Fall/Winter 2022 <u>www.houstonisd.org/voices</u>

Edition II, Issue 2/3

DROP OF WISDOM



Dr. Khechara E. Bradford, Ed.D. *Executive Officer, Specialized Instruction and Services*

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! My name is Khechara Bradford, and I have been an educator for 21 years. I am excited to be an "anchor" for students and families being served in the Office of Special Populations. We have spent the summer collaborating with various departments to ensure we address all the needs of our students with special learning needs. Our department is committed to supporting the superintendent's strategic five-year plan. We will work this year to deliver effective services and supports to students with exceptional needs. Please click here to view the plan in detail.

FOR PRESCHOOL PARENTS

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

HIPPY is a school readiness program that helps parents prepare their preschool child for academic success.

HIPPY is a home-based, family-focused program that HISD provides to parents of children between the ages of 3 and 4 years-old, in English and Spanish, free of charge. We welcome parents of students between the ages of 3 and 4, to begin their children's educational journey by seeking support from HISD's HIPPY Program. Click on the following link to learn more. https://www.houstonisd.org/HIPPY





DUAL LANGUAGE CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT





Jerri Nixon *Principal, Westbury High School*

Life-long, sibling-like relationships formed early as students relied on each other for communication and were able to develop those bonds naturally through play and purposeful instruction. While English-speaking parents were a little anxious at first, they quickly realized how to support their child and the program even if the homework was in Spanish! Bonds amongst families also grew despite language barriers, building the confidence of both sets to try to communicate at parties and school events. My own child was a part of the program at Herod, benefitting greatly from the diverse friendships and the development of true bilingualism and biliteracy. Being a Spanish speaker is now part of her core identity and something she will rely on for the rest of her life. It was a true gift to learn about the power of the program and be able to support it as both a principal and a parent.

These are the reasons why I decided to enroll my daughters in a dual language program:

- I wanted to make sure my daughters would develop their skills in their native language, Spanish, while also learning English more quickly than students in English-only programs. I was afraid they would not be able to bond with their Spanish-speaking family members because they did not know the language. I knew learning English was going to happen no matter what, therefore it was important to make sure they learnt, not just the Spanish we use at home, but academic Spanish.
- Because dual-language immersion programs generally consist of an even mix of native speakers of both languages, students from both groups help one another as they acquire the other language forming close connections with each other. That interaction can also help develop a keen sense of cultural awareness. My daughters formed bonds with a diverse group of people with rich diverse cultures. They not only are proficient in the language, but they are socio-culturally competent and have a wide variety of relationships and friends that come from quite diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Being bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural will open doors for my daughters as they
 engage more effectively with other cultures using their second language skills.

HISD'S TV PRODUCTION PRESENTS

"ESL mini lessons: "Aprendamos Juntos"

Begin tuning into HISD TV Channel 18, on AT&T U-Verse, and on Comcast Channel 99 which begins broadcasting weekly on December 7, 2022!!

The BakerRipley Community Developers are collaborating with HISD in offering the communities' Spanish speaking parents and caregivers' access to mini-ESL lessons. The ESL lessons will be broadcasted weekly on HISD TV, and accessible by clicking on https://www.youtube.com/TheHISD.





TEA NEWSLETTER







will help you and your child understand some basic steps you can take to ensure a positive learning and testing experience beginning with routines. The newsletter will also provide ideas on how you can help your child prepare for these upcoming tests at home. Follow this link to learn how you can better support your child for upcoming state assessments. https://www.smore.com/gd1m4





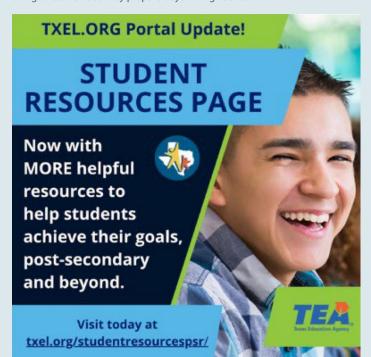
Winter 2022

All content will be trans-adapted for a Spanish version of the newsletter.

Other languages are available through the S'more newsletter.

TEA STUDENT RESOURCE PAGE

TEA newly updated Txel.org Student Resources page to support emergent bilingual students as they prepare beyond High School.



SAVE THE DATE

Additional Parent Involvement opportunity

Save the following date!

Dual Language Parent Meeting Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Location: TBD More information:

https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/189833



OFFICE OF SCHOOL OF CHOICE



The office of school of choice is implementing a new application system. The application process is now open

Phase 2: April 5, 2023 - June 15, 2023

Learn more by clicking on the link provided below. https://houstonisd.sharepoint.com/sites/myHISD/ASM/SitePages/HISD-Choice-Application-Timeline--Phase-1.aspx