

Freeport LNG donates \$18,000 for Angleton High School calculators

By **ANDY PACKARD**

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ANGLETON— Angleton High School math students will have the necessary tools to help them navigate through their Algebra problems thanks to contributions from Freeport LNG.

To help the high school provide new equipment for its math department, Freeport LNG donated close to \$18,000 to purchase 200 TI 83 Plus calculators for the high school. The

calculators cost about \$90 each.

“One calculator by itself is not very expensive, but when you have

several hundred, then it begins to be quite a bit of money,” Superintendent Pat Montgomery said.

Students will be able to use them for the STAAR Algebra I test, as



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well as in the classroom, Montgomery said.

“Our students having access to the latest technology will surely benefit them on the state assessment and on the work they do every single day in school,” Montgomery said.

The need stemmed from the department’s severe shortage of calculators, Angleton High Math Department chairwoman Linda Jo Huff said. During

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Angleton High School staff members hold up test-quality calculators bought with money donated by Freeport LNG.

Photo courtesy of Angleton High School Journalism

Calculators

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STAAR testing in the spring, only 300 calculators were available for the 500 students who took the test.

Department officials borrowed the necessary machines from the science department and Angleton Junior High.

Huff approached Freeport LNG, expressing the district's need for test-quality calculators.

While some school districts are applying for grants to pay for electronic devices, including laptop computers and tablets, the TI 83 Plus calculator is a necessary piece of technology in the classroom, Montgomery said.

With only 346 calculators available for the students, the donation will help the high school not only have one for each kid, but to have extras, the superintendent said.

Montgomery said she felt a sense of comfort when she learned of Freeport LNG's donation.

"There was a certain amount of relief that we weren't going to have to worry about how we were

going to ensure that our kids have the technology that they need," she said.

The purchase of the calculators will benefit more than just students, Montgomery said.

"Freeport LNG strongly believes in supporting our local students and the educators who work so hard to provide a quality educational experience for them," said Wendy Mazurkiewicz, Freeport LNG director of community affairs.

"These calculators will make a big difference in the district's ability to achieve that," Mazurkiewicz said.

If not for the contribution of Freeport LNG, district officials would have had to look elsewhere for the funds to buy the equipment, possibly taking it from another area in need, she said.

"We don't have any froth in our budget, and so it would mean that some other need was not going to be met," Montgomery said.

"Their donation goes far beyond the calculators."

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