

## The First Weeks of School *Reimagined*

These teachers tapped into all of the creativity they could muster to welcome students to their new classes. Take a peek at the experiences they planned to get to know their students, allow the students to get to know each other, and to give them a hefty challenge to kick off the 2020-21 school year.

### Find the Alpaca

Craig Sanders, Ridge Point High School

Do you remember those logic games that gave you hints so you could use process of elimination to find the answer? Now kick it up about a hundred notches, and you have Find the Alpaca. As students process the clues, they work in small break out rooms to get through it together. Mr. Sanders listens in to get an understanding of the students' personalities and to assess student strengths and weaknesses.

Can YOU find the alpaca? Click on the picture to get the activity and try it for yourself. Answers will be published in the October newsletter!

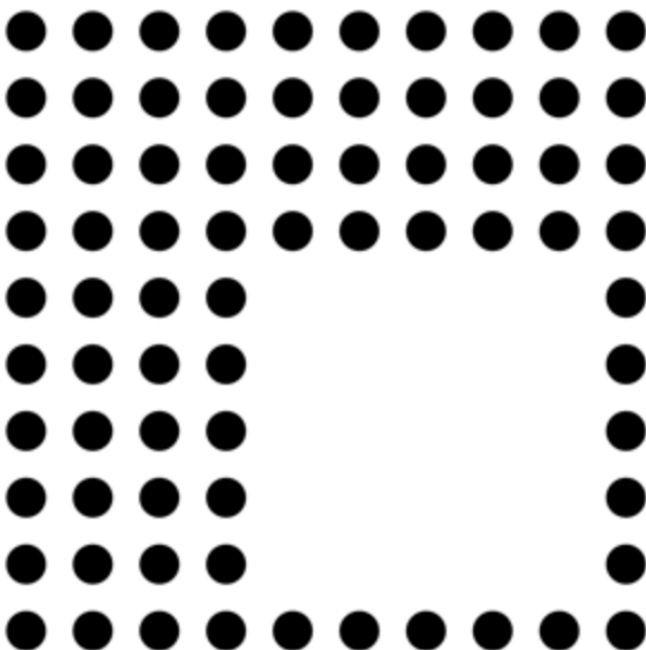


### What's Your Strategy?

Brittney Green, Lake Olympia Middle School

For the picture to the left, find out how many dots there are without actually counting them. Use as many strategies as possible.

As students share strategies, they learn lots of different ways to approach a visual and mathematical challenge.



## What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Rhovonda Brown, Mission Bend Elementary



By asking students to answer these questions based on the visual below, she can determine what they know about lab safety and equipment use, whether at home or at school.



## Word Sort

Chablia Lewis, Dulles Elementary

How many different ways can you sort these words?

saw	horse	shirt	shop
ham	socks	house	ship
shed	soap	shell	hose

# September's Focus: Mental Health

## Parents

Clinical psychologist and psychotherapist

Dr. Gail Post poses to parents,

"When is it more than giftedness?"

"We don't want to 'overpathologize' and ignore how giftedness contributes to social and emotional functioning, but symptoms of distress should not be dismissed as 'just a part of being gifted' or 'a phase' that will pass." Consider taking a few moments to read this thought-provoking post in her blog, Gifted Challenges.

## High School

NAMI Greater Houston is a not-for-profit organization established in 1988 by a group of dedicated and caring family members of those living with difficult, yet treatable, mental illnesses. In founding NAMI Greater Houston, these family members sought to establish a grassroots organization that would address the increasing need for families and persons affected by mental illness to have a powerful voice in the mental health community. National Alliance on Mental Illness works to educate the public about mental illness and to eliminate the stigma of mental illness through resources, events, support groups, education classes, and community outreach.

NAMI is a great place to start getting answers to your questions regarding mental illness. **You can also sign up to volunteer!** Click on their logo to get to their website.



**Greater Houston**

## Elementary

What do stones, jars, and pool noodles have in common? They can all be used for activities to enter relaxation mode! From The School Counseling Files, this page is full of easy, affordable activities that have a great payoff - chill time.

**Click on the penguin for the activities!**



## Middle School

**Podcast: Raising Emotionally Intelligent Children: An opportunity for parents to guide and understand the middle school generation.**

The Mind Matters Podcast features discussions with leaders in the fields of psychology, education, and beyond, with an emphasis on gifted/talented and twice-exceptional children and adults. In this Episode, special guest Christine Fonesca, licensed educational psychologist and bestselling author, discusses the "iGen" generation and the differences in the timing of major milestones from their parents' generation, as well as the implications for this generation. We encourage you to listen and then perhaps engage your child in a deep discussion on this topic.



**Click on the icon for the free podcast.**



# Hispanic Heritage September 15 - October 15

Fort Bend ISD is one of the most diverse school districts in Texas, and our Hispanic students make up more than a quarter of our student enrollment! We are pleased to recognize Hispanic Heritage to celebrate the unique culture and traditions these students and their families represent in Fort Bend ISD and in the community as a whole.. Read more about our District's diversity on the [District Information](#) page.

## Elementary Parents!

If you are looking for some asynchronous learning about Hispanic Heritage, take a look at these **Crafts!**

Each set of instructions gives a brief history of the craft or what the craft represents.



Hojalata Tin Art,  
Mexican folk  
tradition dating  
back to the 16th  
century!



INSTITUTE OF  
HISPANIC CULTURE  
OF HOUSTON

## *Dia de la Hispanidad/ Hispanic Day*

October 9, 2020 - Miller Outdoor Theatre - FREE EVENT!



Since 1983, the IHCH has sponsored each year an international artistic production, the "Festival Folclórico", at the Miller Theater. The theater offers IHCH the presentation of recognized Hispanic artists in the areas of theater, television, radio, and film, and it also features colorful folk dance groups, both local and international. Every year we celebrate a different country. Visit the event website at [El Dia de la Hispanidad](#).

# Mentorship Partner Highlights



C & E Tax Service



Dr. Kendra Carmon  
UT Health

