



Of Note...

Elementary school teachers know the positive impact Head Start has on a child's development and report seeing the benefits early, even on the first day of kindergarten. Head Start children can count to 100, know how to stand in line, write their names, recognize letters of the alphabet and have no problem sitting on a square for reading time.

We heard personal stories about the impact of Head Start last week when we cut the ribbon on our new Head Start center in Baytown.



I'd like to thank Board President Josh Flynn and trustees Danny Norris and Richard Cantu for joining myself, HCDE leaders, Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo, the Baytown Head Start staff and dozens of parents to commemorate this momentous occasion. We were blessed with a show-stealing performance by the students who sang that they are "Head Start Kids."

Parent Romeisha Lowery shared the impact the program has had on her family. Parents are required to be involved in the Head Start program and Ms. Lowery discussed what a positive influence this has had on her family. She talked about the simple Head Start recommendation to share two healthy meals a day as a family at the table and how that has promoted communication and sharing with her children.



The foundation that Head Start provides is critical to a child's success later in life. We've all heard that students who read on grade level by third grade are less likely to drop out of school. Head Start is the first step in making that happen.

I am amazed when I think of how many lives we change with just this one program. And we have so many services that help children, adults, districts and communities around the county. I am so proud to see the impact HCDE has!

WEEK OF MAY 27, 2019

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With the Memorial Day holiday behind us, I hit the ground running with my weekly Executive Leadership Team meeting on Tuesday, followed by internal meetings. On Thursday, I attended the Northwest Assistance Ministries Board Meeting and the Fortis Academy end-of-year student success celebration.

Next week I will participate in various internal meetings before seeing many of you on June 5 for a Feasibility Committee meeting and tour of our Coolwood Head Start Center. On June 6, it's also time for Board agenda review.

Teachers often use the summer to recharge. But for a Superintendent in Texas, summer is when we hire staff, pass budgets, evaluate our teams and prepare for staff and students to return. This is actually one of the busiest times of the year for me as I review the past year, prepare for annual Convocation and actively plan for the coming school year.

I look forward to sharing end of year celebrations with you next week and showcasing how HCDE impacts students' lives every day. Have a restful week.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HCDE Board Meeting—Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Presents Certifications, Plaques to Area Districts for Collaborations, Partnerships



Director Colina Pollard presents an award to Clear Creek ISD

HCDE continues to honor its client districts with certificates of appreciation or plaques for partnerships and collaborations, with a goal to provide certificates to each of the 25 area school districts at their monthly board meetings.

To date, 21 of 25 districts have been presented certificates, with four final visits planned in June.

This spring, Gayla Maynard, director for Grants Development, visited Dayton ISD, where HCDE provides services from eight HCDE divisions. Dayton ISD was presented a plaque for its membership in the Center for Safe and Secure Schools.



Director Gayla Rawlinson-Maynard presents award to Dayton ISD

In Dayton, HCDE provides professional development for teachers; Scholastic Art & Writing opportunities for students; services from the Center for Safe and Secure Schools; occupational and physical therapy from School-Based Therapy Services; and numerous other programs.

Many of the presentations are covered through local newspapers: <https://bluebonnetnews.com/2019/02/27/dayton-isd-presented-awards-by-harris-county-department-of-education/>

Video About School Therapy Provides Insight, Helps Recruit



School-Based Therapy Services recently launched a new video explaining the division's services. The video and smaller vignettes will also be used to recruit school-based therapists. School-based therapists work with children to help them be

successful academically and socially in the school setting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlqn7pMCTT8>

NEXT WEEK'S EVENTS

JUNE 3, 2019

Digging Deeper: Applying Webb's Depth of Knowledge to the Science Classroom

JUNE 4, 2019

STAAR Academy
Building Literacy in Social Studies-Vocabulary and Comprehension Strategies

HCDE Superintendent Certification Institute Information Webinar

E-Colors & Intentional Leadership: Accountability & Commitment

TEGES Bilingual Education Supplemental Exam (#164) Test Prep

JUNE 6, 2019

Penny Kittle - The Balanced Reading Diet

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Baytown Early Head Start/Head Start Officially Opens New Location



Students and staff will start occupying the new 20,000-square-foot Baytown Early Head Start/Head Start, located at 323 Massey Tompkins Rd., this summer and fall.

to house over 40 little ones in Early Head Start,” Colbert said. “This facility is consistent with the caliber of the staff we have; and more important, it is consistent with the potential of the students inside it.”



Harris County Department of Education Superintendent James Colbert, Board of Trustees President Josh Flynn, trustees Richard Cantu and Danny

Special features of the Head Start center include: seven Head Start classrooms, five Early Head Start classroom, a training room, offices and two playgrounds – one for Head Start and another for Early Head Start. The facility has a capacity of 180 students – 140 Head Start students and 40 Early Head Start students. About 45 staff members will be assigned to this location.

Norris and Head Start Director Venetia Peacock were joined by City of Baytown officials, Head Start staff, community partners and parents Thursday, May 23 for a ribbon-cutting and tours of the new center.

“This is the realization of a project that has been over five years long,” Peacock said. “We have a standard and want to provide high-quality facilities, instruction and services to our families to help them move to the goal they desire and meet the goals they have for their lives. Having an awesome facility is a part of that because it can support you in services you are trying to provide.”

“Today marks a really important day for us as we celebrate not only our Head Start program, but a school that is going



HCDE Head Start is an educational program providing students and their families with the skills they need to be ready for the demands of school. For more about Head Start, visit: www.hcde-texas.org/head-start/.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Baytown Early Head Start/Head Start Officially Opens New Location



Head Start Ribbon-Cutting Featured in Sunday Baytown Sun Features Section

The community rallied around the opening of the Baytown Head Start/Early Head Start Center at the May 23 ribbon-cutting ceremony. View the story in the Sunday features' section of the Baytown Sun: <https://bit.ly/2HO6hft>

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Newcomer Teacher LanVy Tran Credits Training, Mentors for Early Success in Profession



Soft-spoken teacher LanVy Tran's classroom runs like a well-oiled machine. Students transition from one workstation to another with confidence, trading iPads for pencils and papers where students can use virtual manipulatives. Like runners stretching, fourth-grade minds warm up as Tran asks for predictions as numbers are placed on a grid.

In the classroom of 21 at Burbank Elementary in Houston ISD, no one is redirected or reprimanded by the second-year teacher. All are engaged on the math and science front.

Tran was enrolled in Harris County Department of Education's teacher alternative certification program for seven to 10 months in pre-service training, taking teacher preparation courses. The next 12 months were spent teaching and taking additional courses. Mentors such as HCDE's Director of Math Curriculum Nicole Shanahan helped her along the way and are still here for her today.

"I was with HCDE for about two years and they gave me plenty of tools and advice to prepare for teaching," Tran said.

Since 2007, HCDE's Educator Certification and Advancement (ECA) Division has helped college graduates and second-career seekers to transition into teaching. For the past seven years the teacher preparation program reports a 99 percent pass rate for students completing courses and taking the certification exams, according to Lidia Zatopek, director for HCDE's ECA. The division also trains and prepares principals for certification. Recently it added the Superintendent Certification Institute to help further elevate school leaders.

Tran is confident, well-organized and patient, three traits that go a long way in the teaching profession, said Shanahan. Even though some of a good teacher's traits are inherent, most are learned.

"I had amazing mentors at HCDE whom I still lean on for support," Tran said. "My mentor Ms. Shanahan has been wonderful and taught me a lot about engaging activities and classroom instruction. I go to her math workshops and enjoy making workstations for my students, and they enjoy the activities."

The best part of teaching, Tran said, are the "ah-ha" moments when her students make connections between theory and practice.



"Then they say, oh, I see now Ms. Tran," she said.

HCDE is recruiting teachers for its Teacher Alternative Certification Program. For more information, go to www.hcde-texas.org/teach-and-lead.

(LanVy Tran was recently nominated for the Texas Alternative Certification Association Intern of the Year Award. Winners will be announced this summer.)



Case for Kids Featured in *Lone Star Magazine*

CASE for Kids was recently featured in Texas Lone Star Magazine, a publication of the Texas Association of School Boards. Staff member Jacqueline Chavez was honored through the National Afterschool Association's 2019 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders and received a mention in Bulletin Board, a column for short news items.

View the story: <http://hcde-texas.org/media/uploads/2019/05/Chavez.pdf>

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Organization Morale/Community Relations

In keeping with the Board's expectations of me to:

- **Create an open and positive environment for sharing resources and exchanging ideas to improve organizational climate;**
- **Celebrate accomplishments and acknowledge excellence;**
- **Demonstrate skill in anticipating, managing, and resolving conflict; and**
- **Demonstrate quality management through delegation of authority, teambuilding, consensus development, leadership development and self-management.**



Last week we dedicated a new building to the Baytown community and to our Head Start employees, parents and students. We have a multitude of dedicated staff who teach our children and are responsible for their well-being. Our family service providers work to empower their parents with resources. This new building creates



pride in the community and enables our staff to serve many more Early Head Start and Head Start families.

This year we began visiting school districts through school board meetings and providing them with certificates and plaques of appreciation for our collaborations. These services range from our Head Start programs to afterschool to therapy services. They could include our co-op which allows districts to save money on our records services. It also allows us to share the impact of who we are and what we do. In addition, we can introduce new service and program possibilities to the districts.

By providing districts with these small tokens of our appreciation, we instill a sense of pride in our employees providing the awards as well as the school districts receiving the awards.

These activities also correlate with the Board's expectations of me to: work with other community and governmental entities and educational organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way.

HCDE BOARD

Board President

Josh Flynn

Vice President

George Moore

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danny Norris

Don Summers

Michael Wolfe

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

