

**Denton Independent School District
Erika Timmons, Principal
Community and Student Engagement Survey
2016-2017**

Our school motto at L.A. Nelson Elementary is “Where PRIDE begins and Learning Never Ends.” Our students, parents and staff are committed to ensuring that students have quality character along with knowledge and skills that are needed to become lifelong learners.

L.A. Nelson Elementary has many programs available to our students. This includes Student Council for our 5th Grade, EXPO, Dyslexia, Speech and Language Therapy, Reading Recovery, Literacy Groups, Choir, Running Clubs and Orchestra.

We have agreed upon the following mission, vision, and commitments. This document was completed by our Campus Leadership Team as both a self-reflection and communication tool supporting our emphasis on continuous improvement as a school commitment.

Mission: We will grow as successful learners and make a positive difference in the world.

Vision: We will celebrate our safe learning community that is built on cooperation, communication and collaboration.

Commitments:

N: Needs based instruction

E: Everyone collaborating

L: Lead in a positive and respectful manner

S: Support our students, staff and school

O: Opportunity for critical thinking and creativity

N: Never give up

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Fine Arts	Compliance	Does the campus provide TEKS-based fine arts courses taught by content specialists to meet state and local graduation requirements including the Arts and Humanities Endorsement?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide multiple opportunities for parents and community members to attend public shows & performances?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with a variety of evidence for evaluating fine arts programs?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide fine arts students numerous opportunities to interact with arts experts such as through private lessons, clinics, master classes, and university/community arts collaborations annually?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide students with opportunities to promote school and community culture/climate?	Yes	

We at Nelson Elementary are proud of our Fine Arts Program. The program is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Here are a few highlights of our program. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students participate in a choice-based visual arts program. The students' art work has been featured in several state, area and district art shows and competitions. The visual arts shows include the Scrap Store, TAEA, Greater Denton Arts Council and UNT on the Square. Our music department performs in multiple school concerts, local competitions, the Denton Arts and Jazz Festival, and the district honor choir. Parents are encouraged to learn about music education through our annual music open house. We promote school and community culture through the Liz Shopshier Event and the annual Fine Arts Night at Nelson Elementary. We are fortunate to collaborate with experts from TWU and UNT to promote school programs. Our students participate in our annual Talent Show and the PTA Reflections Contest. Parents have access to Artsonia, a website that posts their child's artwork, and the Art Room Facebook Page. Parents are able to provide feedback on grading rubrics and learning objectives on the music and teacher websites.

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Wellness and PE	Compliance	Does the campus seek information from parents related to food allergies at the time of new student enrollment?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus offer opportunities to participate in community health and wellness events?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide community health and wellness resources and information?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide developmentally appropriate bullying prevention education programming?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have procedures in place to assist students and staff during crises?	Yes	

Nelson Elementary is committed to happy, healthy students. Our school counselor provides appropriate bullying prevention education through guidance lessons and modeling on the morning announcements. She provides counseling resources and referrals to help support the social and emotional needs of our community. With the enrollment of each new student, we ensure that we obtain information concerning students' medical needs, to include food allergies. The school nurse provides information to our students concerning growth and development, hand washing, and brushing teeth. We continue to support physical wellbeing through parents, students, and teachers participating in events. Our students participate in multiple wellness activities including Field Day, Friends of the Family Safety Presentations, Jump Rope for Heart, Red Ribbon Week, the 5th Grade Track Team, Safety Patrol, Farm Fresh Friday, and Skate 101.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Community and Parent Involvement	Compliance	Does the campus welcome parents and community members in planning initiatives?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus implement programs to increase parent and community involvement including families without currently enrolled students?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus have a comprehensive, proactive communication plan to inform community members and parents regarding campus events?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide opportunities for students and parents to be actively involved together on campus?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide students with opportunities to participate in activities that help the community?	Yes	
<p>At Nelson Elementary, there are many opportunities for parent and community partnerships. Parents and community members serve on our Campus Leadership Team. Parent volunteers are encouraged to participate in Watch D.O.GS., All- Pro Dad's, and P.T.A. meetings. Our Student Council is involved in many projects to help the community including food drives and visiting the neighborhood nursing home. Teachers and administrators communicate to parents through newsletters, webpages, Twitter, Facebook, DoJo, and the Remind app. In addition, we offer the following opportunities for parental and community involvement: Diversity Day, Summer Reading Program, Fall Festival, 2nd grade Musical, Denton Animal Shelter Drives, Meet the Teacher, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Book Fair, Grandparents Day, Kindergarten Round-up Activities, and Field Trips.</p>				

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21st Century Workforce	Elementary Compliance	Does the campus guidance curriculum teach students the interpersonal skills necessary for college/career readiness?	Yes	Exemplary
	Secondary Compliance	Do the campus CTE programs include district and community stakeholders in an advisory capacity?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus actively cultivate business, community, and university partnerships to support 21st century workforce development?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus have systems in place for including parents in their child's preparation for the 21st century workforce?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus offer enrichment and/or competitive events for the students to reinforce their 21st century workforce skills?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus host "college days," "career days" or other events for students to show interest in post-secondary education?	Yes	
<p>Nelson Elementary students participate in learning experiences that are designed to teach interpersonal skills, including communication, team building, critical thinking, and conflict resolution. 5th grade students take a field trip to the Advance Technology Center. Our campus offers competitive events to reinforce 21st century workforce preparation, such as the field day, the robotics club, STEM activities, and STUCO (Student Council). Our campus counselor engages students and parents in various social and career activities. Nelson Elementary offers several clubs, such as O.W.L.S. and Engineering Clubs to better equip students for the 21st century workforce. Once a month our campus has College Day where students and teachers wear college shirts in order to bring awareness to the importance of post-secondary education. Parents are invited to participate in the preparation of their child for the 21st Century Workforce through yearly parent-teacher conferences, parent curriculum nights, RTI meetings, and participation in the WATCH DOGS and All-Pro Dads programs.</p>				

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Second Language Acquisition	Compliance	Does the campus provide yearly LPAC training for all required staff?	Yes	Recognized
	Parent	Does the campus provide opportunities for non-English speaking parents to know about student programs in the school and community?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide communication in both Spanish and English?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have procedures in place to promote students' exit from BIL/ESL within 5 years of identification in elementary and 3 years of identification in secondary?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus offer opportunities for students to be exposed to multiple languages to promote second language acquisition?	No	

The assistant principal and ESL specialist attend LPAC trainings at the district level. Every week a Tuesday Folder goes home with students that share school and community programs. We are able to offer some of the flyers in Spanish. The majority of our staff is ESL certified, which provides daily linguistic support for our English Language Learners. Teachers provide after school tutoring to ESL students who needed additional time to learn important academic content. Parents who speak Spanish and Arabic are provided an interpreter during IEP meetings, RTI meetings, and parent-teacher conferences. On-campus personnel is available to translate parent-teacher conferences in Spanish, or to help clarify necessary information. The campus makes translation requests with the district translator, with regards to pertinent information.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Digital Learning Environment	Compliance	Does the campus conduct annual training for students regarding digital citizenship and acceptable use of technology?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide technology training and professional development opportunities for all teachers, parents, and community members?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide a public Wi-Fi signal that parents and guests can use to connect to online resources?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus utilize specialists in instructional technology to engage teachers and students with technology integration?	Yes	
	Student	Do the campus teachers actively leverage technology to engage students in the learning process?	Yes	

The librarian teaches digital citizenship lessons (internet safety, digital footprint, etc.) and teachers share the AUP video with students. This year our campus was acknowledged with the Digital Citizenship Award. The public has access to Denton Public Wi-Fi via Wi-Fi hubs throughout the school. Nelson Elementary works with our instructional technology specialists to engage students and teachers in technology integration. This is accomplished by providing after school trainings, one-on-one trainings and working with students in the computer labs. 4th and 5th grade classes have been provided Chromebooks, and all teachers receive technological support from our campus ITS.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Dropout Prevention Strategies	Compliance	Does the campus have a system of intervention (<i>Response to Intervention</i>) for supporting all students?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus direct parents to research/information regarding the relationship between poor attendance and drop-out rates?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide opportunities for parents that reinforce the importance and value of education to students' futures?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have a systemic plan for maximizing attendance/minimizing absenteeism?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus utilize age appropriate opportunities to engage students in college and career readiness activities to increase graduation rates/prevent dropouts?	Yes	

At Nelson Elementary, we have several proactive strategies to support students. Teams collaborate during PLC's (Professional Learning Communities) to discuss the needs of students and ways to provide intervention. Our Response to Intervention (RTI) Team meets weekly to discuss students who are not making progress, and the A to Z teacher ensures that the needs of each child is being addressed. Our Attendance Committee meets throughout the year to review the data concerning attendance. Administrators and teachers make phone calls and send warning letters to parents if attendance becomes a problem. Students are given incentives to improve their attendance through the perfect attendance party. We engage students in college and career readiness activities by having "College A-Wear-ness Day." Nelson Elementary provides opportunities to reinforce the importance of education through weekly newsletters, Twitter, Facebook, and student activity nights. Students of all ages are engaged in college and career activities like Ready, Set, Teach, presentations from community members, and field trips to the Advance Technology Center.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Education Programs for Gifted and Talented Students	Compliance	Does the campus have a systemic plan to ensure that Gifted and Talented teachers meet the professional learning standard for new teachers (30 hours) and for annual updates (6 hours)?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with the opportunity to participate in meaningful experiences related to the education of gifted students?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with opportunities to participate in the nomination/consideration of students for gifted and talented services?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to participate in extracurricular activities that reinforce a variety of academic and creative skills?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide a variety of instructional and support services for gifted and talented students?	Yes	

At L.A. Nelson Elementary, there are many opportunities to enhance the academic experiences of our students. All our teachers serving EXPO students have earned specialized professional development through the completion of gifted and talented coursework. The workshop model, class projects, and PROBE books allow all students the opportunity to progress through differentiated learning techniques. Our EXPO teacher meets with the parents of identified EXPO students to discuss goals during parent-teacher conferences. Parents, students, and staff are included in the EXPO nomination process, and the EXPO teacher informs the teachers of the traits and conditions that are requirement for EXPO placement. Our campus provides enrichment activities through our Robotics program, the 1st grade Cultural Fair (EXPO), STEM Activities, and Engineering Clubs. The education of students in the EXPO program is encouraged through the annual dinner/showcase. Parents and students are encouraged to volunteer through the Holiday Gift Shop and Robotics Club. This year a parent led the robotics team.