

HISD's rising athletic fortunes can help keep kids in school

Stars, community leaders join for sport summit

May 28, 2004 – This year, HISD's rising athletic program won two state basketball championships, and the students at the championship schools, Milby (5A) and Jones (4A) are enjoying a renewed sense of self-esteem and school spirit.

On Wednesday **June 2** at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Board Auditorium** at the **Hattie Mae White Administration Building** (3830 Richmond) , **HISD will convene a "Sports Summit" with community and sports leaders to discuss how to continue to use the district's good athletic fortunes to give students a sporting chance at graduation.**

Among the community leaders who will participate is Oliver Luck, former Houton Oilers quarterback and current C.E.O. of the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority, the governmental entity created in 1997 to provide the financing, construction and management oversight of the three large sports and entertainment venues in Houston.

Houston Texans Youth Football Coordinator Ben Rose will also be on hand as community leaders and school district officials, including the principals of all HISD schools, to discuss how to invigorate HISD's athletic programs as a way to keep more kids in school. The Sports Summit is an outgrowth of the community-wide Expectation Graduation Summit held earlier this month at the University of Houston.

Studies have shown that students who engage in extra-curricular activities, such as sports, are much more likely to stay in school and graduate. **Former Madison High School quarterback Vincent Young, who is now the quarterback at the University of Texas,** can certainly attest to that. He **will be one of the featured speakers** at the summit.

A sports enthusiast who just happens to be HISD's superintendent, **Dr. Kaye Stripling, will kick off the summit.**

Stripling says, "I am a firm believer in the positive impact of sports on students, especially when parents, and the community leaders are involved. As an example of community involvement, the superintendent cited the Houston Texans' efforts in HISD schools. "The Texans' Youth Football Workshop is a model program for the rest of the NFL and an example of the type of innovation we are seeking to make our sports programs even more appealing to students," the superintendent said.

(More)

Facts from National Studies on the impact of extracurricular activities:

- High school youth in after school programs are at least 5 to 10 percent more likely to earn A's and B's;
- Fourth-graders in the Ohio Hunger Task Force's urban after school initiative exceeded the statewide percentage of students meeting proficiency standards in math, writing, reading, citizenship and science
- Higher levels of participation in LA's BEST (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow) after school program led to better school attendance resulting in higher academic achievement on standardized tests of mathematics, reading and language arts.
- Limited-English-proficient students who participated in the LA's BEST program were more likely to become English proficient than their non-participating peers.
- Students who participate in extracurricular activities achieve better grades, have lower rates of truancy, attain higher levels of achievement in college and feel more attached to their schools, as documented by a 17-year study that followed 1,800 sixth-graders in 10 school districts through high school and college.
- Teens who do not participate in after school programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes at school than teens who do participate. They are also three times more likely to use marijuana or other drugs, and they are more likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and engage in sexual activity

(For more information, please contact the HISD Press Office at 713-892-6393)