

Good morning, it's April 11, 2013, and welcome to Panther News. I'm _____, _____th grade.

This is our 40th broadcast or recording for PANTHER NEWS! Let's take a look at the number, 40:

According to R. Allendy, it is the achievement of a cycle in the world, or the rhythm of the cyclic repetitions in the Universe.

According to Saint Augustin, 40 expresses perfection because of "The Ten Commandments" and the preaching of these Laws in four different directions ... North, South, East and West ... so, 10 times 4 equals 40.

According to Lacuria, it represents the complete and sufficient period to finish work ... the 40-hour work week.

Good morning. I'm _____,
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According to the Bible, Jesus Christ fasted ... didn't eat ... for 40 days in the desert.

According to the Bible, "The Flood of Noah" lasted for 40 days.

According to the Egyptians, it is the number of days necessary in order that the soul becomes delivered from the body.

The 40th birthday in Japan is the beginning of old age, called shoro.

The number 40 is a very important number in religion. We have mentioned just a few examples. Search the number on the Internet, and check it out for yourself.

Good morning. I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Sanchez will be taking forty ... an interesting number choice since we just finished talking about this number on our 40th PANTHER NEWS ... 8th grade students to the STEM ... Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics ... Symposium at Houston Community College's Eastside Campus tomorrow from 8:30am to 12:30pm. The symposium or meeting will be dedicated in memory of Stephen Grega, former HCC-STEM Chair and former NASA employee.

Former NASA Astronaut Jose M. Hernandez will deliver the keynote or main speech. He will talk about his journey from a non-English-speaking migrant field worker to becoming an astronaut, flying on the 128th Shuttle mission, and spending time on the International Space Station ... its 30th mission.

Good morning. I'm _____,
_____th grade.

We've talked about STEM fields and STEM education on PANTHER NEWS before, but we want to mention it again since so many RYSS students will be attending this symposium or meeting at Houston Community College tomorrow.

STEM has become common in education discussions as a reference to the shortage of skilled workers and inadequate education in these areas. It addresses or begins to solve the problem of the lack of qualified candidates for high-tech jobs. It also brings together the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as an integrated or mixed curriculum.

Our country ... America ... needs more students to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at all grade levels in school, and then continue in college majoring in these fields so when they graduate, they can be qualified for high-tech jobs.

Good morning. I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Being qualified for high-tech jobs is very important for the future of America to be able to compete in the world and maintain its number one rating. It is very important for America to continue to be strong and lead the world as a free nation.

We mentioned high-tech jobs. What does this mean? What is a high-tech job? It refers to a position that would involve a person in scientific concepts, advanced technology, engineering procedures and Mathematics to manufacture or make a product or provide a service. Micro-electronics are a big part of the high-tech field.

Here are some examples of industries that would hire a person qualified for a high-tech job: Aerospace, Automotive, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Information Technology, Electrical Engineering, Information Systems, Photonics, Nanotechnology, Nuclear Physics, Robotics, Telecommunications.

Good morning. I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Another very important field is programming, and more and more middle and high schools are introducing these courses to help prepare those students who want to study this field in college, and then become a programmer for a company or an organization.

Everything you see on web pages on the Internet is because of programming. Software that you use on the computer like Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel, GIMP exists because of programming. Video gaming exists because of programming. Cellphone communications, applications or apps and GPS systems exist because of programming.

And when we say programming, we are talking about a special language that a person ... programmer ... would use or write to put together a series of commands to make something happen.

Good morning. I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Mr. Chambers over the years has involved most of us in his classes with HTML to make web pages. HTML is a programming language, and when we used it in notepad, and then saved it, we made web pages happen. It was exciting to see our programming language come alive as a cool web page with pictures, words and animations. And Mr. Lewis, Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Moreno have involved some of us with programming to make robots do things.

There are many different programming languages from simple to complex and again, their main goal is to make something happen, create something that is useful or just for fun. If you think about it, programmers control the world through these kinds of products that most people use.

If you want to be a programmer, you have to develop the logic and analytical skills needed. Logic is a system of reasoning, and analysis is separating a whole into its elemental parts or basic principles as it relates to sequences and series.

If you think this might be cool to begin to see what you can learn and do as a programmer, go to the Internet and search for free programming lessons for young people. There is a programming language that is easy for young people to use, and it is called “Logo”.

A turtle appears on the screen, and your job is to give the turtle commands to make him do whatever you want him to do. You can watch the turtle perform the commands given. You can download the free version by searching “FMSlogo”.

There is another programming language that is easy for young people to use, and it is called “Scratch”. You can create interactive stories, animations and games, and then share them with your friends. You can download the free version by searching “scratch”. It is fun, and you will actually learn important mathematical and computational ideas.

One more time ... search “FMSlogo” and “scratch”.

As a part of a grant ... money ... that is received from the National Council of La Raza, the Youth Advisory Board will be putting up posters and conducting other outreach activities around campus to highlight the dangers of distracted driving ... texting while driving. The Youth Advisory Board encourages all teachers and students to have discussions about the importance of driving safely, and to remind those who are driving that they should not be texting.

Teachers, please take a quick survey of your first period classes by asking the following questions, and then report back to Mr. Brown and the Youth Advisory Board:

Do you feel safe when a person is driving and texting with you as a passenger in the car?

Do you think that it is safe when a person drives and texts on his or her phone?

Have you ever told someone to please stop texting and driving when you were a passenger in the vehicle?

Quick Announcements

Students, read your composition on PANTHER NEWS ... a great experience! Ask your teachers to send us your work, and we'll contact you.

Also, send us your comments and other submissions. PANTHER NEWS can only get better if you help us make it better. And if you are interested in being a newscaster, please let Mr. Chambers know in room 331.

Our e-mail address:

panthernewsreport@panthernewsreport.com

one more time ...

panthernewsreport@panthernewsreport.com

It's important that we come to school with supplies: pens, pencils and paper. This shows everyone around us that we are prepared. And we should use our planners so that we are organized.

Let's make sure that we are following the uniform code in our student handbook. Being in proper uniform makes our school culture stronger.

We should wear our ID badge at all times while on campus. Many of us are not wearing it. It's important to have it in case of an emergency, and it also makes our school culture stronger.

We should respect each other as we pass by in the hallways. Stay to your right, and **NO BULLYING**, please!

If you see trash in the hallways of our buildings and anywhere on our campus, pick it up, and throw it in a garbage can.

Communities in Schools

Today:

Reading Tutoring Vocabulary Review Homework Completion	College and Workforce Readiness “Career Highlight-Disk Jockey/Broadcast Journalism” Homework Completion	Youth Development Enrichment Volleyball, Board games
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Friday:

Career Awareness “Goal Setting” Homework Completion	Physical Activity-Individual Soccer Game Fine Arts-Technology XBox	Physical Activity-individual Soccer Game Fine Arts-Technology Wii
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Lunch Menu

Today: Toasted Ham and Cheese Sandwich or Chunky Chicken Salad, Corn on the Cob, Pinto Beans, Sun Chips Melon Cubes.

Friday: Beef Patty on Bun with Cheese, Mayo and Ketchup, Spinach Salad, Light Ranch Dressing, Baked Tater Tots, Fresh Fruit.

That's all for now. We'll see you next Monday. Have a great day, and study hard! Your future depends on it!