

A Shared Purpose for English Language Learners

Department of Multilingual Services Newsletter

Meet the Multilingual Services Team

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- Youngmee Hsu**
Elementary ELL Coordinator
- Maryury Fernandez**
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- Yvette Brammer**
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- Sandra Ontiveros**
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- Almas Walji**
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- Mary (Ana) Alegria**
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Office Manager
- Lina D’Gracia**
Administrative Assistant
- Gloria Villafana**
Assessment/Data Analyst
- Myra Cantu**
Assessment/Data Analyst
- Clemente Alquicira**
Assessment/Data Analyst



Multilingual Services is a newly formed department of FBISD that serves our growing population of English language learners. Director Tinou Tran and the administrative staff are located in the FBISD Administration Building.

Our ELL Facilitators travel to elementary and secondary campuses to provide instructional support to teachers that fosters both academic and language development for English language learners.



Also new to FBISD is the Language Testing Center under the leadership of Dr. Lupita Garcia. The Language Testing Center accurately determines the English language proficiency of newly enrolled students and tracks their placement and progress.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

A New Department and a New Director

Dr. Tran has nearly 20 years of experience working in Bilingual/ESL education. She has served as a District Bilingual/ESL Instructional Specialist, Bilingual Spanish Reading/Math Interventionist, ESL Lead Teacher, Bilingual Spanish Teacher, and was most recently an assistant principal at Best Elementary School in Alief ISD. She is also a SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) Trainer for the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C., where she helps teachers plan and deliver lessons that allow English learners to acquire academic knowledge as they develop English language proficiency. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Spanish Literature from the University of Texas, and her Master’s degree in Bilingual Education and Doctorate’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction (with an emphasis in Second Language Education) from the University of Houston.

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Caught You Being Great!

FBISD Language Immersion Program

Congratulations to the FBISD Language Immersion Program for celebrating their first anniversary! Thanks to the hard work of both students and teachers, eleven English language learners graduated in June 2016, with more in position to graduate in spring 2017. The Language Immersion Program, located at Progressive High School, provides accelerated academic and English acquisition classes for 11th and 12th grade students who recently are new to the US and entering FBISD schools. This innovative program is under the leadership of principal Cory Collins. Twenty-four English language learners are currently enrolled in the Language Immersion Program for this school year. We wish you success in 2016-2017!



The Language Immersion Program at Progressive High School

Learning in the Home



The Value of Reading in Your First Language

Parents ask if it's okay if their child continues to read in their native language while they are learning English in school. The answer is YES! In fact, research shows that children who read in their native language will have an easier time learning to read in English. According to McGill University (2002), when a child's brain is exposed to language at a very young age, the brain develops a life-long capacity to learn language, including foreign languages. So what can parents do to help their child become good readers? Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ Read to your child and let them read independently in your native language daily.
- ◆ Encourage your child to write in their native language.
- ◆ Encourage your child to use their native language to tell stories.
- ◆ Expand your child's vocabulary by teaching him/her new words in their native language.
- ◆ Have fun with native language rhymes and games.

(For more information on this topic, go to www.colorincolorado.org)

Helping Hands

FBISD Check and Connect Social Workers Dana Guzman and Sharon Wright



Coming to a new country can be exciting but also scary. This is especially true for children entering an American school for the first time. Large schools, new school rules, classmates and teachers who speak another language — it can all be so confusing!

Five years ago, FBISD introduced the Check and Connect Program to help our new-to-country English language learners adjust to the academic and social demands of the American school system. In the beginning, Check and Connect was for high school students only. As of this year it has been extended to elementary and middle school students as well.

Social workers, Dana Guzman and Sharon Wright meet regularly with new English language learners to provide counseling, to explain the rules and requirements of the school system, and to refer students and their parents to community resources if additional help is needed.

If you would like more information, contact Amanda Hartley at 281-634-1355.

Cultural Corner

Experiencing Culture Shock

Parents and children may be unprepared for the ups and downs of their emotions when they first come to the US. This experience has a name— culture shock. This surprising, but normal, experience was first identified by anthropologist Kalervo Oberg. The characteristics are confusion, tiredness, difficulty sleeping, homesickness, depression, and anger. When experiencing culture shock, it's not unusual to question whether coming to the US was a mistake. Although difficult for adults, this experience is especially difficult for adolescents who feel more unsure of themselves and have a greater need to make friends their own age. What is the solution? Time. An adult or child experiencing culture shock needs time to adjust, and how much time differs from person to person. Also, try to stay in good physical health, stay in touch with family and friends in your native country and talk to a friend about how you feel. If the symptoms of culture shock don't go away, it's time to talk to a doctor or counselor.



Upcoming Events



Elementary and Secondary

December 16
End of first semester

December 19 to December 30
Holiday/Winter Break

January 2
Campus Professional Learning Day

January 16
Holiday/Martin L. King Day

February 7-9
Bilingual Program Parent Meetings

Padres de estudiantes en el Programa Bilingüe

Gracias por asistir a nuestras reuniones en septiembre y noviembre. Nuestra próxima reunión se realizará en febrero (Feb. 7-9). Una invitación se enviara a casa con los estudiantes.

¡Juntos logramos más!

This Month's Community Resource

The Literacy Council of Fort Bend County offers free classes for adults:

- GED Preparation classes
- ESL Classes Basic Literacy
- Basic Computer Skills
- US Citizenship Class

12530 Emily Court, Sugar Land, TX 77478
Tel: 281-240-8181 Fax: 281-240-8242

Literacy Council
of Fort Bend County



Changing Lives