

## BCS Junior High

Coffee w/the Principal

September 19, 2007

### Topic: Math Curriculum and Iowa Tests

At this first coffee w/the Principal Mr. Krell provided information to parents about what will be happening in the junior high in the areas of Math, Writing Assessment, and Iowa Testing.

The junior high does not intend to focus only on what a student is good at, but to focus on all areas of a student's ability, to look at the whole person, not just their mind, but also their heart. This means we must recognize each student as an individual, uniquely made by our God, with unique talents and gifts, strengths and weaknesses.

Last year the junior/senior high began a Writing Assessment program with 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students that are assigned in the fall and spring of the school year. Next week the junior/senior high students will have the first of their two Writing Assessment assignments. These assignments will provide teachers with a snapshot of students writing skills. This assessment will follow a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student all the way to their senior year of high school. In the fall of their senior year the student will be given the task of evaluating their papers.

To begin the discussion on Math Computation, Mr. Krell had the parents take a timed math computation test, 10 questions in 5 minutes. When your student does the Iowa test in math computation, they will be looking at 32 questions in 15 minutes. This was a great example to parents of what their student must face in one area of Iowa testing.

The junior high will conduct Math Computation Assessment again this year.. During the middle of October the junior high students will be given the first of three Computation Assessment exams. Students are not timed on these tests. Teachers take the results and create a skills spreadsheet for each student. Teachers will discuss these skills with parents at Parent/Teacher Conferences. These math skills will also be listed on the report cards.

These math skills will enable a teacher to see the trouble areas for the classroom, and for the individual. If the bulk of the classroom is having difficulty in an area, then time will be spent, in class, reviewing that area. If it is with an individual, then the intent is for the teacher to provide the student with extra worksheets to help with that difficult area.

If parents are interested in speaking about IOWA test scores, please contact the junior high office to schedule a discussion time with Mr. Krell.

The Coffee w/the Principal schedule for meetings is November 28, February 20 and May 14.