDITORIUM IN NEW DIANA ISD AT 10:00AM



SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON

New Diana School District extends a warm invitation to our area senior citizens for a monthly luncheon to be held in the Annex Building facing Hwy 259. (Former Intermediate Building)

Luncheons are free to all residents of the school district who are 60 years of age or older so spread the word. Luncheons will be held on the following dates at 12:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

OCTOBER 13TH / NOVEMBER 10TH / DECEMBER 8TH / JANUARY 12TH /
FEBRUARY 9TH / MARCH 9TH / APRIL 13TH / MAY 11TH
(the second Wednesday)

Meet and be entertained by some of our students, enjoy a meal,
And get your "Gold Card".
(A free pass into New Diana District events.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 903-663-8000, EXT. 8101

Updated : October 2020

**NEW DIANA ISD STRATEGIC PLAN
2020-2025**

Our Vision
Inspiring to Dream, Working to Fulfill, Soaring to Success

Our Mission
The Mission of New Diana ISD is to educate and empower students to pursue their goals with a sense of purpose that motivates them to take control of their future and become successful, responsible citizens in an ever-changing world

- In NDISD, we believe:
- ❖ All children are given equal opportunity to learn, where every child can expect to be challenged to reach his or her highest level of
 - ❖ We are all accountable for the success of our students
 - ❖ In creating an atmosphere of excellence through citizenship, tradition, and high
 - ❖ Our community and district will work collaboratively to foster and enhance the education of our
 - ❖ The hiring and retaining of dependable, knowledgeable, and resourceful staff is essential to the success
 - ❖ All district campuses and facilities will be equitable and the pride of the community
 - ❖ New Diana ISD will set the standard for excellence
 - ❖ All planning and actions will be purposeful and involve a high level of engagement
 - ❖ Disciplined people, in both thought and action, will achieve greatness over mediocrity

Teaching and Learning

Objective:
All stakeholders will share ownership in developing a supportive learning environment to ensure students are achieving their highest potential

Strategies:
1.1 Research to identify the types of schedules that best meet the needs of our district.
1.2 Investigate parental and family engagement opportunities to best meet students' social and emotional needs.

Specific Results:
1.1.1 Provide a flexible teaching and learning environment offering a more personalized learning experience.
1.2.1 Implement a social-emotional skill development curriculum K-12

Human Resources

Objective:
We will seek and retain exceptional team members through a systematic hiring process

Strategies:
2.1 Develop a comprehensive recruitment/retention plan through an HR Department/Director.
2.2 Provide support for all employees

Specific Results:
2.1.1 Ensure availability of a variety of resources to implement a recruitment plan
2.2.1 Ensure availability of a variety of resources to

Funding and Finance

Objective:
Capitalize our resources to meet the needs of all

Strategies:
3.1 Maximize the utilization of all available resources

Specific Results:
3.1.1 Implement best practices to allocate available resources in the most effective way to meet the needs of NDISD stakeholders.

Facilities

Objective:
Monitor District growth, both in number of students and in programs, resulting in a master facility plan

Strategies:
4.1 Identify critical needs for space and capacity; anticipate future needs.
4.1 Assess current critical infrastructure needs.

Specific Results:
4.1.1 Develop a Master Facility/Land Usage Plan to guide district leaders in future construction projects.
4.1.2 Implement a systemic approach and acquire/budget necessary funding to accomplish needed improvements.

Regional Partnerships

Objective:
Create a purposeful communication to expand partnerships by engaging stake holders to increase district leverage and be a collaborative community.

Strategies:
5.1. Develop targeted communication to maximize regional community development.
5.2. Apply expanded communication to increase all possible district opportunities.

Specific Results:
5.1.1 Create specific regional partnership awareness and opportunities.
5.1.2 Streamline messaging to reach community members
5.2.1 Ensure all methods of communication reach its full potential
5.2.2 Promote all regional resources to better the whole community.

ELECTION NOV 2 2021 DAY

Voter Registration

For more information, contact:

Upshur County Voter Registrar, 903-680-8506
Lory Harle, Election Administrator
lory.harle@countyofupshur.com

Harrison County Elections Office, 903-935-4822
Donald Robinette – Elections Administrator
donaldro@co.harrison.tx.us

To check and update their registrations, voters can visit VoteTexas.gov or Voter Registrar's office or call 903-680-8506 for more information. For more information about photo ID requirements including exemptions, visit www.votetexas.gov. Information on how to obtain an election identification certificate if you do not have another form can be found at www.dps.texas.gov.

Early Voting Dates

UPSHUR County
Oct 18th - 22nd - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Upshur County Library

Oct 25th - 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
Oct 26th - 29th - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Upshur County Couthouse

HARRSON County
Oct 18th - 29th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Oct 21st & 28th 7:00 am - 7:00 pm
Harrison County Main Elec. Office
Harleton Community Center

4 OCT LAST DAY TO REGISTER

18 OCT EARLY VOTING BEGINS

29 OCT EARLY VOTING ENDS

BALLOT PREVIEW

NEW DIANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION PROPOSITION A
DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE NEW DIANA ELECCION ESPECIAL PROPUESTA A

“Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.116172 per \$100 valuation in New Diana Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 0.2961013365 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$63,230.71.”
“Ratificación de la tasa fiscal ad valorem de \$1.116172 por valoración de \$100 en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de New Diana para el ejercicio en curso, una tasa que resultará en un incremento del 0.2961013365 por ciento en ingresos fiscales de mantenimiento y operaciones para el Distrito para el ejercicio en curso en comparación con el ejercicio anterior, que representa un adicional de \$63,230.71.”

NEW DIANA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TAX IMPACT CHART

PROJECTED COST TO HOMEOWNERS FOR A 1/2 CENT M&O TAX RATE INCREASE

	HOME VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTIONS	HOME VALUE AFTER \$25,000 STATE EXEMPTION	PROJECTED ANNUAL TAX INCREASE	PROJECTED MONTHLY TAX INCREASE
	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$1.33	\$0.11
	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$2.65	\$0.22
	\$100,000	\$75,000	\$3.98	\$0.33
	\$125,000	\$100,000	\$5.30	\$0.44
MEDIAN HOME VALUE	\$153,508	\$128,508	\$6.81	\$0.57
	\$175,000	\$150,000	\$7.95	\$0.66
	\$200,000	\$175,000	\$9.28	\$0.77
	\$225,000	\$200,000	\$10.60	\$0.88
	\$250,000	\$225,000	\$11.93	\$0.99
	\$275,000	\$250,000	\$13.25	\$1.10
	\$300,000	\$275,000	\$14.58	\$1.21
	\$325,000	\$300,000	\$15.90	\$1.33
	\$350,000	\$325,000	\$17.23	\$1.44

No Tax Increase above the frozen level on the Homestead of Taxpayers 65 years of age and older who have applied for and received the Age 65 Freeze