



Fellow Educators,

Have you heard students say, “When will I ever use Algebra in my life?” Well, you may have wondered the same thing about Algebra, too. Would you be surprised to know that Algebra is a part of almost all decision making that we do over the course of a day?

Algebra is essential to critical thinking, reasoning, and understanding patterns. Even when a student is tossing a crumpled piece of paper across your classroom to the wastebasket, they are using algebra. They are calculating the distance, the required trajectory of the throw, resistance, and force. As irritating as it sounds, algebra was being applied.

Even getting up in the morning and calculating how much time it takes to get ready for school requires algebraic thinking. If this is intriguing to you, refer to this link for other practical day-to-day uses: <https://studiousguy.com/examples-of-algebra-in-everyday-life/>.

Success in Algebra I has been identified as one of Denton ISD’s top five district goals. Across America, the ninth-grade class becomes the “ninth grade bulge”, a term coined by Gene Bottoms from Southern Regional Education Board. American high schools find that their largest class becomes the ninth grade because students many times do not earn enough credits to be considered tenth graders. After a quick review, it is Algebra I that is the most common course failed by high schoolers. This is the case in DISD, therefore, earning its place as one of Denton ISD’s primary goals.

For the next few years, you will hear more and more about how Denton ISD will be **strategizing for success in Algebra I** for all students.

Best,
Mike Mattingly
Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Getting to know C & I paraprofessionals...



Marilyne Belot-Meyer serves as secretary to coordinators Beth Avery, elementary social studies and Tosha Hoefert, elementary science.

Marilyne was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and immigrated to the US when she was eleven. She speaks French and Creole

and graduated from high school in Brooklyn, New York.

Marilyne is married to Floyd Meyer and has 3 children: Pascale, Jean Rene and Jonathan. Pets include 9 belted Galloway cows, 7 guineas and a fat tomcat named Tonka. Marilyne loves to explore the world & collect magnets from each country. Favorites include old school R&B, puzzles and iPad games. You can reach Marilyne at x 0668.

Tammy Beuthien is administrative assistant for Data & Assessment under Director Lyneille Meza and is housed at the Annex. Tammy was raised in Lowden, Iowa and moved to Denton in 1984. She began working with Denton ISD in 2001 as an insurance specialist and later, as an administrative assistant in Support Services.

Tammy married her high school sweetheart, Don, in 1981 and they have two children, Sydney and Tate. As a family, they enjoy playing & coaching softball, off roading and camping. They also raise cattle and chickens and have a weekly family “Sunday Fun Day.”

Tammy’s favorites are country music, James Patterson novels and antiques.

You can reach Tammy at x 0281.



Curriculum & Instruction Staff Updates

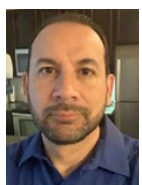
New members join the Division of Curriculum & Instruction



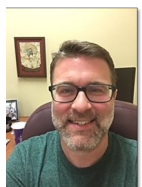
Dr. Lisa Thibodeaux is the new director of secondary curriculum. She began teaching English, journalism, and social studies in Tampa, Florida in 1989. She joined Plano ISD in 1997 where she taught middle school for ten years and later, served as executive director for secondary academics. Dr. Thibodeaux earned her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of North Texas. She has served as an adjunct professor in the educational leadership programs at both UNT and SMU .



Tosha Hoefert is the new coordinator for elementary science. She attended the University of Texas in Arlington for her master's degree in educational leadership. In 2011, she was named as Teacher of the Year at Cross Oaks elementary school. Her experience with Denton ISD includes positions as classroom teacher, math interventionist, campus specialist, and district instructional coach.



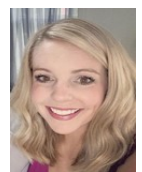
Jesús Lopez de Nava is the district instructional coach/facilitator for elementary bilingual/ESL. He grew up in Mexicali, B.C. México where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering. He moved to Little Elm, TX in 2006 and earned his teaching certification in 2009. Jesús taught two-way dual language in Irving ISD (5 years), Spanish I, II, and Pre-AP with Lewisville ISD (1 year) and DL (4 years) with Denton ISD before joining the BE/ESL department.



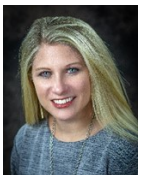
John Lovette is a professional development specialist for Secondary Social Studies. Before joining Curriculum and Instruction, John taught 8th grade social studies at Strickland Middle School for 21 years. John grew up in Fort Worth. He moved to Denton to attend the University of North Texas, where as a James Madison Fellow, he earned his master's degree in History. John was recently named the TCSS Betty Barringer Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2019.



Katie Vaughan is an elementary instructional coach for our non-title campuses. Before joining Curriculum and Instruction, she was an elementary teacher for 14 years. She attended the University of North Texas where she earned both her bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies and her master's degree in educational leadership. Her family moved from Denton a few years ago, but her two children wanted to continue as Denton ISD students and are attending Hawk Elementary.



Heather Eby is an elementary instructional coach for Denton ISD. Before joining the District, she spent eleven years as a teacher and instructional coach in Frisco ISD. Heather grew up in Allen, TX and earned her master's degree in education from Texas A&M-Commerce. Heather resides in Savannah with her husband and two children and is looking forward to serving the District.



Tammy Dwight-Ministero is DISD's blended and online learning coordinator. Tammy has a passion for personalized learning options through technology-rich environments and helped lead the charge for virtual and blended learning in Keller ISD. She holds her bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University, Tammy has 16 years of classroom experience (traditional and online) and currently serves as Vice President for the TCEA, Virtual Learning Special Interest Group.



Gloria Ortiz is the cataloger for library services. This is her 21st year working for Denton ISD. She was at Strickland Middle School as a library assistant for 19 years prior to moving over to library services.

Advanced Academics

★ October 8, 2019 ★

6:00-7:00 P.M.

EXPO Community Meeting

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
1212 BOLIVAR
DENTON, TX 75077

INFORMATIONAL MEETING
GIFTED AND TALENTED
DENTON ISD
SPANISH TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



The EXPO Community Meeting was held on October 8, 2019 from 6:00-7:00. The meeting was informational only for non-EXPO parents and/or community members.



For all students enrolled in a Fall 2019 Advanced Placement course, access to the AP test in May requires a deposit payment of \$40 to have been paid by October 4, 2019.

★ October 8, 2019 ★

6:00-7:00 P.M.

EXPO Community Meeting

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
1212 BOLIVAR
DENTON, TX 75077

INFORMATIONAL MEETING
GIFTED AND TALENTED
DENTON ISD
SPANISH TRANSLATION
AVAILABLE



Bilingual/ESL



August 8 — Annual Specialized Training Day at Ginnings

New school year excitement reigned at our Annual Specialized Training Day on August 8. Ginnings Elementary dual language teachers, together with their principal, **Cornelius Anderson**, attended wearing their team's t-shirts that read "Mi corazón late en dos idiomas" (My heart beats in two languages).

September 10 — Best practices in ESL Science at Hodge

DL and ESL 5th grade teachers came together at Hodge Elementary for a day dedicated to best practices in the content of Science for English language learners. Mrs. **Wilson** and Mrs. **Arunkumar** modeled ways of integrating all four language domains, as well as incorporating an interactive word wall.



Upcoming Elementary PD

- Oct 22 BE and ESL Teachers: Supporting ELs Within the Reading Units of Study for K-1 AM & 4-5 PM
 - Nov 7 3rd Grade Dual Language Reading Institute
 - Nov 11 Elementary Dual Language Math LAB for 3rd -5th
-

Bilingual/ESL

Secondary ESL spent September working on curriculum writing and meeting in content area PLCs to help their English learners master the content and become more proficient in English/Spanish in the dual language classes.



September 10 Middle school ESL ELAR teachers learn about new curriculum.



September 17 Social studies coordinator, **Erika Lowery**, works with the secondary ESL department to help teachers support language development in their English learners and dual language students.

Check out our Bilingual Blog! Soy Bilingüe

We want to share with you exciting news about the way we will share resources about dual language best practices with dual language teachers. You can find articles, best practice ideas, and upcoming professional development opportunities - all within a touch of a button!



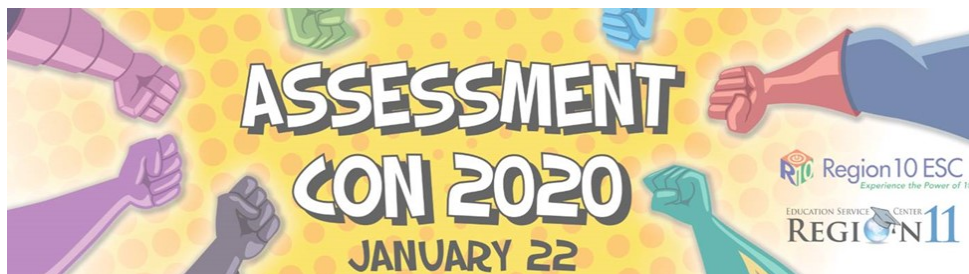
<https://soybilinguedenton.blogspot.com/>

Data and Assessment

Region 10 and 11 Annual Assessment Conference

When: January 22, 2020

Where: Hurst Conference Ctr
1601 Campus Dr.
Hurst, Tx 76054



Cost: Registration cost is \$25.00. Register through Region 11
Assessment Con website: <https://sites.google.com/esc11.net/assessmentcon2020/home>

This annual conference provides the latest information on state assessment, testing, and accountability in education. Attendees will receive the latest information on state assessments, network, and learn the best implementation practices in schools and districts.

TASBO PEIMS Shanna just returned from some
awesome learning at TASBO PEIMS Academy in Sugarland!



Left to right: Shanna Mikolajchak, Angela Daub, Christina Herrera, Teri Hodges and Carolynn Sprabeary

Shanna Mikolajchak
PEIMS Coordinator
Becky Lloyd & Maranda Matheson
District Testing Coordinators

All Things Assessment

<https://www.smores.com/73jcm-all-things-assessment>

Upcoming Testing

PSAT 8th November 20
MOY Map Window December 9-19
STAAR EOC December 10-13

Digital Learning

New Home. New Name. Same Vision.

Over the summer, the instructional technology department underwent some pretty significant changes. We moved from the technology division to curriculum and instruction, added the blended and online learning team to our existing team of specialists and librarians, and changed our name to Digital Learning. All while putting on the biggest and best TIACON ever!

The digital learning department exists to create innovative and safe digital learning environments that promote the four “C’s” of 21st century learning (creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking) for all students in Denton ISD.

Our librarians are here to foster a love of reading for all students while also building awareness of what it means to live as a positive digital citizen in our information-crazed world. Our digital learning specialists are ready to get in the trenches with teachers and students as they explore exciting new pedagogies that put students in the driver’s seat of their own learning. Our BOLD (blended and online learning) team is working with teachers and students to explore innovative new ways to “do class” on a daily basis, including giving students more control of the time, pace, path, and place of their learning.

Nearpod

There are many things to be excited about when it comes to digital learning as we get the year under way. All students and staff have access to Nearpod again this year. If you’ve been looking for a way to add engaging elements to your content delivery, consider reaching out to your digital learning specialist or zone specialists for an introduction to Nearpod, a platform that can add interactive elements and assessments directly to your class presentations. Not only that, but Nearpod already has a massive library of TEKS-aligned lessons to customize and use with your students.

Seesaw

All elementary teachers will soon have access to Seesaw, a tool that simultaneously enhances parent and teacher communication, while deepening student learning around a portfolio of their own work. Imagine for a moment that you’re a parent and, in the middle of a long workday, you get a notification on your phone that includes a video of your child reading aloud in class. Or maybe the notification includes an image of your child’s work with your child’s voice playing in the background as they explain their thinking surrounding the work. This is what Seesaw does for students and all elementary schools will have access to it in the coming weeks.

With everything new going with the digital learning department right now, it’s important for us to revisit why we exist. If you’ve been to TIACON the last two years, you’ve undoubtedly seen the phrase, “Learners are changing” plastered everywhere. That statement anchors our work as a department and we’re beyond excited to lean into these changes, whatever they end up looking like, as part of the curriculum and instruction family.



Elementary Curriculum

Fall Events

| | |
|----------|--|
| 10/22/19 | STEM Lab K-5 Host campus: Hawk Elem |
| 10/23/19 | Ryan Zone Kindergarten Literacy Lab 8:00 – 11:00 Host Campus: Hodge |
| 10/23/19 | Ryan Zone First Grade Literacy Lab 12:00 – 3:00 Host Campus: Hodge |
| 10/30/19 | 5 th grade math lab 8:00 – 3:00 Host Campus: Blanton |
| 11/05/19 | AFL Cohort 6 with Jan Chappuis PDC |
| 11/06/19 | DHS Zone 2 nd grade Literacy Cadre 7:30 – 11:30 Host Campus: Evers |
| 11/15/19 | ICARE 9:00 – 12:00 – PDC |
| 12/04/19 | Ryan Zone K-1 Literacy Cadre 7:30 – 3:00 Host Campus: Wilson |
| 12/04/19 | TEM Kit Training 3:30 – 5:30 PDC |
| 12/10/19 | 3 rd Grade Calendar Day – Keller ISD |
| 12/11/19 | 4 th Grade Calendar Day – Carrollton ISD |
| 12/17/19 | Units of Study Collaboration * 3:30 – 5:00 PDC |

- During Units of Study meetings, you will have time to collaborate with other grade level teachers, coaches and support staff. This is a great time to share all of the wonderful things you are doing in your classroom and to ask any questions you might have regarding Units of Study.
- Future Dates: February 11 and March 24



Teachers College Reading Writing Project Workshops

Kindergarten through 6th grade teachers and coaches attended TCRWP Workshops that support their Units of Study.

Second grade teachers learned from Shanna Schwartz, TCRWP Staff Developer.



Teachers at Ginnings learned how to assess student numeracy skills.

Elementary Curriculum



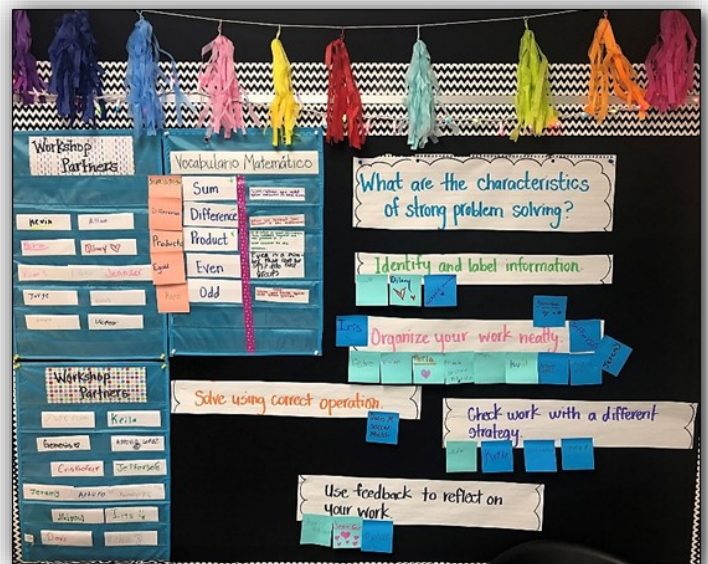
Mrs. Rollins' first grade class uses a mentor text to learn how to write their stories by telling small steps.



Ms. Collin's kindergarten class reads with a partner.



A 4th grade classroom at Pecan Creek works on Number Talks for the first time.



A Borman 5th grade math classroom co-created criteria of strong problem solving with their teacher.

Secondary Curriculum



September 6th ICARE

On September 6th, more than 150 instructional coaches from 22 school districts across North Texas gathered for a day of learning and reflecting at ICARE. The focus of the day was centered around the question of *Who am I as an instructional coach?* Sessions focused on social and emotional learning, adult learners, communication, and many other topics. We can't wait to see everyone at the **next ICARE on November 15th**. The focus of that ICARE will be *Improving our craft as an instructional coach*.



Instructional
Coaches
Authentically
Redefining
Education



Secondary Curriculum

ELAR interactive minilabs and megalabs offered

MINILAB

New Teachers observe a demonstration classroom to experience the workshop model. A Professional Development Specialist accompanies the teachers to facilitate the learning.

Teachers debrief with the specialist to discuss the benefits of the model, and each teacher creates a next step in their workshop journey.

To support the workshop districtwide, we are offering campus-based professional development for our middle school English teachers in the form of minilabs and megalabs. These interactive labs create a place where teachers can see the workshop model in action and practice perfecting their craft, ultimately impacting student learning.

MEGALAB – A

ELAR Grade Level Teams work in a demonstration classroom to improve one area of workshop. A Professional Development Specialist accompanies the teachers to facilitate the learning.

Teachers debrief with the specialist and set goals for implementing the targeted focus (small group work, mastering the minilesson, conferencing 1-on-1). Specialist supports team.

Choose your labs here: <https://sites.google.com/g.dentonisd.org/workshopmiddleschool/home>

Science Professional Development Opportunities

2019

November 21-23 CAST Conference 2019 (Dallas, TX)

2020

February 4 ESL Secondary Science PLC

First unit of study overview for middle school English teachers

One-third of all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teachers gathered on September 11, 2019 to plan and prepare for their upcoming reading Unit of Study. Following a mini-PD session on the instructional focus of a Read Aloud, peers led the learning by giving an overview of the unit, sharing tips, and answering questions. A big “Thank you!” to **Meghan Lenert** at BMMS, **Rachel Murphy** at RMS, and **Dayna Van Aken** at SMS for your leadership!

We look forward to the next Units of Study Overview!



Secondary Curriculum

Math Curriculum Writing Dates

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6 th Grade Honors | October 29, October 30, February 4 |
| 6 th grade | November 19 |
| 7 th grade | October 23, January 29 |
| 8 th grade | January 14 |
| Algebra 1 | October 22, January 16 |
| Geometry | November 21 |
| Algebra 2 | October 24, January 30 |

Math Pinpointing Trainings (for AK campuses)

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 6 th grade | November 5, January 28, April 2 |
| 7 th /8 th grade | October 29, February 5 |

Social Studies Curriculum Writing Dates

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| AP Government | October 23 |
| US History 11 | October 24 |
| Honors World Geography | November 6 |

Science Curriculum Writing Dates

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 6 th grade | December 12, February 26 |
| 7 th grade | December 4, February 13 |
| 8 th grade | December 10, February 20 |
| Biology | October 22, January 16 |
| Physics | October 31, January 28 |

ELA Curriculum Writing Dates

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 8 th Grade | October 30 |
| High School TEKS Overview | November 5 |
| 6 th -8 th Grade | December 4 |
| 6 th Grade | December 10 |
| 7 th Grade | January 9 |

Lucy Calkins Unit Overviews

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Middle School ELAR teachers | October 23 |
| Middle School ELAR teachers | December 3 |

Special Education



Heather Briscoe was honored as the first Denton ISD Elementary Special Educator of the Semester in May, 2019. Ms. Briscoe is completing her 5th year as a teacher this year, and four of those years have been as a special educator. Ms. Briscoe is a talented and dedicated educator, and we are pleased to announce her as the recipient of this award.

This following is an excerpt of what her campus team had to say about her:

"Heather continues to go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the students of Gonzalez School for Young Children. Whether seeking to grow in areas involving curriculum implementation, development of student communication skills and implementation of assistive technology, acceptance of special education students among typically developing peers, or addressing the behavioral needs of her students, she actively seeks and regularly collaborates with members from different disciplines seeking to grow her knowledge and improve her skills. For example, she pursued a Master's Degree in Autism in order to better understand and serve her students."



Congratulations to **Sara Pellegreen**, physical therapist, who was awarded a Denton Public School Foundation grant for the purchase of KiddyUp chairs. The chairs will help students by promoting improved posture and aid in stretching while sitting for long periods.



Christie Mullenix was honored as the first Denton ISD Secondary Special Educator of the Semester in May 2019. She teaches the PABS classroom at Billy Ryan High School.



Amanda Napoleon was honored as the first Denton ISD Support Staff Member of the Semester in May 2019. Amanda is an educational diagnostician at Rodriguez Middle School.

Special Education



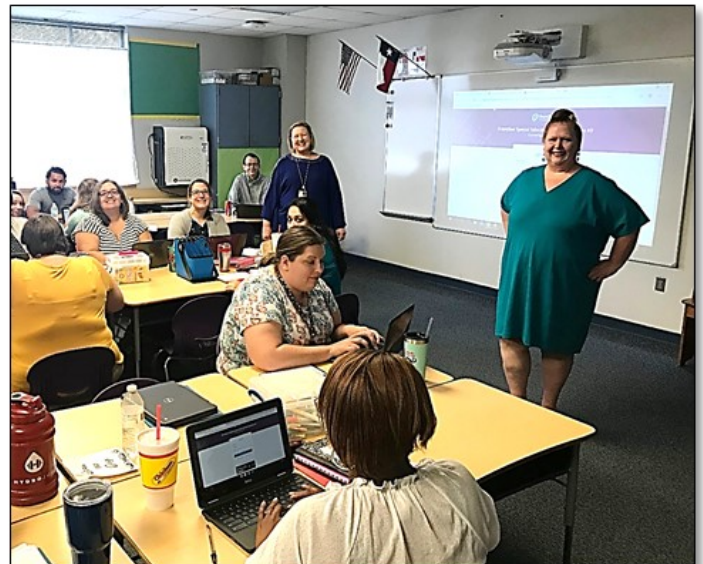
District occupational therapists were excited to offer two professional development sessions during Summer Seminar 2019 and Special Education PD in August. One session was on fine motor and handwriting and one on meeting sensory needs.

Participants were able to engage in a make-it/take-it activities. Teachers left with excellent information and strategies they could implement the next day in their classrooms.

New teacher orientation

The Special Education Department was excited to offer new teacher orientation to special educators who are new to teaching and new to Special Education.

Laura Davis and **Darby Ahlfinger**, elementary special education supervisors supported our new teachers with a great day of learning.



Educational diagnosticians meet for 2019-2020

You could feel the excitement in the air as thirty-six educational diagnosticians gathered for their 19-20 Beginning of the School Year meeting to get to know each another, learn new information and support one another.

These exceptional professionals are some of the most hard-working, dedicated and passionate educators you will meet. Always willing to go the extra mile for our families and students with special needs, we are fortunate to have them as part of Denton ISD.

We are excited to welcome five new to Denton ISD diagnosticians and two new ARD facilitators as part of our outstanding team!

If you are interested in becoming an educational diagnostician, please contact **Ms. Elisa Fisher** at 4082.

Denton ISD: Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community.