



Colleagues,

This school year has brought on many changes. One of those changes in the institution of using Seesaw and Canvas. These are *learning management systems*. Many schools were already using these systems in the past but now all Denton ISD teachers are implementing either Seesaw or Canvas with their students.

So, what are the benefits of a learning management system? According to Instructure (2020), there are advantages for students, teachers, administrators, and parents when using a learning management system such as Canvas. Let's look at a few benefits for students and teachers:

Collaboration – discussion boards, peer-to-peer workplaces, whole group or small group collaboration scenarios, google suite can be incorporated

Content Availability – content is available in one place, accessibility to content is available anytime the student accesses to the internet. Decreases lost work from the teacher as student always has access. Content is available as immediate as a teacher chooses. Content may be available for long-term reference.

Communication – a calendar is updated and available for timely submissions of work. There is only one place to go to find important information from the teacher. Helps with meeting deadlines for assignments. Teacher announcements are available for reminders.

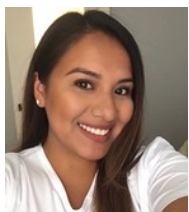
Consistency – All teacher information is one place. There may be differences in how the classes look, the way assignments are turned in are virtually the same.

Multi-media – the learning becomes more robust as teachers may share audio files, videos, and other multi-media learning platforms that engages learners.

As with any change, there are opportunities to improve. Our professional development will continue to incorporate Seesaw and Canvas supports into our plans. As students and teachers become more familiar with this system, the benefits will outweigh the pains of learning.

Dr. Mike Mattingly,  
Associate Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

## Getting to know C & I paraprofessionals...



**Katy Lozano** serves as secretary to secondary coordinators Grace Anne McKay (math) and Brianna Morris (science). She first came to Denton ISD at Braswell HS in 2016, then was a stay-at-home mom for 2 years before joining C & I in 2019. Her hometown is Dallas, TX.

She attends TWU and plans to graduate next year with a bachelor's degree in human resources. She is married to her HS sweetheart, Alex. They have two children, Alex Jr., 13 and Lauren, 3. Two fluffy Pomeranians, Molly and Buttercup, complete their family. She plays for an adult soccer league and loves mystery novels and action movies. She especially loves plants and has a huge collection in her sunroom.

Most people would be surprised to know that Katy began acting at 6 and was in various commercials, including a Lifesavers commercial. You can reach Katy at **ext. 0652**.

**Gabbie Hester** is secretary to secondary coordinators Beth Myers (ELA & world lang) and Erika Lowery (social studies). Hometown is Prescott, AR. She has earned a bachelor's in political science from the University of Arkansas.

Gabbie is married to Jacob and they have three free-spirited boys, Jaxon, Weston and Deacon. Fur babies are Daisy and Abbi. Her pastimes include crafting, gardening, time with loved ones and creating custom designed shirts for her home business. She loves all types of music —Texas country and singer Bob Segar are favorites.

She would like to thank everyone in the secondary curriculum dept for making this past year an absolute dream work environment. She appreciates their support and guidance and looks forward to growing with Denton ISD! You can reach Gabbie at **ext. 0656**.



## Meet Our New C & I Staff



**Megan Elizondo** is the new digital learning specialist supporting elementary Connected Learning teachers. Previously, she was the DLS at Rodriguez Middle School. Megan attended UNT and has a masters in learning technologies.

You can reach Megan at **ext. 0565**.

**José Robles** is the district dual language enrichment coach/translator. He grew up in El Salvador where he started his teaching career in 1994 and later served as school principal from 1997-1998.

He moved to Texas in 1999 and earned both his bachelor's degree (2009) and his master's degree (2013) from UNT.

José taught dual language at Newton Rayzor International Baccalaureate (IB) Elementary School for 11 years before joining the BE/ESL Department in 2020.

You can reach José at **ext. 0164**.



**Dr. Joshua Tabor** is the digital learning specialist who supports Connected Learning teachers through the Digital Learning department. Previously, he was the digital learning specialist at Braswell High School. He also taught social studies and coached volleyball and softball at Denton High School in the early 2000s. He holds a doctorate from Texas A&M University with a research emphasis of online learning at the secondary level.

His family includes wife, Amanda, an elementary principal in Allen ISD, son, Braxton, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader and four furry children: Spock, Lucy, Aelin and Faith. In his spare time he loves video games, movies, TV, reading and working on his house.

You can reach Josh at **ext. 0569**.

# Fall 2020 Calendar

## Special Observance Days

Here is the link to the district resources for **Special Observance Days**. As a reminder, this document includes links to general information about the purpose of the observance day along with possible announcements and other resources.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RfvW2BJOYDQq2SJG0p9mzWE0Ywi55768Wi3inAaGytY/edit?usp=sharing>

### ELEMENTARY: FALL 2020 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>	<b><u>SOCIAL STUDIES</u></b>	<b><u>Science</u></b>
<b><u>ELA</u></b>	<b>STEM</b>	<b><u>MATH</u></b>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a6CkleVH0t9mHGXXMdChgFgRySHmz2nbunl0fW3kfxl/edit?usp=sharing>

# Fall 2020 Calendar

## Secondary Curriculum Writing Dates

### **Math Curriculum Writing Dates**

Virtual, voluntary

September 23 – November 6

Kick-Off Meeting: Wednesday, Sept 23 at 4:00 PM

### **Social Studies Curriculum Writing Dates**

Virtual, voluntary

September 24 – October 30

Kick-Off Meeting: Thursday, Sept 24 at 4:00 PM

### **Science Curriculum Writing Dates**

Virtual, voluntary

Early October – Early December

Kick-Off Meeting: TBD

## Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

### **Micro-Learning Sessions**

Just-in-Time learning for teachers on a wide variety of topics.

Available in digital print, video, and/or Podcast

<http://tinyurl.com/Denton-Micro>

Let your coordinator know the topics you'd like to see included!

### **ELA Middle School Units of Study Unit Overviews**

Virtual Learning for Grades 6, 7 and 8

October 6,

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

### **Conferences for the Advancement of Mathematics Teaching (CAMT)**

Virtual Sessions Now Available - Through December 31

Secondary Math Teachers - Check your email for your conference log-in

### **Texas Council for the Social Studies (TCSS)**

Virtual Sessions - October 2 and 3 through December 31

Secondary SS Teachers – Check your email for your conference log-in

### **Conference for the Advancement of Science Teachers (CAST)**

Virtual Sessions – 150 recorded sessions over three days, on-demand content

November 5 – 7 with access to all content ongoing through November 30



# Department News

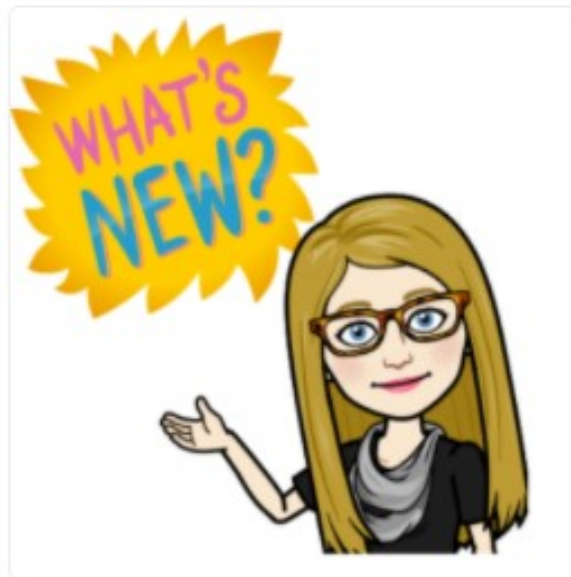
## Newsletters

with assessment testing coordinators



Miranda Matheson

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAEFWakZ24M/COBOZyO2PYTz7hO2Z6EEAw/view?utm\\_content=DAEFWakZ24M&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAEFWakZ24M/COBOZyO2PYTz7hO2Z6EEAw/view?utm_content=DAEFWakZ24M&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton)



Becky Lloyd

<https://wakelet.com/wake/tbc5gHBwCzMC9tbi3ErnN>

## Secondary Curriculum, Instruction and Staff Development Department



# Department News

## Spotlight on Secondary Teaching and Learning

Congratulations to Guyer High School math teacher **Bridget Matamoros-Mota** who received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). “It is a powerfully encouraging reminder on the days when I feel weary that my passion for teaching is not overlooked or in vain,” Matamoros-Mota said. PAEMST is the highest award given by the U.S. Government to K-12 teachers of mathematics and science. As an awardee, Matamoros-Mota receives a certificate signed by the president of the United States and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. She will also be honored along with the other PAEMST winners at an award ceremony which will take place in Washington, D.C. Matamoros-Mota began her teaching career at Guyer High School in 2007. She currently serves as the mathematics department chair teaching 11th and 12th-grade statistics, Advanced Placement (AP) statistics, and dual credit statistics. She earned a B.A. in music and an M.Ed. in secondary education from the University of North Texas and a master of applied statistics degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Thank you to **Tyler Adams**, Strickland Middle School, and **John Lovette**, secondary PD specialist, for representing Denton ISD as co-presenters at the Texas Council for the Social Studies Conference. Tyler and John’s session Teaching with Conceptual Units invites participants to discover how teaching with conceptual units can help students understand continuity and change throughout history. Participants will learn tips on how to reorganize the social studies curriculum into units such as identity, movement, equality, and conflict that establish current-day relevance to social studies content.

This past spring the CollegeBoard produced instructional videos to support their AP students during the pandemic. **Mark Kiraly**, Ryan HS math teacher, was one of two instructors hired by the College Board who created 33 videos to help prepare AP calculus AB students for the 2020 exam. This fall he has been named the lead AP calculus instructor for AP Daily, a series of on-demand, short videos that can be used for in-person, online, and blended/hybrid instruction. Mark is an active member of the AP Community and enjoys working with others passionate about mathematics. He has taught at Ryan High School since graduating from Michigan State University in 1993. He has taught AP calculus AB and BC since 1998 and has been an AP reader since 2005. Since 2013, Mark has been a question leader and exam leader at AP reading, helping to set standards and train readers on the reading of specific problems, including both secure and operational forms of the AB and BC exams. We are proud to have such a respected, valued, and nationally recognized AP calculus teacher in our district! [Photo Source: <https://elective.collegeboard.org/ap-teacher-qa-virge-cornelius-lafayette-high-school-and-mark-kiraly-billy-ryan-high-school/>]



# School News

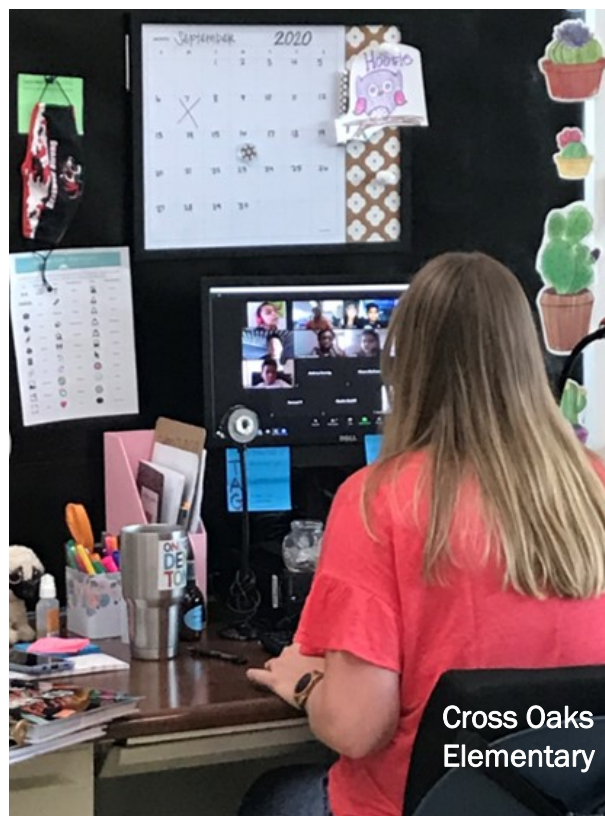


WS Ryan Elementary

5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers



3<sup>rd</sup> grade students using Seesaw



Cross Oaks Elementary

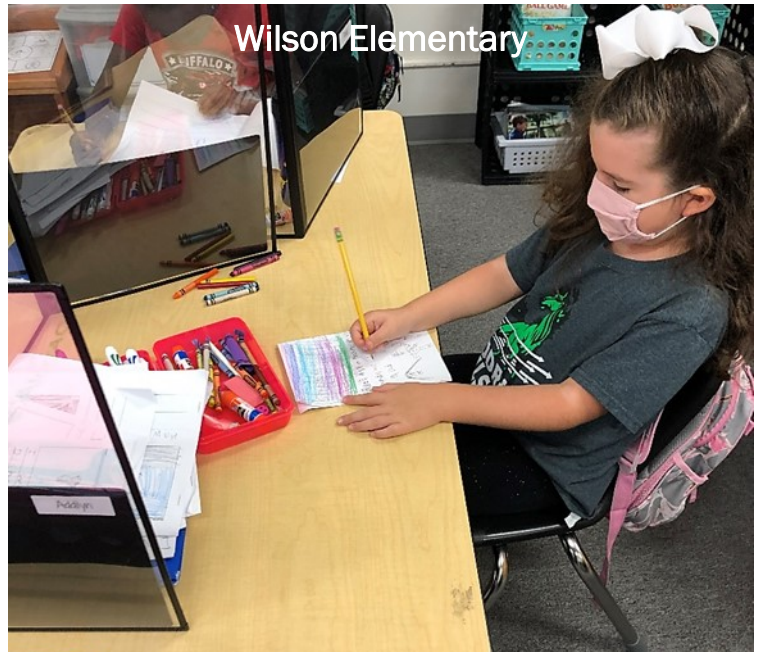
3<sup>rd</sup> grade Connected Learning teacher



# School News



Engineers in **Mrs. Wenger's** 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom have been busy creating structures using KEVA planks.



First grade student writes in workshop at desk while practicing safety protocols.

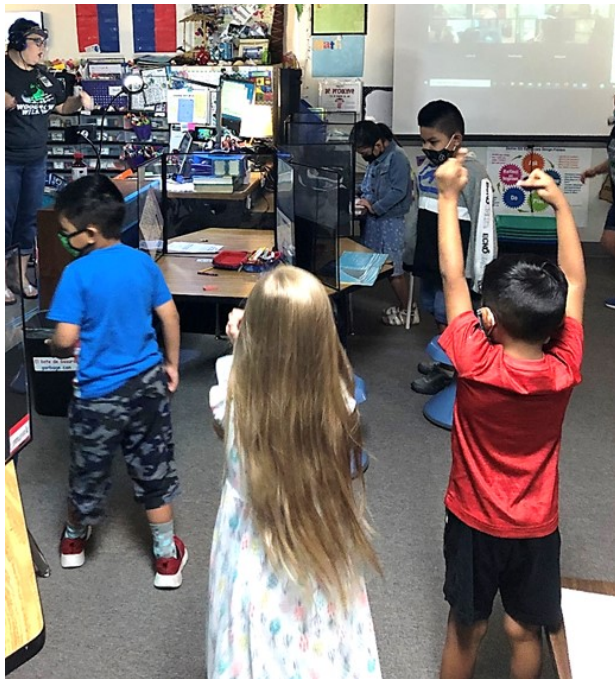
## #STEMinDenton

Big smiles are under those masks! Teachers have been picking up the STEM kits that they earned at a Spring STEM Cohort training. The kits will be used in classrooms to the engineer design process.





# School News



**Ms. Schenck** has a Fun Friday dance party with her F2F students and CL students synchronously during their morning meeting.



A Connected Learning teacher, **Mrs. Sharkey**, wears a shark hat as she does an interactive read aloud with her connected learning students.

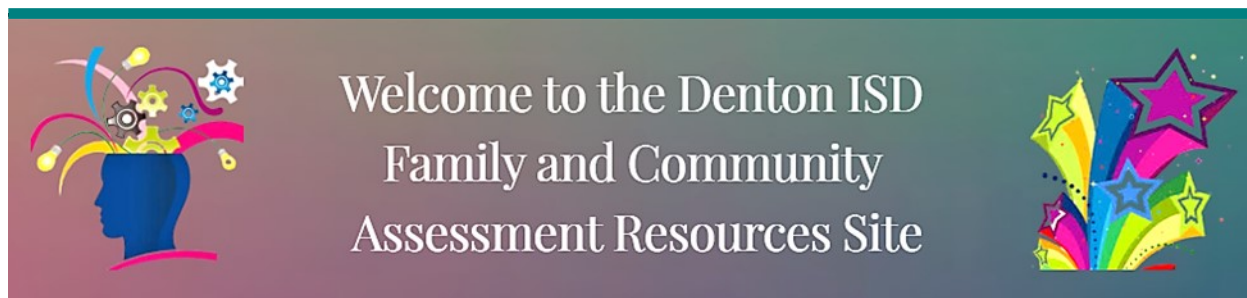


*Three Billy Goats Gruff* retelling with troll and goat on bridge.

# Resources

## All About Assessment


Our awesome Testing Coordinators, **Miranda Matheson** and **Becky Lloyd** have been hard at work, creating resources for you. Check them out, save to your favorites, and share with your staff and families, as appropriate: Pictures are linked to the corresponding sites.



This site contains information and resources for Denton ISD families and community members regarding assessments that are administered to our students throughout the school year.

<https://sites.google.com/g.dentonisd.org/assessmentresourcesforfamilies/home>

Welcome to the

 **DENTON**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assessment Website

Testing Calendars

Today

September 2020

Week Month Agenda

Sun	30	Mon	31	Tue	Sep 1	Wed	2	Thu	3	Fri	4	Sat	5
									Process TH Alerts				
	6		7		8		9		10	11		12	
									Process TH Alerts				
	13		14		15		16		17	18		19	
									Process TH Alerts				
	20		21		22		23		24	25		26	
									Process TH Alerts				

2020-2021 STUDENT ASSESSMENT TESTING CALENDAR

2020-21 Updated July 27, 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://sites.google.com/g.dentonisd.org/disdtesting/home>