Spring 2022

www.houstonisd.org/voices

Edition II Issue 3

DROP OF WISDOM

Parents, as we prepare for summer vacation, it is so important that while your child is at home, they continue to read every day. In order to build their vocabulary and come back strong in August, reading at least 20 minutes every day is key.



Lysette K. Cooper HISD School Support Officer ESO1

Make reading fun for your child by allowing them to choose the books they

read, even if it is a comic book; as long as they are reading and enjoying it, that is what matters most. When your child reads a book, be sure to ask a few questions, so you will know they understood what they read. For example: Who were the characters? Where did the story take place? What was the problem in the story? What new facts did you learn from reading this book?

Other fun ways to include reading over the summer is to have your child help you with the grocery shopping by reading the list, have them read parts of a recipe while you cook together, or have them read billboards or other signs while you drive. The Houston Public Library is an excellent resource for books and other summer programs that will help keep your child excited about reading this summer.

Home Page - HPL Home at Houston Public Library (http://houstonlibrary.org/home)

Helpful Websites for At-Home Learning



www.txel.org

Are you searching for resources to help keep your children academically involved? The Texas Education Agency provides our state's families with numerous resources and websites for athome learning. In some cases, the resources are offered in additional languages; or offer you instructions on installing Google's translator for free. Visit the link provided below to get an early start on supporting your child's continuing education.

English Learner Portal-Help Full Website (txel. org)

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Amanah Mentor at Fondren MS, Sahar Fattaniage

Describing her journey to this country, ML Amanah Mentor at Fondren MS, Sahar Fattaniage, shares her personal experience:

Born in Saudi Arabia, I came here at 4 years old with my family, parents, and one sibling. I was lucky to start here in Elementary School. I



learned the language through the Elementary School ESL program. English and Reading comprehension was the most difficult. It was easier to understand, but not to speak it, just like many of our newcomer students here today. Many of the students I work with are coming here alone, traveling through the border. Many have one parent in the home country, one is here, or arriving to relatives, they may not know. This situation is causing emotional and social issues for them.

I was lucky to have good teachers and was open to opportunities as a student. I was introduced to the EMERGE mentorship program at HISD, which helped me navigate the colleges and universities and the process. I went on college tours to Harvard, Brown, and others, and I was able to learn about scholarships and programs through Emerge. Emerge helped me through the SAT and test preparation. In Elementary school, learning the language and culture from 3rd-5th grade, I would have to attend tutorials for reading, which was embarrassing for me. The students I work with are hesitant to read aloud in English because they feel shy, others may be laughing, and they feel scared and don't participate. It was the same for me growing up. Today, my students ask me to ask the teacher to go to the bathroom, but I softly encourage them to advocate for themselves, raise their hands, and ask in English.

As a mentor, I learned about the opportunity through Amanah and Multilingual; it reminded me about the Mentorship from Emerge. It was my chance to give back, and I remember how helpful the program was to me. I really enjoy lessening the burden of my students; for them to learn about what they can take advantage of in this country makes their life easier. I want to pay back the kindness and opportunities which were afforded to me. I believe it is called the "American Way" to pay it forward. Plus, it helps me practice my Spanish skills.

I really enjoy working here; the staff and teachers are very supportive. My Spanish-speaking students

reminded me of myself when I was growing up. I had to translate for my parents, read forms, and help them navigate the new country. Even though it added a burden at the time, I felt my parents were helpless, so I stepped up, and that helped me practice. Today, there are students who take advantage of the mentorship program; one student wanted to apply for the Xfinity Essentials program and wasn't sure how to apply, so he came to me for assistance, and I was reminded of my childhood. Instead of filling out the application and getting on the phone with Xfinity, I spoke with the student and his parents and taught them the process of the program and how to avail of it. They took advantage of the interpretation services and were able to get assistance for home internet hotspots which are essential to getting schoolwork done at home.

SUPPORTING ENGLISH LEARNERS IN TEXAS





If you are interested in supporting your child's English learning, subscribe to *English Learner Portal-Subscribe (txel.org)*. You will receive helpful resources, guidance, and updates for parents and families, their Monthly Newsletter, and what is new with Community Partners and Work Groups.

HARRIS COUNTY ENHANCED+ LIBRARY CARD

The Harris County Enhanced+ Library Card is a fullservice library card and verified photo ID in one. The enhanced library card includes a photo, name, date of birth, and address for the recipient, providing Harris County residents who lack access to a form of identification with a free basic form of alternative, nontraditional photo ID. In order to apply for any library card, including the Enhanced Library Card, library staff will need to verify your identify. All residents of Harris County of any age who present acceptable proof of identity and residency documents and a completed Enhanced+ Library Card application are eligible to receive the card. For the list of eligible documents visit your local public library or https://www.hcpl.net/ page/enhanced-library-card-fags. You may need to bring more than one document to prove your identity. Read the information on the list carefully.





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METRO NEWS -STUDENTS RIDE FREE THIS SUMMER

Make it a Summer of Fun ...

by exploring many popular destinations in and around Houston including the Houston Zoo, Museum District, Discovery Green and more.

From June 1 - Aug. 31, 2022, K-12 and college students with a discounted METRO Q® Fare Card ride free on all bus and rail services, METRORapid and METRO curb2curb. Learn more at https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Free.aspx



2022 SUMMER SCHOOL FOR EMERGENT **BILINGUAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATION** REQUIREMENTS

https://houstonisd.sharepoint.com/sites/myHISD/ASM/SitePages/2022-Pre-<u>K-Kindergarten-Summer-School-Program-for-Emergent-Bilingual-Students.</u> aspx

(Enrollment is optional)

To be eligible for enrollment, a student must meet the following requirements:

- 1. be eligible for Kindergarten or Grade 1 during the 2022-2023 school year,
- 2. be identified as an Emergent Bilingual student, and
- 3. have parental/guardian approval for Bilingual or ESL program



Note: Emergent bilingual students with parental denials and native English speakers participating in Two Way Immersion Dual Language (TWIDL) programs are not eligible to participate.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022 INFORMATION

Houston Independent School **District Summer School 2022:** Summer Learning and Fun.

We are excited about Summer School 2022 to fill the gap between school years with academic excellence in the Summer Learning & Fun! HISD students experience for grades PK - 12 who have been retained for the year, need additional support as determined by HB4545 Guidelines, or are recommended to receive summer enrichment.

Summer School 2022 will be held in person at select HISD campuses from June 13 – July 7, 2022.

IMPORTANT DATES and TIMES

Summer School: (Regular SS) June 13-July 7, 2022 Monday – Thursday (No Fridays)

Student and Staff Holiday July 4-5, 2022

Severe Weather Make-Up Day July 11, 2022

STAAR EOCs

June 21-24, 2022 (until July 1, 2022, online)

Additional information regarding this year's summer school program may be found by visiting the following website: http://www.houstonisd.org/ SummerSchool.

Please view our district's information flyer, offered in both English and Spanish:

https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/ Domain/51244/Summer-School-Flyer 2022 ENG.pdf

https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/ Domain/51244/Summer-School-Flyer_2022_SPAN.pdf



Summer School Dates

June 13 - July 7, 2022 Monday - Thursday (No Fridays) Student and Staff Holiday: July 4-5 Severe Weather Make-Up Day: July 11

Bilingual/ESL PK & K: 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM Elementary: 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM Middle School: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM High School: 8:30 AM - 3:10 PM AM and PM session options Extended School Year (ESY): Follow a schedule for summer school and school location for level

2022 PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN SUMMER **SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR EMERGENT BILINGUAL STUDENTS**

19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §89.1250, requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide a summer school program for Emergent Bilingual students who will be eligible for admission to kindergarten or first grade at the beginning of the next school year. This program is intended to prepare our youngest Emergent Bilingual students for linguistic and academic success in early grades. It is designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to engage with meaningful linguistic and academic experiences to prepare them for the next grade level. Instruction focuses on language development and essential knowledge and skills appropriate to the level of the student.

