



Ensuring Excellence in Service For English Language Learners

Department of Multilingual Services Newsletter

16431 Lexington Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281-634-7792

HAABE and TexTESOL Finalists

- Angela (Tinou) Tran**
Director
- Jill Lowe**
Secondary ELL Coordinator
- Youngmee Hsu**
Elementary ELL Coordinator
- Yvette Brammer**
Executive Assistant
- Sandra Ontiveros**
Administrative Assistant
- Almas Walji**
PEIMS Data Specialist
- Mary (Ana) Alegria**
Secondary ELL Facilitator
- Joël Johnson**
Secondary ELL Facilitator
- Rosy Martinez**
Elementary ELL Facilitator
- José Barrera**
Elementary ELL Facilitator
- Lori Ruiz-Wamble**
Elementary ELL Facilitator

LANGUAGE TESTING CENTER
281-634-8433

- Maria (Lupita) Garcia**
Executive Director
- Angela Garcia**
Office Manager
- Lina D’Gracia**
Administrative Assistant
- Gloria Villafana**
Assessment/Data Analyst
- Mayra Cantú**
Assessment/Data Analyst
- Clemente Alquicira**
Assessment/Data Analyst



Lili Dibai, FBISD’s Secondary HAABE Teacher of the Year Finalist, is in her 4th year teaching beginner and intermediate English Language Learners at Sugar Land Middle School. Holding her Masters in Education and fluent in Spanish and Farsi, Ms. Dibai is passionate about teaching the English language, as well as advocating for every student that comes into her classroom. She is pondering which language to learn next.

Caroline LeBlanc, Texas TESOL Teacher of the Year Finalist, is the lead ESL teacher at the Language Immersion Center for 11th and 12th grade English Language Learners in Fort Bend ISD. Caroline taught three years in Aldine ISD, spent five years as a private tutor for Dutch students from Awty International School, and taught 15 years in Fort Bend ISD at the middle and high school levels. Her time in the classroom with students is what she cherishes the most.



Kennette Bardell, FBISD’s Elementary HAABE Teacher of the Year Finalist, has been teaching for 12 years. This is her first year in Fort Bend ISD at Ridgemont Elementary as a Kindergarten EDGE teacher. She has a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, with an Early Childhood Education Specialization from Xavier University of Louisiana. She is currently pursuing her principal certification at Lamar University.

Rosa Maria Villeda, FBISD’s Bilingual Elementary Teacher of the Year Finalist, has taught the last 4 years at Goodman Elementary. Currently, she teaches 5th Grade. She obtained a Bachelor degree in Computers Engineering (IT) from UNADECA (Universidad Adventista de Centro America, Costa Rica). She loves working with, and is inspired by, the wonderful Goodman faculty, along with seeing her students grow and bloom as life long learners.



Department News

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“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.” --Maya Angelou.

In FBISD we have a vibrant tapestry made up of more than 90 different languages and dialects. Our community understands and appreciates diversity. According to a study by Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Fort Bend County is now “the single most ethnically diverse county in the nation.” Therefore, our role as educators is to teach our students that “in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” Here in FBISD, we gladly accept that responsibility!

Caught You Being Great!

LPAC Administrator Going Above and Beyond

Dr. Jacob Nichols has been the Assistant Principal and LPAC Administrator at Arizona Fleming Elementary for the past 2 years. Prior to AFE, he has spent 12 years working in middle school as an associate principal, assistant principal, coach, and teacher. During the district audit of ELL records, it became very evident that he continually invests in the improvement of the ESL and bilingual programs at AFE. Dr. Nichols puts forth substantial effort in ensuring prior records of newly enrolled ELL students are obtained, maintaining current records, and he consistently and frequently tracks the progress of all ELLs. In addition to program support, he provides strategic instructional support for teachers with English Language Learners. For all this and much more, we are thankful for Dr. Nichols' excellence as an LPAC administrator!



Learning in the Home



Taking Advantage of Free Online Resources

With so many resources on the World Wide Web, it can be challenging for parents to know which resources are available and useful for their children. Here is only a snapshot of valuable resources available:

- **Discovery Education** makes educationally relevant videos (great for Social Studies and Science).
- **Reading A to Z** provides literacy based PreK-6th grade resources (great for Reading and Writing; available through teacher).
- **Readworks** nonfiction and literary articles with reading comprehension and vocabulary lessons in K-12.
- **News ELA** high interest and current events, nonfiction articles for all reading levels in K-12 (available in Spanish).
- **BrainPop** has over 1,000 short animated movies for students in grades K-12 (all subject areas).
- **GetEpic** access to over 20,000 books (available through teacher/parent access also available but no free).

Helping Hands

FBISD Parent Educators



Title I Parent Resource Centers (PRC) are housed on Title I campuses. They are designed to meet the needs of each family with an emphasis on parent training, literacy, and parental involvement. The PRC's are family friendly environments where both parents and children can learn. PRC's offer many parent education classes and support services for Title I parents.

A total of 24 parent educators throughout the district along with 3 District Parent Educators: Teresa Hernandez, Jillian Hunter and Lorena Moreno work on a day to day basis to provide each campus the resources the parents need to make successful students. Some of the programs offered are Parent Advisory Councils (PAC), Family Stories, ELL, HIS, FRED and parent classes based on the needs of the campus.

If you would like more information, contact Jennifer Sowell at 281 634-1134.

What to Expect When Learning a New Language

A person is considered bilingual when they speak two different languages. Children can learn to be bilingual. Their first language is usually their dominant language, meaning this is the language the child knows better. The dominant language can change over time depending on how often the child communicates using the language. Learning two languages takes practice as any skill in life does. Children need lots of practice in both languages and the parents can help with the practice. Here are some things to know when a child is learning a new language:

1. Children start off with 1 or 2 word phrases.
2. Grammar rules from both languages might get mixed up and they might use both languages to complete a sentence.
3. As a second language is introduced, some children might not talk, which is referred to as the silent period. This is normal and it can last for several months. It will go away.

(Source: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/learning-two-languages>)



Upcoming Events



Elementary and Secondary

March 13-17
Spring Break

March 6-April 5
TELPAS Assessment Window

March 28-30
STAAR Testing (1st Round):
5th/8th Grade– Reading
4th/7th Grade– Writing
5th/8th Grade– Math
10th Grade- English II

April 14
Good Friday Holiday

May 8-11
STAAR Testing (2nd Round):
3rd/4th/6th/7th Grade– Math
3rd/4th/6th/7th Grade– Reading
5th/8th Grade– Science
8th Grade– Social Studies

May 29
Memorial Day Holiday

This Month's Community Resource

Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center:

Provides innovative child-centered learning with six galleries for children from birth to 12-years.

*Free for Lone Star Card Recipients;
50% off in Jan-March & Aug- Sept on Groupon*

**198 Kempner Street, Sugar Land, TX 77498
Tel: 832-742-2800**

