



THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

December 2020

It is the Christmas month at CTHS and we are all anticipating the upcoming holidays and some well-earned and much needed time with our families. I hope you and your family are healthy, virus-free and looking forward to the holidays as well. On behalf of our CTHS staff, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful, healthy, and happy New Year.

We continue our work toward selecting a mascot for our campus. Students and staff submitted over fifty different mascot suggestions and we have narrowed the list down to the top four. We will hear presentations from student groups next week about their ideas and narrow the field down to the top two. Students and staff will vote to select the mascot from those top two choices and we hope to announce the CTHS mascot before we leave for the holidays!

On December 8, 9 and 10, we will be administering the STAAR examination retests to any students who have not successfully completed one or more of these state-required graduation examinations. Virtual students will be coming to CTHS to test and will be separated from the students already on the CTHS campus. On Friday, December 11, junior and senior students who are learning virtually will have an opportunity to come to CTHS during their CTE pathway class period for hands-on instruction. We will also be reviewing the ALICE active shooter response training with all students and staff during our morning Reboot tutorial time.

The district has removed the semester final examination requirements for the current fall semester but students will take a third six weeks examination in their classes on Wednesday and Thursday, December 16 and 17. On Friday, December 18, we will have an early dismissal day and school will dismiss at 11:35 a.m. Buses will continue to run regular routes both to and from CTHS on Friday, December 18.

Recently, the Texas Education Agency has given school districts permission to require students in a virtual learning setting to return to face-to-face instruction if they are failing their classes, failing to engage with their teachers, or have attendance issues. We have identified some students that are struggling in these areas and will be sending letters to these students and parents next week. Those students will return to face-to-face instruction beginning on January 6, 2021. If a student or parent has questions or concerns, they may request an in-person, telephone or online meeting with a campus administrator to discuss their concerns. All of the information for these procedures and the documents necessary for appeals and medical exemptions from face-to-face instruction are located on the Pasadena I.S.D. website (www.pasadenaisd.org).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the CTHS work family to yours!

Steven Fleming