

Record number graduate from Dickinson High School

A record number of “Gators” received diplomas this year as Dickinson High School hosted the Class of 2009 Graduation Ceremony June 5 at Sam Vitanza Stadium.

DHS had 449 students earn diplomas this year, up by nearly 100 students from the 2008 graduation. The large jump in graduates can be contributed to several things, including the increasing student enrollment in Dickinson ISD, the district’s commitment to work with students to help them excel in their classes and reach graduation and the success of the Dickinson Continuation Center.

Dickinson ISD’s enrollment continues to rise, having grown by just over 2,000 students in the past five years. At DHS, enrollment has grown by more than 300 students. The growing enrollment pushed Dickinson ISD this school year into Division 5A, the largest UIL division for academic and athletic competitions.

The Dickinson Continuation Center is celebrating five years of reaching students at-risk of dropping out of high school. DCC has had 142 students graduate since its inception and this year boasts its largest class with 50 students receiving diplomas. DCC offers smaller classes, flexible hours and more one-on-one focus with teachers to give students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Some of these students are older and actually dropped out of high school but later regretted their decision, and DCC offered them a second chance to obtain their diploma.

The Gator Recovery Team was developed at the beginning of the school year with teams of district and high school administrators and teachers going out to the homes of students who had not returned for the 2008-2009 school year. The team members talked with the students about their future plans, encouraged them to return to school and told them about other options such as DCC.