



WEEK OF MARCH 25, 2019

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## Of Note...

HCDE continues to advance teaching and learning in Harris County. This week, HCDE hosted workshops and professional development sessions ranging from topics surrounding intentional leadership to making the most of out-of-school time. Additionally, HCDE hosted national math problem-solver Graham Fletcher and we are serving as a resource to the community regarding the aftermath of Deer Park fires.

I began the week, as usual, with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team. I spent part of the week in Austin, returning Wednesday. Yesterday, I attended my Northwest Assistance Ministries Board Meeting, and I spent time with one of my mentees. I also conducted various internal meetings.

Today, in addition to attending regulary-standing internal meetings, I also met with a client district superintendent.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted E-Colors and Intentional Leadership: Shared Vision and Values; Healthy Out-of-School Time; BYB: Using Young Adult Series to Hook Readers; and Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS); Aquatic and Terrarium Habitats. Harris County school districts would be at a great disadvantage without the cost-effective (and sometimes at no cost) professional development sessions that HCDE provides.

In closing, and looking ahead into next week, I will begin the week with a meeting of the ELT, followed by other internal meetings with staff. I will begin conducting our annual budget hearings next Tuesday, and please be reminded of the AB-West Groundbreaking Ceremony next Wednesday, April 3 from 11am-1pm. I will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday of next week.

Please make note that the regularly-scheduled April Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

Thank you for your service to HCDE. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**ABS-West Groundbreaking—Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**HCDE Board Meeting—Wednesday, April 17, 2019**

# Opportunity

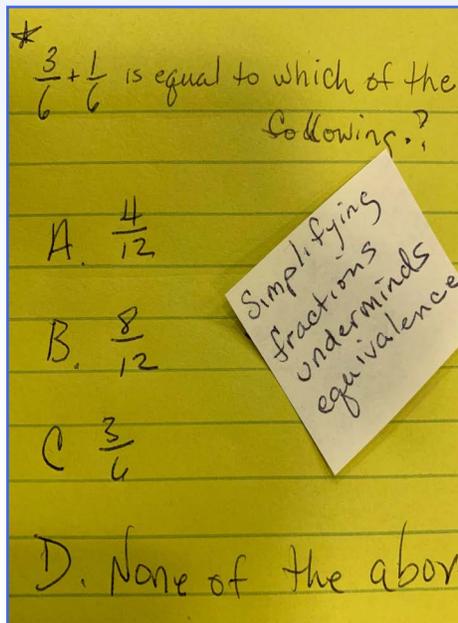
## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### National Math Problem-Solver Graham Fletcher Presents at HCDE



National presenter and math problem-solving guru Graham Fletcher provided a workshop at HCDE for approximately 50 math teachers and specialists this month. The 10-year

math teacher's passion for conceptual understanding through problem-based lessons has led him to present internationally and throughout most of the United States. He is the author of the Making Sense Series Progression Videos. He is seen as an advocate for math best practice and as a game changer for engaging students in problem-solving. HCDE Math Curriculum Director Nicole Shanahan said many teachers attending the workshop likened the event to attending a math concert with their favorite rock star!



### ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

**MARCH 29, 2019**

E-Colors & Intentional Leadership:  
Shared Vision and Values

Healthy Out-of-School Time

BYB: Using Young Adult Series to Hook Readers

Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS): Aquatic and Terrarium Habitats (6 hours G/T update)



# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Unique Career Day Provides Options for Students with Intellectual and Emotional Disabilities



Students ranging in age from 6-21 were introduced to career options as an array of traditional and atypical professionals visited Harris County Department of Education's Academic and Behavior School East for Career Day 2019 on March 22.

Career fair guests at the special school for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities included a judge, a deejay, an inspirational speaker, a lawyer, a nurse, a radio personality and a makeup artist/photographer as students were introduced to a myriad of career options.

Exhibitors included the Aquarium, the Marines, a canine drug unit, a caricature artist, trade professionals from local community colleges, a technology school, a barber college, and a comedian radio personality.

Vocational teacher Kimberly Curtis coordinated the event for the past four months, acquiring speakers and presenters. She was challenged to find topics which would catch the interest of students from elementary to middle to high school.

"Eventually all our students are going to be in high school, so they need to get exposure to careers as early as possible," she said. "If you make this fun, kids will soak in more of the possibilities."

Students at AB School East are enrolled in the special school by local school districts on a contractual basis. A low student-to-teacher ratio, individual education plans and a behavioral specialist are among the ingredients

the school supplies for students to be successful. The ultimate goal is for students to return to their home school environments. The school's population includes students with intellectual disabilities, autism and behavioral disorders.

"Many of these students may not go to college, but there are so many viable options in trades, technical careers and apprenticeships," said Keith Oliphant, principal at AB East, located near Gulfgate Mall in southeast Houston.



As a vocational specialist, Curtis stressed the importance of bringing the outside world into the classroom, especially when some students may not have the opportunity to travel outside their Houston neighborhoods.



"Exposure to professions goes a long way," said the vocational counselor. "Years from now they will still remember this experience. Events like this also go a long way towards boosting students' self esteem."

<https://hcdetexas.photoshelter.com/gallery/20190321-Career/G0000VY0C0oPbJil/C0000HX4htXYG.gk>

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Head Start Creates Masterpieces

Head Start students showed off their masterpieces at the annual art show on March 22. Compton Center students focused on transportation this year and created various forms of getting around town. Students, with help from their parents, built cars, trucks and trains out of everyday household items. One student even had a race car made out of different items from McDonald's.



### Resource: What Do We Need to Know about Air Quality After Deer Park Fires

**Deer Park Fire: Air Quality What You Need to Know**

This fact sheet summarizes the information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCSHEM). For additional information regarding benzene exposure, contact the CDC Information Center at 1-800-232-4636.

- 1. What is Benzene?**
  - Benzene is a colorless, flammable liquid.
  - Benzene evaporates into the air and quickly settles in areas that are cooler than air which causes it to sink into living areas.
  - Benzene dissolves only slightly in water and will float on top of water.
- 2. Signs and Symptoms of Exposure**

If you believe that you have been exposed to high levels of benzene you may develop the following signs and symptoms within minutes to several hours after exposure:

  - Drowsiness
  - Dizziness
  - Rapid or irregular breathing
  - Nausea
  - Headaches
  - Irritation
  - Confusion
  - Abnormal heart rate
  - Death at very high level
  - Death exposure of the eyes, skin, or lungs to benzene can cause tissue injury and irritation.

Consult your health care provider if you feel ill or if you feel you are experiencing any unusual symptoms. For more information call 2-2-2.

Be wary of any health claims and any health products that claim to protect you from benzene exposure. Stay informed! Call 2-2-2 for more information or visit [www.harriscountytx.gov](http://www.harriscountytx.gov).

- 3. How do I protect myself and limit exposure?**
  - Reduce exposure as much as possible by removing any clothing that has been exposed to benzene, moving away from areas of exposure, and bathing.
  - Bring your family and pets inside.
  - Minimize indoor exposure by creating a shelter-in-place:
    - Lock doors, close windows, air vents, and fireplace dampers.
    - Turn off fans, air conditioning and forced air heating systems.
    - Go into an interior room with few windows, if possible.
    - Seal all windows, doors and air vents with 3/4 mil, thick plastic sheeting and duct tape. Cut the plastic sheeting several inches wider than the openings and label each sheet. Duct tape plastic at corners first and then tape down all edges.
    - Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to seal gaps so that you create a barrier between yourself and any contamination.
- 4. What do I do if our school has been exposed?**
  - Check school district's Emergency Operating Procedures (EOP).
  - More information regarding evacuation and sheltering in place can be found on the CDC website: [www.emergency.cdc.gov/planning/evacuationfactsheet.asp](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov/planning/evacuationfactsheet.asp)
- 5. Resources:**

**For Schools:**

  - For updates on air quality please visit: [www.health.harris.org/Deer-Park-Fire](http://www.health.harris.org/Deer-Park-Fire)
  - Health Information: [www.publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/](http://www.publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/)
  - Air Quality Information: [www.cdc.harriscountytx.gov/](http://www.cdc.harriscountytx.gov/)
  - Flood Air Monitoring Site: [www.harriscountytx.gov/](http://www.harriscountytx.gov/)

**For Emergency Management:**

  - For information and updates on school closures, please visit your district's or school's website or social media accounts. Additional information on closures may be provided by local TV or radio stations.
  - Stay in touch.
    - Communicate with your emergency contact.
    - Use your phone only as necessary to report life threatening emergencies. Otherwise, limit phone use to provide lines available for emergency responders.
    - Continue listening to radio, television, or phone for updates.
- 6. Mental Health Resources:**
  - Talk to someone you trust if you're feeling stress or anxious.
  - If you can contact the National Disaster Life Stress 24/7 emotional support. Call 1-800-985-5888 or text TALKWITHUS to 68788.

After the Deer Park fire: What do we need to know about air quality? The Research & Evaluation Institute created a resource flyer which includes facts and references from the Center for Disease Control and the Harris County Office for Homeland Security. The sheet is being shared with schools throughout greater Harris County via newsletters, hard copies and social media. View the two-page flyer: [bit.ly/2UY8qcC](http://bit.ly/2UY8qcC)

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### 6 Scholastic Students Receive Glassell Junior School Summer Scholarships



Alaina Sibley, Clear Springs High School, Clear Creek ISD, *Pity Party (mixed media)*

Six students who received a Gold Key or Silver Key in the 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing

- Alaina Sibley, Clear Creek ISD- Clear Springs High School, 11th grade

Glassell summer camp art classes include a choice of drawing, painting, ceramics, fashion, digital and other art genres. The weeklong camps run from June-early August.

The Glassell Junior School of Art is the teaching wing of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Glassell has supported the HCDE regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for many years by sponsoring the scholarships and hosting art receptions. Glassell Junior School faculty judged the art selections this year and awarded the scholarships.

“A distinguishing feature of the Glassell School is ready access to the museum’s encyclopedia collection of incredible works of art,” said Pam Perez, Glassell Junior School administrative dean.

For more information about Glassell, go to <https://www.mfah.org/visit/glassell-junior-school/>. Visit [www.hcde-texas.org/scholastic-awards](http://www.hcde-texas.org/scholastic-awards) for information about entering, judging or sponsoring Scholastic Art & Writing at HCDE.

Awards were selected by the Glassell Junior School to receive a summer scholarship. The Awards are the largest, most prestigious awards program in the country for creative teens in grades 7-12. Harris County Department of Education is the regional affiliate for the Awards.

Six students chosen for this summer’s art camp, valued at \$165, are:

- Sophia Fu, Pearland ISD- Pearland Junior High West, 8th grade
- Adriana Landin-Seneriz, Katy ISD- Tays Junior High, 8th grade
- Emily Rosales, Pasadena ISD- Southmore Intermediate School, 8th grade
- Megan Margraves, Episcopal High School, 10th grade
- Isabella Concepcion, Katy ISD- Obra D. Tompkins High School, 11th grade

# 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;
- Oversee annual training for increased student learning and conducts periodic assessments of the effectiveness of the planning process;
- 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.

Academic and Behavior School-East recently hosted a unique career day for students with intellectual and emotional disabilities. The event showcased career options for this unique population.

Students attending ranged in age from 6-21, while an array of traditional and atypical professionals visited HCDE's AB-East school to introduce exciting opportunities. Career fair guests included a judge, a disc jockey, an inspirational speaker, a lawyer and a variety of other representatives from numerous fields.



Exhibitors were also on hand and included the Aquarium, the Marines, a canine drug unit, and various trade professionals.

The school's vocational specialist stressed the importance of bringing the outside world into the classroom, especially when some students may not have the opportunity to travel outside of their Houston neighborhoods.

**As a result of our Schools division ensuring such opportunities for the students we serve, I am striving to meet your expectations of me, to:**

- In coordination with the home ISD, identify learning needs of the students and develop a process that ensures that each student's learning goals are met or exceeded;
- Ensure feedback process is implemented to communicate effectively with the home ISD and parents; and
- Investigate best practices for student achievement and utilize effective practices that maximize achievement of student potential within HCDE schools.

## HCDE BOARD

### **Board President**

Josh Flynn

### **Vice President**

George Moore

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danny Norris

Don Summers

Michael Wolfe

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **ABS-West Groundbreaking**

Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **April Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

