

# DESTINATION 2035 STUDENT EXPERIENCES

## —NEW EDUCATION SYSTEM—

**HISD launched Destination 2035 to ensure all students receive an excellent education and leave the District ready for the modern workplace and world.** For our graduates to get good jobs that allow them to support a family, they need skills in the areas of critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, information literacy, and communication. That is true now—and it will be even more true by the time our first graders earn their diplomas in 2035.

**Schools in our New Education System (NES) provide a range of exciting ways for students to learn by building knowledge, perspective, and experience.** These complement a rigorous academic program and include opportunities to learn skills from people in our community, go on free trips to experience new places and cultures, and take classes on the Art of Thinking.

### DYAD PROGRAM

Through Dyad, students learn from community members with special skills.

#### Dyad:

- supplements schools' existing elective and magnet programs.
- provides enrichment opportunities in the areas of fitness, music and fine arts, 21st-century media and technology, and hands-on science.
- engages community consultants to work with HISD students on a part-time basis.



## STUDENT TRAVEL

As part of Dyad, eligible students get to travel and experience new places and cultures.

- There is no cost to families.
- In the spring of 2024:
  - 7th graders travel to Washington, D.C.
  - 8th graders travel to Japan.
- School staff provide intensive support. They:
  - help students obtain their passports.
  - serve as chaperones.
- Fun campus events give students and families a sense of what travelers will see and do.



## ART OF THINKING

This course focuses on teaching critical thinking and problem solving.

The class:

- is for grades 3 through 10, three times a week.
- teaches how to assess, evaluate, and effectively use information.
- teaches students to be wary of information posted anonymously; why it's important to reserve judgment and question what is presented as fact; and how to look for primary sources, consider possible agendas, and identify bias.
- teaches how to consider sample size and become a discerning user of data and facts.
- helps students understand different perspectives.

**In the 2023–2024 school year, HISD implemented the NES model at historically underperforming campuses along with another group of schools known as NES-aligned (NES-A) campuses.** NES-A campuses are schools that chose to adopt the NES model. NES-A schools also incorporate Dyad, student travel, and the Art of Thinking class. These opportunities are part of a unique educational model that provides NES and NES-A schools with additional resources and support to dramatically improve student outcomes.