



CISD  
A Texas  
Recognized District  
  
Superintendent  
Collin Clark  
Administration Bldg.  
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Parents and Community  
Members of  
**CISD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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WWW.CELESTEISD.ORG

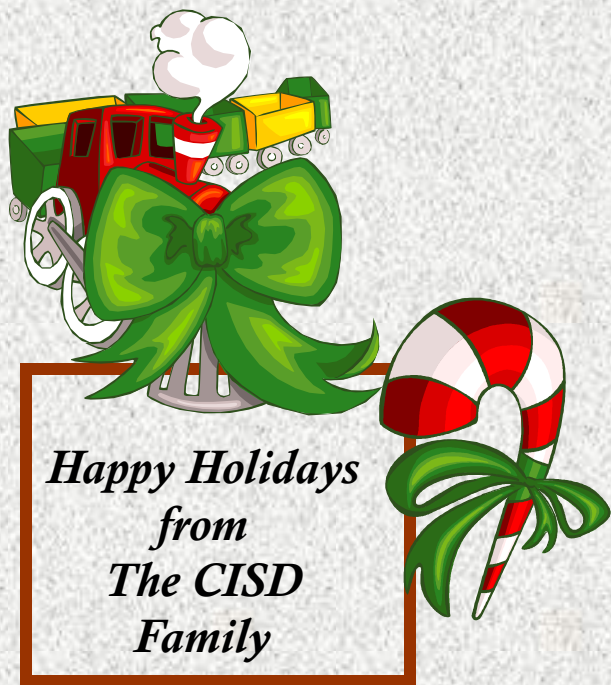


**CISD STRIVES TO BE A FAMILY ORIENTED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEARNERS IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS USE THEIR MINDS WELL. WE ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS WITH CHALLENGING ACADEMICS AND THE UNIQUE RESOURCES OF CONSTANTLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGY, ENHANCED BY GREAT TEACHERS AND STAFF MEMBERS. IT IS OUR GOAL TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN GUIDING OUR STUDENTS TO BECOME ACTIVE CITIZENS AND RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF OUR WORLD. WE STRIVE TO DEVELOP THEM INTO SELF-DIRECTED AND LIFE LONG LEADERS BY WORKING TOGETHER, AS A TEAM, WITH OUR COMMUNITY.**



**CELESTE ISD  
BLUE DEVIL LINK  
DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE  
IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**  
This newsletter is written and distributed for the parents and patrons of the Celeste Independent School District. Blue Devil Link uses Associated Press style and focuses on student and teacher achievements. Comments, questions, concerns and suggestions may be directed to the superintendent, Collin Clark, at the CISD Administration Bldg., or to Nancy Longino at [longinon@celesteisd.org](mailto:longinon@celesteisd.org). Please remember that space is limited, therefore we may or may not be able to share your ideas. The Celeste Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.

*Blue Devil Link is written and created by:  
Nancy Longino  
Special thanks to Rhonda Hackler for editing*



Happy Holidays





# Blue Devil Link

Linking Community and Education

## CHS Robotics Team – 2021 A Robot Odyssey

“Parts is Parts” – not speaking of chicken parts here – but clearly that must have been what Mr. Kevin Hathorn was thinking when he opened the box of various and random parts given to him by Raytheon Inc., intended for his Robotics team. Each year, Raytheon helps sponsor the BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology) competition in local area schools. BEST Robotics Inc. (BRI) is a non-profit, volunteer organization based in Dallas, TX. Started in 1993, local hubs are formed in each county. The BEST Program is designed to teach teamwork, problem solving, project management, and pride in task completion within the constraints of a short time period and limited physical resources. Through partnerships of participating schools with corporate sponsors, youth teams are supported by mentors who serve as positive role models for the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technologists. The goal is to demonstrate the excitement of advanced technical careers to young people who are nearing decisions on college plans.

This year, Celeste High School Physics Teacher, Kevin Hathorn, took on the challenge of starting up a Robotics Team to compete against schools ranging from 1A to 5A districts. “Basically the driving force behind the competition is to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, and technology through participation in a science and engineering-based robotics competition,” said Mr. Hathorn. Each school is provided kits of equipment and parts, a set of game rules, and given six weeks to design, build, and test a small Radio/

Controlled (R/C) robot that outperforms other robots. The team received a box of various supplies such as PVC piping, plywood, electronic servos, motors and steel rods, but no instructional manual. The project set forth for 2007 was titled “2021-A Robot Odyssey”, in which you were to build a robot that could be helpful in building a base on the planet Mars. Mr. Hathorn set about with his team of five seniors (Andrew Hackler, Merissa King, Harrison Hayes, Russell Winters, and Emily Giles) to decide exactly the best approach to design a motorized robot that could not only move but hold supplies. Making sure every aspect of the engineering process was documented and correctly surveyed; the Robotics Team diligently recorded their progress. Saving the complex wiring for last, Mr. Hathorn called in his friend James West – an L3 engineer – and relied heavily on his technical expertise for wiring and controller programming. Mr. West donated his time, helping the students understand the complicated concepts and how to best achieve the desired effect they were looking for. After much trial and error, and a very “cool” paint job –provided courtesy of the artistically talented, Menetra Hathorn, El Diablo (the name bestowed on the newborn robot) was ready to roll in the big leagues up against the big dogs. Competing against Plano East H.S. and Allen H.S., the Celeste team did not shy away from the stiff competition. Although El Diablo didn’t bring home the trophy – he did bring a lot of self-directed learning as well as some fun problem-solving techniques to a pilot Robotics team.

## Celeste Independent School District’s FIRST Rating

Celeste Independent School District received a rating of “Superior Achievement”. The Superior Achievement rating is the state’s highest, demonstrating the quality of Celeste ISD’s financial management and reporting system. Celeste Independent School District obtained the Superior Achievement rating by receiving a perfect score in all areas tested. The primary goal of School First is to achieve quality performance in the management of school district’s financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finance system.





## CHS Cafeteria Seeks Perfection Awarded Perfect score from State Inspectors



Every day school districts face challenges in meeting demands with limited resources. However when it comes to the power of the people that are employed by CISD, expertise plays a significant role. In an effort to score a perfect score on the Texas Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition evaluation, known for its rigid guidelines and critical areas of review, employee experience proved invaluable. With the combined team work of Phyllis Thacker and Robin McGuckie, who have operated the CHS cafeteria for 14 years, side by side, as well as having a total of 22 years working together for CISD, a *perfect* score was achieved. Superintendent Collin Clark praised the CHS cafeteria staff for their perfect scores. "It's definitely a reflection of the pride these ladies have in serving students at CHS." Mr. Clark added that even though the high school cafeteria was under the microscope as the state inspectors observed the high school cafeteria during the lunch periods, the entire district was evaluated for the overall food and health services. ["Our entire food service department is to be commended for their outstanding performance, with each member playing a valuable role," said Mr. Clark.](#)

The State Inspector was looking for spotless production record keeping and food portion allotments, as well as making sure the kids were actually eating the food. The well lit kitchen, with appliances that gleamed squeaky clean and walls that were given a fresh coat of white paint, exuded a cheerful and inviting place to dine. Paula Lyon, CES Principal, oversaw the training and execution of preparing for the inspectors, while Sherry Richison meticulously kept up with the endless paperwork. Angie Wilson was instrumental as well for her nutritional awareness and her warm approach to students. Middle and high school students demand that we remain relevant and speak to them in their language, and the ladies in the lunchroom make an effort to do so everyday, which keeps the communication lines open.

Nancy Longino decorated the CHS lunchroom with a sense of school spirit and vibrancy, thus creating -The Blue Devil Den. She filled the blank walls with old school uniforms - no longer used -but sure to bring warm memories to some CHS alumni. Longino sought to feature Blue Devil fever, along with a bit of "old school" jukebox decor,

aiming to create a "Happy Days" feel to it. "My goal was to create a warm friendly atmosphere that generates a sense of school pride and appeals to the senses and the heart, making meal time more social," said Nancy Longino.

A perfect score from the State means that more students are eating healthy meals on a daily basis, and CISD is doing their part to make it possible. Please join the Celeste ISD Superintendent and Board of Trustees in thanking these ladies for their contribution to the well-being of our students and staff.



"Running with the Devils"  
Rock & Roll theme décor inside the Blue Devil Den

## HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH TRAGEDY

Families in Celeste with young children have had to deal with tragedy, sometimes more than once. The effects of traumatic stress have been well documented and vary according to the developmental levels of the child. Common symptoms include regression, increased fearfulness, poor concentration, irritability, aggressiveness, withdrawal, or grief. Sometimes the effects of the stress do not appear for several days or weeks. The following are suggestions we

all can do to help children recover:

- ◆ Be available when children need attention and reassurance.
- ◆ Explain what has happened in simple terms and language.
- ◆ Let children know that it is normal to be upset after bad things happen.

- ◆ Allow them time to play; try to keep a normal routine; and find a way for them to help: write a letter or draw a picture, or help with simple chores.

Children with lingering symptoms such as the inability to concentrate, avoiding reminders of the trauma, or fear of the trauma re-occurring, should be referred to a mental health professional trained in working with traumatic stress.

## CISD MEETS AYP REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRICT

The recently reauthorized version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) law, significantly increased the federal government's role in education through new testing, reporting, and other requirements for schools. Texas Education Agency (TEA) believes all schools should have high expectations for all students and that educators should be accountable for their progress in helping all children learn. But as educators try to implement NCLB, they are struggling to live up to the tough requirements, and maintain a fair and accurate assessment of student progress and educator quality. Celeste Independent School District recently received the honorable status of meeting all requirements set forth by the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report issued by the TEA.

Each year, all public school campuses, school districts, and the state are evaluated and required to meet AYP criteria: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and either Graduation Rate or Attendance Rate. CISD ranked high in all areas for overall performance and assessments and accountability. CISD has a long history of obtaining high marks on state and federal accountability standards, however; according to the 2008 AYP Federal standard, the district's percentage of special education students that are tested below grade level will be severely limited. This will make it very difficult for all schools to meet such an unrealistic standard. "Meeting the needs of each student will continue to be our first priority and meeting AYP standards will be secondary," according to Collin Clark, CISD Superintendent.

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## JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month to help build awareness of the crucial role an elected board of trustees plays in our communities and schools. Recognizing board members for this commitment and sacrifice takes a combined effort on the part of all those they serve: administrators, school staff, students, and

the community. Such recognition can encourage veteran trustees to continue to make the commitment board service requires and motivate citizens to get involved in the schools and create positive change. Celeste Independent School District would like to whole-heartedly thank and recognize the

CISD 2008 Board of Trustees:

Terry Hicks – President  
David LaFavers – Vice-President  
Elaine Shaw - Secretary  
Jeffrey Babers  
Marty Burke  
Tom Olson  
Ken Wilgus



2008 CISD Board of Trustees  
V.P. David LaFavers, Ken Wilgus, Jeffrey Babers  
Pres: Terry Hicks, Marty Burke  
Not pictured : Sec. Elaine Shaw, Tom Olson

## 2007-2008 School Calendar

**CES Christmas Program**  
6:30 p.m.—Tues. Dec. 18  
CJHS Auditorium

**Come out to see the 3rd grade classes of Mrs. Compton & Mrs. Crutcher perform in this wacky holiday experience of friends that have to learn the hard way just how fortunate they really are.**



Early release	November 20
Thanksgiving Break	November 21-23
Winter Vacation	Dec. 21- Jan. 2
End of Semester	January 14 Teacher Workday
MLK Holiday	January 21
Spring Semester Begins	January 15 (Tuesday)
Presidents Day Holiday	February 11
Spring Break	March 17-21
Holiday- Bad Weather Makeup Day	May 5 / May 19
Memorial Day Holiday	May 26
End Date / Graduation	May 30, 2008