

# Humphreys American School

School Newsletter

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September/October 2012  
Issue 1

Principal: [Ms. Joyce M. Diggs](#)  
753-6313

Assistant Principal: [Ms. Jamie Wollman](#)  
753-6313

Superintendent: [Dr. Irby Miller](#)  
723-7863



“Home of the  
Mighty Eagles”

## Mission Statement

To provide an exemplary education that inspires and prepares all DoDEA students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

## Vision Statement

Humphreys American School (HAS) is dedicated to providing the highest quality education where a love of learning is evident in all students and teachers. We envision a school community in which the environment is positive, nurturing and respectful of students, teachers and the military community. HAS strives to be a school in which academic, artistic and physical expectations are high and individualized for each student and goal-oriented, technology-rich instruction aligns with Department of Defense Education Activity standards and assessments. At Humphreys American School, engaged parents, teachers and the military community will all work together to ensure that all students can be successful.

## Principal's News

Greetings,

Welcome to school year 2012-2013. Our students are excited to be here and we have kicked off the year with an ongoing commitment to providing a quality education in a global environment. In support of this commitment, this year, our two school improvement goals are as follows:

Goal 1. By June 2014, all Humphreys American School students will increase performance on targeted writing skills using instructional strategies implemented in all curricular areas as measured by TerraNova 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Language Subtest, other system-wide assessments, and school-based assessments. The targeted skill is to answer constructed response questions that produce clear and coherent writing that focuses on organization, ideas and sentence fluency in all content areas.

Goal 2. By June 2014, all Humphreys American School students will increase performance on targeted math skills using instructional strategies implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TN3 Math subtest, other system-wide assessments, and school-based assessments. The targeted skill is to construct viable written arguments that support the problem solving process using good organization and ideas that communicate precisely to others.

For Goal 1, the instructional strategies are 6 + 1 Traits for Writing; for Goal 2, the instructional strategies are Understand, Plan, Solve and Look Back (UPSL).

The student-friendly versions of these goals are as follows:

Goal 1. All students will produce clear writing responses that are organized with clear ideas and show sentence fluency.

Goal 2: All students will use organized ideas in written statements to support the problem solving process that communicates clearly to others.

Your assistance is needed to continually support these goals. Attached to this newsletter is the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) committee's list which explains the need for volunteers to support this committee. CSI committees meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria from 2:50 to 3:30pm. During our Quality Assurance Review earlier this calendar year, we established three required actions for our Continuous School Improvement goals at that time:

Required Action 1: Revise the School Improvement Plan so that it contains measurable student performance goals that are aligned to standards, supported by data with aligned strategies, and monitored for effectiveness.

Required Action 2: Employ the expertise of district support staff and the resources they have to identify appropriate assessments for goals and effectively monitor progress of strategies in meeting goals.

**Improvement Goals:**

**Goal 1:**

By June 2014, all Humphreys American School students will increase performance on targeted writing skill using instructional strategies implemented in all curricular areas as measured by TN3 Language subtest, other system-wide assessments, and school-based assessments. The targeted skill is to answer constructed response question that produce clear and coherent writing that focuses on organization, ideas and sentence fluency in all content areas.

Required Action 3: Utilize the school administrative team to actively engage and facilitate all improvement efforts.

All three of these areas are continuously being addressed, and we are always focusing on the Highest Student Achievement. Also in our newsletter, please review our TerraNova 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition scores. TerraNova 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition is one of our system-wide assessments. It is administered yearly in March for students in grades 3 through 11. Please note the gains and challenges in last year's scores. We want to continue to strive to meet the Department of Defense Community Strategic Plan goal of 75% of all students in grades 3-11 performing 'At the Standard' level or higher (the top two quarters) on a system-wide, norm-referenced assessment. Seven percent or less will perform 'Below the Standard' level (the bottom quarter).

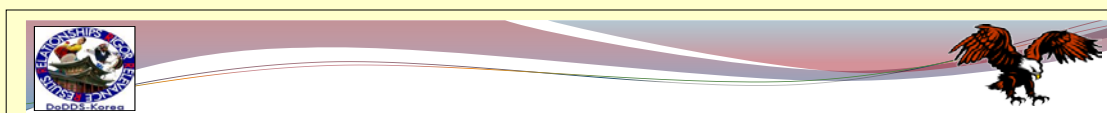
I look forward to working with you to ensure that our students are meeting the expectations of the Department of Defense Education Activity mission and vision.

*Joyce M. Diggs*

**Improvement Goals:**

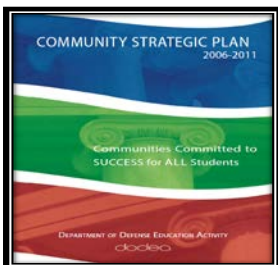
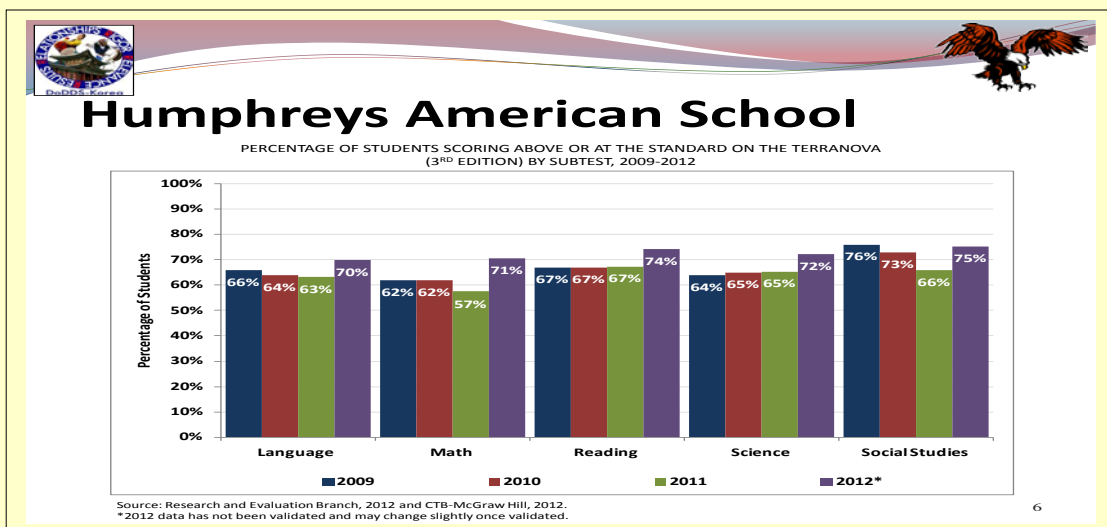
**Goal 2:**

By June 2014, all Humphreys American School students will increase performance on targeted math skills using instructional strategies implemented in all curricular areas as measured by the TN3 Math subtest, other system-wide assessments, and school-based assessments. The targeted skill is to construct viable written arguments that support the problem solving process using good organization and ideas that communicate precisely to others.



## CSP 2006-2011

“Seventy-five percent of all students in grades 3-11 will perform ‘At the Standard’ level or higher (the top two quarters) on a system-wide, norm-referenced assessment. Seven percent or less will perform ‘Below the Standard’ level (the bottom quarter).”

Important Dates:



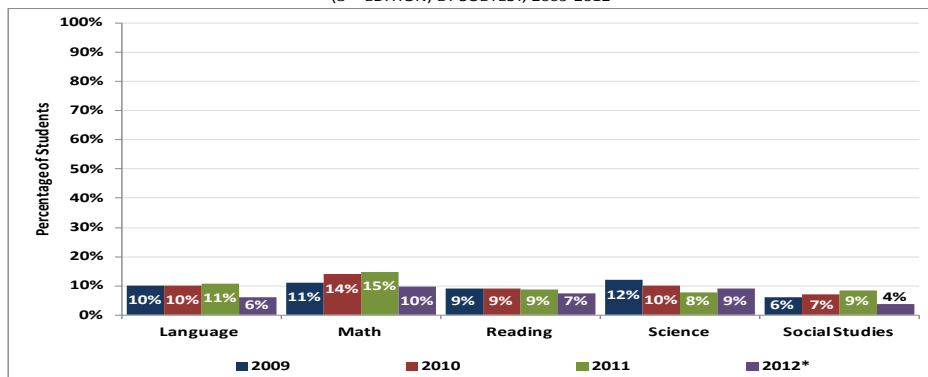
**OCTOBER**  
22-24-Picture Day

**NOVEMBER**  
5-Grades Due(8am)  
7-Report cards go home  
8-9-Parent Conferences  
21- Early Release  
22-23- Thanksgiving Recess



# Humphreys American School

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SCORING BELOW THE STANDARD ON THE TERRANOVA (3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION) BY SUBTEST, 2009-2012



Source: Research and Evaluation Branch, 2012 and CTB-McGraw Hill, 2012.  
\*2012 data has not been validated and may change slightly once validated.

## REGISTRATION

Mr. Charles Witas  
Bldg. 550 Rm127  
753-8894

Please stop by the main office to see Mr. Charles Witas for registration, student records, attendance, and student withdrawals. Please notify Mr. Witas at least 2 weeks in advance if you are PCSing, or withdrawing your dependents from school. This allows sufficient time to compile your dependents' packet.

### New Students:

Military Command Sponsored: orders to Korea with dependents, pinpoint orders, AIP/extension orders (if applicable), and Command Sponsorship Orders.

Military Non-Command Sponsored: orders to Korea, pinpoint orders, AIP/extension orders (if applicable), passport with SOFA stamp, Deers enrollment form if child's name is different from Sponsors, and an EFMP screening or a current physical for all children being enrolled.

DOD Civilians: Letter of Employment, Orders, and SF-50.

NAF Employees: Letter of Employment, DA 3434.

Contractors: Tuition Billing Letter, 700-19 A (if applicable), Letter of Accreditation.

### Everyone Needs:

Child- Birth Certificate, SSN, immunization record, and Sealed Records from previous school

E-mail Address- for Sponsor/ Parent/ Guardian, and spouse (if applicable)

Work/ Mailing/physical Address - with unit number and box number (if applicable)

Home/Work/Cell phone numbers- for Sponsor/ Parent/ Guardian, and Spouse (if applicable)

Emergency Contact Local with Base Access- name, address, and phone number

One Permanent Stateside Contact- name, phone number, and mailing address

\*\*The above documents are required and enrollment is pending complete packets. All Non-Command Sponsored Students (space available students) will be placed on a waiting list when registering. EFMP screening or a current physical and sealed records from previous school is required prior to being placed on the waiting list for all space available students.

## CSI committees at Humphreys American School

### GOAL 1: WRITING (6+1 TRAITS)

The purpose of this committee is to ensure the acquiring of Humphreys American School goal to increase performance on targeted writing skills by June 2014. This is to be accomplished through professional development workshops to enhance instructional practices, direction and leadership for school improvement and monitoring implementation of this school wide initiative with fidelity.

The 6+1 Traits™, developed by the Education Northwest, is an analytical writing system developed for teachers and students to instruct and assess important components of skillful writing. The traits are:

**Voice:** The personal tone and flavor of the author's message.

**Ideas:** The heart of the message.

**Organization:** The internal structure of the piece.

**Word choice:** The vocabulary chosen to convey meaning.

**Sentence fluency:** The rhythm and flow of the language.

**Conventions:** The mechanical correctness.

**Presentation:** How the writing actually looks on the page.

### Goal 2 Math Committee

The purpose of this committee is to guarantee the attaining of Humphreys American School goal to increase performance on targeted mathematics skills by June 2014. This committee is designed to oversee the implementation of the UPSL math goal and to make sure that it is clear to all those involved in using it in their classroom. It would include the evaluation of protocols and overseeing how data is used to support the implementation of the goal. Any questions or concerns will be brought to the group to clarify and to hand out any advice to help those who are implementing the math goal.

### The Vertical and Horizontal Articulation Committee

The committee's focus is on alignment within our school. They will be investigating the curriculum and identifying gaps and repetition from one grade to the next in each department (math, science, language arts, and social studies). They will also examine horizontal planning and look at creative ways of alignment within each grade level.

### The Assessment Committee

The purpose of the Assessment Committee is to prepare and distribute the local assessments, organize the scoring of the local assessments, and to inform the staff about dates for assessments that are included in the CSI data.

### Technology Committee

The technology committee function is to engage in professional growth and leadership by providing opportunities for teachers to continuously improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in their school and professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources. Evaluate and reflect on current research and professional practice on a regular basis to make effective use of existing and emerging digital tools and resources in support of student learning.

### Data Analysis Committee

The goal of the data analysis committee is to collect, analyze, interpret, and share school-wide data. It is the data committee responsibility to organize and maintain the data room and presenting results to the faculty.

### Monitoring Committee

The purpose of the Monitoring Committee is to work parallel with administrators to ensure that documents are collected and maintained. This committee is also responsible for assisting faculty with the upkeep of CSI artifacts that are in direct correlation to our school goals and improving instruction.

### Standards Assessment Report (SAR) Committee

The purpose of this committee is to compile a report that documents Humphreys American school's background information, academic performances, climate and culture to AdvancEd. This report is an important source of information about school performance and accountability. It identifies the data information, evidence and achievement that validates meeting each of the 7 standards for accreditation purposes and it profiles the school's strength and opportunities for improvement.

### Profile Committee

The purpose of the Profile committee is to write the school profile. This committee consists of data consolidation, analysis, and explanation. The school's demographics, test scores, surveys, and etc. are all compiled in this profile. The committee is responsible for writing, editing, and publishing the HAS profile.

### Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee facilitates professional learning opportunities for the faculty members. Using research-based principles, this committee provides strategies that teachers can implement in their classroom to enhance classroom instruction. This committee is also responsible for assisting teachers with employing best practices for achieving our school goals that will promote student achievement.

### Parental Involvement Committee

HAS Parental Involvement Committee works closely with the parents, military, and other community members to build relationships among all stakeholders. This committee's focus is to provide up-to-date communication to the stakeholders and provide them with opportunities to voice concerns and celebrate our school's successes. They are also responsible for ensuring that parents are involved in all areas of HAS CSI process, that parents have the opportunity to come learn how to successfully work with their child at home, and engage other community members with student achievement.

### CSI Curriculum Day

The Curriculum Day Committee plans learning activities for HAS that are held on special days determined by the school's administration team. These learning activities focus on our school's selected goals and learning strategies. This committee will work with other committees to develop age-appropriate activities that are standards-based and CSI driven.

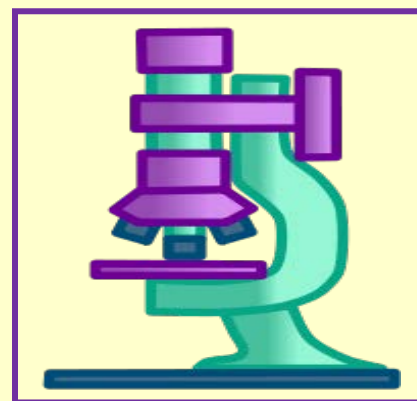
### CSI Review

The purpose of this committee is to work with the leadership team to determine if the school is making progress in the CSI process. This committee will review data, other documents, and strategies to determine if progress is being made. They will make recommendations to the administration team based on action research when changes appear to be necessary.

## 5th Grade Science Experiments

Throughout the school year Mr. Taylor's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will be conducting regular science experiments and investigations related to the standards being covered. In the photographs students are investigating signs of life by comparing yeast and sugar mixtures with yeast and sand mixtures. This is part of our life science unit, and the next big student project in this unit will be making a model of a cell.

Science experiments will be carried out nearly every week of the school year and relevant to what we are studying at the time. Not only are these experiments fun, but they give students an opportunity to do hands-on activities related to what the class has studied in the textbook. These experiments also allow students to work step-by-step through the scientific method and use scientific inquiry. The in-class experiments also prepare students for the individual science fair projects they will be working on in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The students look forward to experiment days and benefit greatly from the experiences.



### Counselors Corner

*It has been an awesome first few weeks of school.*

*Currently Ms. Spiller and Ms. Joseph are making their way throughout the school conducting lessons on Antiterrorism Awareness for students. The lesson consists of a video followed by discussion. Discussions have been engaging and thought provoking, parent's thank you for doing a great job of keeping your children alert, informed and aware.*

*The Counselors are also having the students complete a Needs Assessment; which will ensure that we continue to provide a comprehensive guidance program, yet focusing on the individual needs of our students.*

*PSAT's will be given Oct 17<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade AVID Students (free of charge). Any other DoDEA student who wishes to take the PSAT may do so by contacting Ms. Spiller and paying the 17.00 fee for scoring. Tests are limited please contact Ms. Spiller by October 5, 2012.*

***Next month's focus will be on Bully Awareness and Prevention.***

*HAS Counselor*

*Ms. MeSharn Joseph Elementary PSCD, Sure Start K-4*

*753 8925*

*Ms. Spiller Middle grades 5-8*

*753 3052*

### Korean Immersion Program

We're excited to start the Korean Immersion Program at Humphreys American School! Beginning in kindergarten, students in this program learn to read, write, speak, and understand the Korean language during the regular school day with the goal of gaining functional proficiency in Korean. Please note the class is full for this school year. However, sign-ups for next year will begin in Spring 2013. If you are interested or would like more information about the program, please contact Ms. Hannah Limb at [hannah.limb@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:hannah.limb@pac.dodea.edu).

Thank you!

Best regards,

*Ms. Hannah Limb*

HAES Kindergarten Teacher



# Welcome Newcomers!!!

## Tanya Bokma



My name is Tanya Bokma. I am currently teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading, language arts and social studies here at Humphreys American School. This is my third year in Korea. Previously I taught a 5/4 multiage and a 3/2 multiage class at Casey Elementary in Dongducheon Korea. I have also taught Kindergarten, and fourth grade while in the states.

I have an undergraduate degree in biomechanics and kinesiology from Tulane University in New Orleans, and a Master's Degree in teaching from the State University of New York in Potsdam. I am originally from a small town in Montana where much of my family still resides. My husband is in the military, so my daughters, ages 10 and 7, and I travel to wherever the needs of the army take us.

I love being in Korea and am very much enjoying the new school year at Humphreys American School.

# Terry Hill Kindergarten



In June, my family and I moved to Korea with the Army. My husband Jeff and I have a two year old son named Aaron. I have been teaching for 17 years and have worked primarily with children from Prekindergarten to third grade. My heart is with lower elementary students! I am excited to be at Humphreys American School.

# Justine Beeson

## Justine Beeson



Hello,

My name is Justine Beeson. I am currently serving as a long term sub for kindergarten. I have been teaching as a certified teacher for three years and have subbed between jobs. This is my second year subbing here at Humphrey's American School, and it has been a joy to meet all the wonderful parents and students. See you around campus!

Justine Beeson



# Baek Chege



Baek Chege  
Kindergarten Aid

I am a native of Korea but now I call America home. My husband and I have two children Martin and Agnes. I have a bachelor of science in Economics from a Korean university, Soong-Sil University in Seoul. I have decided to have another degree from the United States. My Major is going to be Computer Information Technology. I got my first job working as a substitute and then I worked as a special educational aid at the middle school. I am so glad to be working at kindergarten. My heart belongs to kindergarten now.

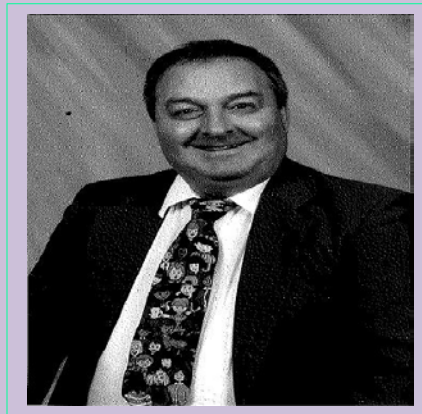
# Bora Burton



My name is Bora Burton. This is my 1<sup>st</sup> year at Humphreys American School. I have taught K and 11th grades, with a majority of that time in 11th grade. I have a Masters of Elementary Education, a BA in English Education, and hold a K-8 teaching credential. I reside in Seoul with my husband and a two year old son. My family and I enjoy outdoor activities and traveling.

Thank you!

# Eric Chippps



I am originally from rural Ohio, but went to college in Pennsylvania where I was graduated with honors from West Chester University, with a Bachelors of Science degree in Elementary Education. I taught at a small, local private school in Pennsylvania for two years before obtaining my first position with DoDEA. My wife Carol, our two and a half year old triplets and I moved to Japan where I taught at Lanham Elementary School, at Atsugi, NAS. Three years and another baby later we were transferred to Germany, where I taught for ten years. Now the triplets are sophomores at Osan High School, and our "baby" is in sixth grade here at Humphreys. My family and I are looking forward to our time here, with plans to experience Korea and the rest of Asia.

# MeSharn Joseph



## MeSharn Joseph, Guidance Counselor.

I am from New Orleans Louisiana and I have a son, Christopher who is 14. This is my second time in Korea and it feels like coming home. My last duty station was Guantanamo Bay Cuba where I taught HS Family and Consumer Science and HS Health. My under graduation degree was completed at Tennessee State University in Home Economics with a Concentration in Child Development and Family Relations and my 1st Masters degree was completed at Troy State University in Public Administration. My 2<sup>nd</sup> Masters degree was completed at The University of West Alabama in School Guidance Counseling. This will be my 10th year as a guidance counselor with experience in all grade levels.

# JORGE PACHECO



## Jorge Pacheco

I was born in Honduras, Central America. My hometown is New Orleans, Louisiana. I am a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. I received my bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and my Masters from CSU San Marcos. I taught for eleven years at Escondido Union School District in California before joining DODEA in 2008. My first teaching assignment for DODEA was Alconbury, England. I was there for almost two years. I spent one year in Baumholder, Germany before coming to Humphreys American School.



# Tina Hallmon



What's Happening Humphreys Eagles! My name is Tina Hallmon and I teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. My hometown is Atwater, California. My husband is in the Air Force and we have 2 sons, 20 and 16, and one daughter, who is 12. When I'm not teaching my super second graders, I like to read books, go shopping or hiking, and watch movies with my family. Here's to a FANTASTIC Eagle Year! Cheers!





Bryan Morrisey is the new Educational Technologist for Humphreys American School. Bryan is brand new to DODEA. He moved here from Asheville North Carolina with his wife and two children. Bryan is originally from St. Louis Missouri but lived in Asheville for the last ten years. In Asheville Bryan taught Computer and Network Engineering in the Career and Technical Education department at Asheville High School. Outside of work Bryan likes to travel, enjoy the outdoors, go to festivals, eat all varieties of food, listen to music, play music, read, tinker with technology and do puzzles. Bryan is very excited to be here at Camp Humphreys and can't wait to get to get involved with the community and get know more people.

