

## DMS COUNSELOR NEWS

By Christian Guerra

Welcome to 2018! We are off to a busy start during our second semester of the year. We have started benchmark testing for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In March, after Spring Break, we will finish up benchmarking for all students.

College-Go Get It! Week was last week. Students learned about college and different careers in their PRIDE classes as well as through guidance lessons with me. Eighth graders completed a career inventory to help them prepare for choosing their high school classes and endorsements. The high school counselors will be on our campus February 22-23 to talk to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders about high school and help them choose their courses for next year.

Our Valentine's dance is February 14 from 1-3:30pm. Students should have brought home a letter informing you of the dance requirements.

Spring Break will be here soon. Students will have a break to enjoy the beginning of spring March 12-16. We wish them a wonderful, sunny, and restful holiday. Once we return to school from Spring Break, we will be in full swing - getting ready for STAAR testing, which begins for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in April. Seventh grade will take the STAAR Writing test on April 10. Eighth graders will take STAAR Math on April 10 and STAAR Reading on April 11. Eighth graders **MUST** pass both of these exams in order to meet the promotion requirements to go to high school next year. We will have a meeting with 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents on Tuesday, March 27 at 5:30pm in the DMS cafeteria to discuss the Student Success Initiative that 8<sup>th</sup> graders must meet in order to be promoted to high school.

During STAAR testing, please try **not** to schedule doctor appointments on testing dates; once a student begins a test, he/she will not be able to stop and restart. Please call the office or me if you notice a conflict on any of the testing dates.

NJHS induction is Thursday, March 1 at 7pm in the DSAC. Congratulations to those students who qualify for NJHS.

As always, we are here for you. Please contact us if you have any questions/concerns. If you have questions regarding testing, the Student Success Initiative, or any other issues in relationship to your student, I may be reached by phone at 830-851-0605 or by e-mail at [christian.guerra@devineisd.org](mailto:christian.guerra@devineisd.org). We look forward to hearing from you.