

Of Note...

I began the week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team. It was productive, as usual, and allowed for our weekly brain-share as we continually focus on keeping HCDE systems running as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I was pleased to welcome attendees of this year's Leadership Summit, hosted by the Teaching and Learning Center. The event was well-attended and equipped all in attendance with innovative vehicles to advance teaching and learning. The sessions were both engaging and informative.

Also, on Tuesday, I met with the Goose Creek CISD superintendent as well as the Pearland ISD superintendent. As previously mentioned, I routinely visit our client school districts to ensure that we are meeting their needs. I am pleased to report that our partnerships with these districts are intact.

As you know, the regularly-scheduled Board Meeting was held this past Wednesday. Thanks to those of you who were able to attend. It, too, was a productive meeting.

Immediately after Wednesday's meeting, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Parker and I traveled to Virginia to visit two equine sites. (See additional information on the back page.) We will remain there through Saturday. So far, these visits have been most useful and will inform us as we proceed to explore creating unique and therapeutic environments for our unique student populations.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted or facilitated the following workshops and training sessions: TExES Principal (268) 4-Day Test Prep Boot Camp; Intentional Leadership: Collaborating with Purpose; How to Become a State-Certified Teacher in Texas- Information Seminar; STAAR Academy Grade 8 Science: Essential Tools for RTI; Teachers, WRITE! (2nd Annual); Learning to Lead for Success; Robert Kaplinsky: Be Inspired! Authentic Problem-Solving in grades 6-12 (6 hours G/T update); and Introduction to Google Docs and Sheets.

Looking ahead into next week, I will convene the Executive Leadership Team at Fortis Academy. Next Tuesday, I will provide the welcome to the Restoring School Culture event on behalf of the Research and Evaluation division. On Wednesday, I will be meeting with the superintendent of Crosby ISD and Friday, I will attend the Second Annual Men of Color event at the University of Houston Downtown.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**, and I hope you have a relaxing weekend. As always, thanks for your service to HCDE.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November Board Meeting—Wednesday, November 14, 2018



WEEK OF OCTOBER 15, 2018

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Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Intentional Leadership: Collaborating with Purpose Welcomes State Leaders from TEA, College Board



School leaders gathered for a day of information sharing during Intentional Leadership: Collaborating with Purpose Oct. 16. TEA Deputy Commissioner A.J. Crabill and College Board Senior Director Jill Schott presented to our crowd of 100 after a welcome by Superintendent James Colbert Jr.



“Student outcomes don’t change until adult behaviors change,” said Crabill. He pointed to knowledge, skills and mindset as elements that change adult behavior.



“There are many reasons to be optimistic about the state of education in Texas, but also areas of concern,” he said, pointing to a decrease in SAT/ACT scores in high school.

School leaders spent the afternoon networking and having content-area, small group meetings for math, English, science, bilingual education and more.

For upcoming Leadership Speaker Series events, go to <https://bit.ly/2xRgLF6>.

Make and Take Math Provides Daily Lesson Tools for PK-2 Teachers with Household Materials



Teachers in the Make-and-Take Math workshops at HCDE get 10 packaged lessons to put to immediate use in their classrooms. Throughout the year, Teaching and Learning Center Math Curriculum Director Nicole Shanahan hosts the workshops for multiple math grade levels.



To register for the workshops or to host a customized workshop at your district, go to <http://www.hcde-texas.org/who-we-are/divisions-and-leadership/teaching-and-learning-center/upcoming-workshops/>.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

OCTOBER 16, 2018

TEExES Principal (268) 4-Day Test Prep Boot Camp

Intentional Leadership: Collaborating with Purpose

OCTOBER 17, 2018

How to Become State-Certified Teacher in Texas - Information Seminar

STAAR Academy Grade 8 Science: Essential Tools for RTI

OCTOBER 18, 2018

Teachers, WRITE! (2nd Annual)

Learning to Lead for Success

OCTOBER 19, 2018

Robert Kaplinsky: Be Inspired! Authentic Problem-Solving in Gr. 6-HS [6 hours G/T update]

Intro to Google Docs and Sheets



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Celebrates National Principals Month



Every great school has a great principal. Harris County of Department of Education has four great principals. HCDE celebrates each of them during National Principals Month in October.

Principals were specifically honored at the Oct. 17 board of trustees meeting.

For Anthony Moten, Fortis Academy principal, the wonderful thing about being able to work with kids is the opportunity to make a difference daily.

"I'm honored to be a part of Fortis Academy and what we are building here," Moten said.

Highpoint School East Principal Marion Keith Cooksey realized he wanted to make a greater impact to students when he started his teaching career.

"As a child, I needed some assistance, so I can identify not with all the problems students have but I know that a problem is a problem no matter how small or large it is and we're able to assist them," Cooksey said.

Victor Keys, Academic and Behavior School West principal,

started as a teacher and wanted the opportunity to impact a lot more students.

"Working for Harris County at ABS West has given me the opportunity to put my total vision for what I wanted for students in place," Keys said.

Academic and Behavior School East Principal Keith Oliphant says he has always been a warrior for kids.

"Being a coach, you're working with kids to benefit them, but being a principal is a great responsibility because you're working with all of the components of educating the kids," Oliphant said.

The four principals have a combined 111 years of experience in education.

HCDE Board of Trustees President Louis D. Evans III has been in education for 40 years and complimented them for their professionalism and sincerity.

"You guys speak for kids who can't speak for themselves," Evans said. You take care of people who can't take care of themselves. At the end of the day, you care about our kids."

View video: https://youtu.be/lKflyvl_rCQ



Lights! Camera! Action! Media Coverage of Choice Partners Expo



The Child Nutrition and Product Expo hosted by Choice Partners drew media attention from three Houston-area markets, including an extensive Houston Chronicle photo gallery which details vendor offerings.

Chronicle:

<https://m.chron.com/neighborhood/article/Trendy-school-cafeteria-food-13302252.php>

Fox 26 KRIV:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXwwm7_mPG8&feature=youtu.be

Channel 2 KPRC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGXp1T2BDG8&feature=youtu.be>

Photoshelter gallery from HCDE Communications and Creative Services:

https://hcdetexas.photoshelter.com/gallery/20181011-Nutrition/G0000BIbFwWg_Wj8/C0000KvVWtzSOsJw (hcde1889 is password)

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Employees Team Up to Fight Cancer, Cheer Astros



Employees are recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month through themed dress Fridays this month. Last week, employees did double-duty by teaming up against cancer and cheering on the Astros.

Adult Education Workforce Students Visited by Ivanka Trump, Capitol Hill Delegation to Highlight Women in Construction Program



Adult Education workforce students Dwana Grace and Eva Arriaga (from left) pose with President

Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump at the S&B Engineers and Constructors training center in Baytown. The first daughter first learned about S&B's Women in Construction Apprenticeship Program when the company was invited to the White House for the announcement of the National Council of the American Worker. She visited the plant to celebrate the grand opening

of the Craft Education and Skills Enhancement Center.

This is the second cohort of HCDE students trained in the apprenticeship program with S&B. Planning for a third cohort is underway with the goal of helping more women to enter nontraditional career pathways and supply the Gulf Coast region with safe, efficient and highly-qualified craft professionals.

The S&B Construction center's grand opening was attended by other several members of Congress throughout the nation, including Texas.

Opportunity

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Rise Against Human Trafficking Workshop Set at HCDE on Nov. 13



Houston is a major port for human trafficking. Part of the solution lies in examining the facts and spreading awareness about the problem. For instance, did you know that 900,000 children attend school within a mile radius of human trafficking businesses?

The Center for Safe and Secure Schools and Children at Risk are hosting a workshop on Nov. 13, from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at 6300 Irvington Blvd., Houston, Texas.

School district personnel as well as the public are invited. Find out how to protect our children at this critical workshop. Cost is \$20 for general admission and \$5 for students. Register today: <http://bit.ly/RiseAgainstTrafficking>

2nd Annual “Teachers! Write!” Helps Teachers to Become Better Writing Instructors



Language arts teachers took the student seat as nonprofit Writers in the Schools visits Harris County Department of Education for the 2nd Annual “Teachers! Write!” workshop.

The nonprofit provides education for young writers in schools. During the workshop, teachers took on writing assignments and created a portfolio of diverse writing assignments which included personal essays and short stories. The workshop allows teachers the chance to brush up on their

own writing skills to become better teachers of writing. New writing curriculum was also introduced to add a “breath of fresh air” to the teachers’ classes.



Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Instructional Management

To meet the Board's expectations of me as it relates to this element of performance to

- Establish effective mechanisms for communication to and from staff in instructional evaluation, planning, and decision making;
- Ensure that goals and objectives form the basis of curricular decision making and instruction, and communicates expectations for student achievement;
- Ensure that appropriate data are used in developing recommendations and making decisions regarding the instructional program and resources; and
- Establish a system for regular evaluation of instructional programs to meet student instructional needs and to attain desired student achievement.



The purpose of these site visits was to continue investigating the therapeutic usefulness of equine therapy as part of the curriculum on our campuses. This form of therapy has proven to be successful in varied student and behavior populations. I can see how helpful this addition to our programs could improve outcomes.



This week, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Parker and I visited both Brook Hill Farm and Loudon Therapeutic Riding Center, located in Virginia.

By remaining engaged in the instructional management process, I am working to meet your goal of me to identify the learning needs of the students and develop a process that ensures that each student's learning goals are met or exceeded; ensure feedback processes are implemented to communicate effectively with the home ISD and parents; and finally, investigate best practices for student achievement of student potential within HCDE schools.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

November Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

