

The CONNECTOR

A weekly publication of Harris County Department of Education
for the HCDE Board of Trustees



VOLUME 2/ISSUE 45
Week of August 8, 2016

From the office of JAMES COLBERT, JR. – SUPERINTENDENT

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Last week marked the end of the Summer Flex Schedule for HCDE employees. As of this week, we returned to our regularly-scheduled hours. The Facilities division has reported tremendous savings to the Department over the summer months with the Irvington location having been closed each Friday. This model is one that is practiced throughout school districts and other municipalities throughout the country.

I started this week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team. We are closing in on the end of summer and the start of a new academic year. Our campus employees have begun returning to their campuses to begin their professional development and preparation for the 2016-2017.

Most of our client school districts will begin this year on August 22, with the exception of the following districts: Crosby ISD, August 29; Dayton ISD, August 29; Deer Park, August 23; La Porte, August 24; and Pasadena, August 23. We look forward to continuing to serve our client districts with the exceptional service they have come to expect.

This past Friday, I attended a luncheon hosted by Mayor Sylvester Turner for the superintendents of school districts within the city of Houston. While I attended in my capacity as the County School Superintendent, I am also a member of the Mayor's Education Committee in his efforts to improve education in Houston. The meeting was the result of the recommendations that came out of our committee's work. It was well-attended by superintendents and it was successful towards its purpose to better meet the education needs of the students within our city.

On Tuesday of this week, I participated in a panel discussion on the State of Education. This event was coordinated by University of Houston's Susie Molina and was sponsored by the Corporate Community Relations Council (CCRC). Fellow panelists included Dr. Bob Wimpelberg (All Kids Alliance and University of Houston's College of Education) and Juliet Stipeche (City of Houston- Mayor's Education Team). It was an ideal platform in which to further place HCDE as a voice at the forefront of trends and challenges in the education community. The event was held at the United Way. I look forward to continuing to represent HCDE in this manner.

Please be reminded of next week's events. A PFC Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 16 at 12:00 noon, immediately before the regularly scheduled August Board Meeting. The Board Meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. On Thursday, August 18 at 10:00 a.m., our Annual Staff Meeting will take place at the Kingdom Builders' event venue located at 6011 West Orem Drive in Houston, Texas located near Beltway 8. Registration for the event begins at 9:00 a.m. Activities will conclude at 12:00 noon. All Board Members are encouraged to attend.

To that end, next week I will be traveling to Austin to fulfill my responsibilities to the UIL Executive Board. I will depart Houston Tuesday evening after the August Board Meeting heading to Austin for the UIL Meeting which will be held Wednesday. I will return to Houston Wednesday night, after the UIL Meeting for Thursday's Annual Staff Meeting. As previously mentioned, the Annual Staff Meeting is an excellent opportunity to recognize and motivate our staff.

This week, in the area of teaching and learning, we continued to offer value, opportunity, and service to educators across Harris County through our Educator Certification and Professional Advancement Career Choice Recruitment Seminar. Within the Department, numerous programs and divisions continued extensive and intensive professional development and continued learning opportunities to even better equip our staff to meet the demands of the upcoming school year.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at next week's Board Meeting. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

\$5.4 million, Three-Year Grant Funds Afterschool through HCDE's CASE for Kids in 10 Area Schools



A \$5.4 million afterschool grant was awarded to the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, by the Texas Education Agency Texas Afterschool Centers on Education through the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. The grant awards \$1.8 million annually for three years and funds 10 afterschool centers, serving 800 students and 400 parents.

Collaborating school districts in the Cycle 9 grant award include Aldine, Alief, Clear Creek, Galena Park, Humble, Pasadena, Sheldon, Spring, and Southwest Charter Schools. CASE for Kids is a division of Harris County Department of Education. It provides resources, trainings, and funding for students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities, and community centers throughout Harris County.

Activities included in the afterschool programs include academic skill mastery, social-emotional learning, youth leadership, college exploration, and family engagement.

Specific schools benefitting from the grant include Drew Academy and Marcella Intermediate in Aldine ISD; Albright Middle School in Alief ISD; Clear Creek Intermediate in Clear Creek ISD; North Shore 9th Grade in Galena Park ISD; Sterling Middle School in Humble ISD; South Houston Intermediate in Pasadena ISD; Null Middle School in Sheldon ISD; Southwest Middle School in charter school Southwest Schools; and Bammel Middle School in Spring ISD.

"We are grateful for this grant award, especially during times when public funding for afterschool is waning," said Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director of CASE for Kids. "Houston and Harris County is committed to providing safe and enriching programs for our youth. CASE for Kids continues to support that goal as we unite the community."

About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids: CASE for Kids, formerly the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, was launched by Harris County Department of Education in 1999. CASE for Kids is an after-school intermediary which leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit approximately 12,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Go to www.afterschoolzone.org for information.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Head Start Annual Report Published for 2014-2015



The 2014-2015 Head Start Annual Report is now available for viewing online: <http://goo.gl/2Vi5Su>. Board members will receive a personal printed copy in the next few weeks. The theme of the annual report produced by Communication and Head Start staff is "Growing Stronger Together." The report features fingertip facts along with profiles and photos of students, community supporters and staff.

Advancing Teaching and Learning by Training the Trainer

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

AUGUST 8, 2016

Educator Certification and Professional Advancement Career Choice Recruitment Seminar

Schools Division Celebrates New School Year with Staff Development Training

More than 150 Schools division staff members celebrated the beginning of the school year at the annual Staff Development Training this week. During the training, staff discussed a variety of topics including recent legal updates and policies impacting our schools, bullying on campus, professionalism and more. Staff also celebrated division successes and new initiatives for the year.

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Galena Park ISD Teachers Train with HCDE's Kelly Tummy During Week-Long Writing Academy

HCDE's English Language Arts & Social Studies Curriculum Director Kelly Tummy traveled to Galena Park ISD this week to train 145 middle and high school ELA teachers as part of the district's Writing Academy. During the workshop, teachers learned and applied techniques to expand

their existing curriculum and make reading and writing connections across their curriculum.



Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dates for 25 School Districts for 2016-2017 Now Available through Comprehensive Calendar Assembled by HCDE

Harris County School District Calendars **2016 | 2017**

Helping Students ACHIEVE

Semester Dates | Holiday Schedules 2016 | 2017

District	Classroom Dates	Thanksgiving	Winter Break	Spring Break	Easter	Staff/Week Days	Other Holidays	Classroom Dates	District
Aliso	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Aliso
Aliso Viejo	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Aliso Viejo
Chattahoochee	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Chattahoochee
Clear Creek	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Clear Creek
Conroe	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Conroe
Crosby	Aug 29	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 29	Crosby
Dayton	Aug 29	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 29	Dayton
Deer Park	Aug 23	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 23	Deer Park
Elgin	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Elgin
Euless	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Euless
Flower Mound	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Flower Mound
Georgetown	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Georgetown
Houston	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Houston
Katy	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Katy
Klein	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Klein
La Porte	Aug 24	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 24	La Porte
League City	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	League City
Memphis	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Memphis
Northwest	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Northwest
Northwest Harris	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Northwest Harris
Spring Branch	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Spring Branch
Tomball	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Tomball
Waller	Aug 22	Nov 21-25	Dec 19 - Jan 2	March 13-17	April 14	8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12, 8:15 - 8:12	8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12, 8:15, 8:12	Aug 22	Waller

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Important dates for 25 school districts in greater Harris County have been assembled and published by HCDE Communication and Client Engagement. The district calendar is available on the HCDE website.

Most districts begin school this year on August 22 with the exception of Crosby (August 29), Dayton (August 29), Deer Park (August 23), La Porte (August 24) and Pasadena (August 23). School districts celebrate Thanksgiving from November 21-25 with the exception of Houston, Katy, Klein, and Spring Branch. Most districts observe winter break from December 19-30, while a few extend the break to January 2.

All districts observe spring break from March 13-17 and Easter is recognized by a day off on April 14. The last day of school and other holidays vary from district to district due to professional development schedules.

You may view the calendar for the 25 school districts here: <http://goo.gl/N9MSAQ>.



Teaching and Learning Center Hosts Jennifer Seravallo as part of Leadership Speaker Series

On September 22, 2016, HCDE's Teaching and Learning Center hosts the "Reading Strategies for Goal-Directed Instruction" workshop with presenter Jennifer Seravallo. During this workshop, participants will gain practical ways to make independent reading time a joyful yet rigorous time of day through the use of valuable formative assessments, conferring with individuals and groups, and targeting necessary strategies to support them as they practice. Until 2012, Seravallo was a senior staff developer at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project helping urban, suburban, and rural schools implement exceptional literacy instruction through reading and writing workshops. To learn more about the workshop, visit <https://goo.gl/CXY5v9>.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Community Relations

In accordance with the Board's goals of me to

- Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way

I attended the mayor's luncheon last Friday for superintendents of school districts within Houston proper. This meeting came about as the result of recommendations from the work of the Mayor's Education Transition Team, in which I am a member. The goal of this meeting was to continue the Mayor's efforts to build bridges to close education gaps that exist within the city-at-large. The luncheon was productive toward that end.



Superintendent Colbert attends luncheon with Mayor and superintendents from school districts within the city of Houston

Also, this past Tuesday, I participated in a panel discussion on the State of Education coordinated by University of Houston's Susie Molina (Office of Governmental and Community Relations) in conjunction with the Corporate Community Relations Council of Houston (CCRC), and also as a by-product of the Mayor's Education Committee, where Ms. Molina serves as the chair of the Education Transition Team Committee. The event was held at the United Way.



Superintendent Colbert with Susie Molina, Juliet Stipeche, and Dr. Bob Wimpelberg, All Kids Alliance and University of Houston's College of Education.

Over the past many months, I have been involved in this committee because of my role as HCDE's superintendent—especially since not only do we provide resources to the 25 school districts within Harris County, but also to the largest districts that reside primarily within the city of Houston.

Together, we as a group of diverse and dedicated individuals put forth our experience and passion to help shape what we hope to be the future of education in our great city of Houston.

In doing so, I am working to meet the Board's expectations of me to function as the primary ambassador for the Department, maintain visibility and involvement in the community with ISD superintendents, elected officials, and community leaders while remaining open to their ideas and needs, listening and accepting criticism, and willing to seek advice and counsel when necessary. Further, I arrive at conclusions to determine the appropriate course of action to address issues.

Additionally, I am—per the Board's expectations—communicating the needs and accomplishments of the Department in a variety of formats: through written reports, communication with the media, community, school districts, political arenas, and public meetings. I represent HCDE by attendance at events and speak professionally. I make professional presentations to all audiences in all arenas. I listen and take into account differing viewpoints of various constituencies using good judgment to discern the best decision and action for the Department.

HCDE BOARD

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Marvin W. Morris
Position 1, Precinct 2

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Position 7, At Large

Diane Trautman
Position 3, At Large

Michael Wolfe
Position 5, At Large

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS:

PFC Meeting
August 16, 2016
12:00 Noon
Room 400

August Board Meeting
August 16, 2016
1:00 p.m.
Room 400

