

Winter 2009 Newsletter from the Desk of Principal Clover

I hope you are enjoying the holiday season with members of your Wildcat family. It is hard to believe that I am talking about winter, as well as having an early focus on the spring. I tell students every year how quickly their high school years will pass by. As parents I am certain that you feel the same speed of family change and urgency of preparation for your child's future. Estero High School is also strengthening our current needs and looking to the future by adding two new computer labs, many smart boards, document cameras, several new teachers and increased security on campus.

We have had two great years in a row of students selecting Estero High School. This compounds the strong assets of our Junior and Senior classes. We are looking forward to bigger and better Friday nights in the fall, improving on our already impressive swimming and cross country teams and building in areas where our younger teams show desire and promise. We are just entering our winter athletic programs and I hope to see you come out and support all of the athletes and our student musical presentations.

I am optimistic that the programs we have instituted in our curriculum program under the leadership of Mrs. Jami Covert, will pay huge dividends on our up coming FCAT exams in March. Paws to Read, Wildcat Writes, additional Honors and AP courses and the addition of our newer teacher hires, have us focused on curriculum 1st and athletics and activities 2nd. The District has required a new course for all freshmen which we call "Freshmen Success", which concentrates on study skills and basic economic functions for all young adults. We are encouraging all juniors and seniors who have not earned a qualifying FCAT score for graduation contact Mrs. Covert regarding taking the ACT test being offered on the Estero campus. A score of 15 will replace the FCAT requirement for graduation.

The block scheduling seems to be going well with the students and the teachers having adjusted to the alternating days. The increased uninterrupted instructional time in the classrooms, I believe will add to improved retention for your child. In my travels from teacher to teacher, I can categorically tell you the teachers are working bell to bell. Please use our website, Parentlink and OnCourse programs to stay informed of your child's progress, homework and daily activities.

Yours,
George H. Clover
Principal