

Matthew G. Martinez, an avid reader and writer, loved books at an early age!

Matthew attended the University of Houston and graduated with a B. A. in Sociology. He worked with children and young adults at Neighborhood Centers Inc.— The Ripley House as a Youth Worker and later as Family Facilitator. He worked at The Ripley House for two years after graduating UH when Matthew started his path to teaching. One of the original faculty members of The Rice School/La Escuela Rice when it opened in 1994, he served as Parent Liaison and elective teacher for four years. He then moved to Lanier MS to teach English and Reading from 1998 – 2005. At Lanier MS Matthew was trained in the Reading/Writing Workshop at Columbia University’s Teachers College. Matthew has been a summer writing camp instructor with Writers In The Schools (WITS) ever since his days at Lanier MS and looks forward to summer camp and teaching Creative Writing. In 2005 he decided to teach at the high school level and joined the faculty of Challenge Early College HS where he taught English I, English II, AP English Language & Composition and Creative Writing and served as English Department Chairperson. Matthew then worked at Reagan HS from 2012 – 2014 serving as AP Language Composition instructor, English I instructor and Lead Teacher. He left HISD in summer 2014 to teach 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade English and Writing at The Ripley House Charter School but he longed for the structure and resources and opportunities for professional development in HISD. He has been a member of the National Council of Teachers of English and was chosen as ELL Teacher of the Year at Reagan HS in 2013.

Matthew has two sons, ages 24 and 10. When not teaching Matthew loves to read, write, bicycle around town, camp, fish and enjoy the outdoors. Matthew is excited to be teaching English Language Arts at BCMA where he hopes to help students grow into leaders and explore the wonders of reading and writing. He will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade Reading, 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts and Yearbook.