Executive Summary:

Bonham Elementary was built in 1962 and located in southwest Houston. The school was named after James Butler Bonham, an attorney from South Carolina who lost his life at the Alamo in 1836. Bonham is one of the largest elementary schools in HISD with an average enrollment of 950 students. The student population is comprised of approximately 83 percent Hispanic students, 5 percent African American students and 2 percent other races. Ninety-nine percent of the students are also classified as Economically Disadvantaged, and 78 percent are English Language Learners. Demographic trends over the past several years have shown a steady increase in Hispanic students and English Language Learners and a decrease in African American students. The mobility rate at Bonham has increased to 27 percent. Bonham offers different instructional programs that include Bilingual, English as a second language (ESL), general education, gifted and talented and special education.

In 2019, Bonham met standard in all three domains of the STAAR assessment with an overall rating of a "C" according to the Texas Education Agency's accountability system. Analysis of the middle of the year 2020 Snapshots and Mock STAAR, revealed four major areas that need to be addressed to achieve our goal of an "A" rating. The four components include strengthening literacy across grade levels, increase English language acquisition for our EL students, 100% growth in math and reading on STAAR and strengthening our writing program.

Literacy across grade levels will be strengthened through shared reading, read alouds, guided reading, exposure to different genres and independent reading in kinder through fifth grade. Writing will be strengthened across grade levels by incorporating more writing using science journals, interactive math journals and implementing reflective writing in reading and writing classes. Strengthening our writing through effective TIER 1 instruction and strategic planning will also help Bonham increase writing proficiency and support fourth grade teachers in preparing students for the writing STAAR assessment.

We will increase EL language acquisition by providing continuous staff development for Bilingual/ESL teachers including sheltered instruction, understanding the different proficiency level descriptors and TELPAS calibration training. We will also collect and rate student writing samples throughout the school year that align to the TELPAS assessment. Furthermore, teachers will participate in Writing Calibrations during Wednesday professional development sessions and they will be expected to identify students who are ready for transition. These students will be placed in transition classes using TELPAS data from the previous year and by teacher recommendations. We will support this transition/exit by implementing several intentional strategies. Lastly, we will closely monitor the appropriate implementation of the ESL block in the primary grades during virtual and face to face instruction.

Another way we will increase and improve language proficiency is by adjusting our bilingual instructional program. Fifth grade English language learners will primarily receive instruction in English and bilingual/ ESL teachers will utilize specific strategies to facilitate second language acquisition. This will also support fifth graders as they prepare for the English STAAR assessment. In addition, a transitional bilingual English class was added in both second grade and third grade.

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic and virtual learning, the Bonham staff is committed to providing an exceptional education to all students that focuses on providing quality literacy instruction and supporting the transition process for the long-term success of our students.