

WEEK OF AUGUST 5, 2019

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Learn About GIS,
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Named Director of
Communications at
HCDE*

Of Note...

Back to School fever is striking all over the county and HCDE is no exception. This week we welcomed back our Head Start staff, as they prepare to educate our community's youngest students. On the flip side, Adult Education will gather more than 200 educators this weekend to gear-up for the coming year and classes that support older learners in workforce development, obtaining their GED and English as a Second Language.

HCDE is routinely contacted to provide expertise in matters pertaining to the educational landscape around Harris County. This week, two of our administrators were interviewed by local TV news reporters regarding back to school topics including the newly legislated all-day PreK and school safety tips.

The week began with my Executive Leadership Team and then a trip to Austin to fulfill my duties as a member of the UIL State Executive Committee. On Wednesday, ELT gathered at the Houston Zoo for a full-day retreat. At this meeting, we reflected on the accomplishments and challenges of the prior year, analyzed current and potential opportunities for the department and reviewed individual goals and objectives for each division. There was a solid chemistry in the room as this talented group of senior leaders candidly discussed how we can take HCDE to the next level. I am excited to see our goals come to fruition as we lead this dynamic organization into 2020.

I wrapped up the week with internal meetings and agenda review on Thursday. This is our last week for flex time, with all employees returning to our normal schedule of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday next week.

With only two weeks left until our annual staff meeting, we continue to plan and prep for this event, where we welcome back our 1,100 staff members and kick off the school year. I hope you have the date and time saved on your calendar. Employees always enjoy chatting with board members and getting the opportunity to thank you for your support in person.

I plan to enjoy our last three-day weekend of the year. I hope you do as well.

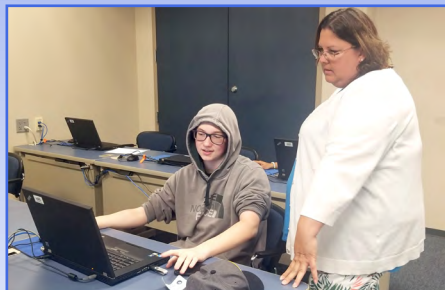
UPCOMING EVENTS:

HCDE Board Meeting—Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

High School Students Learn About GIS, StoryMaps through Training Hosted by HCDE



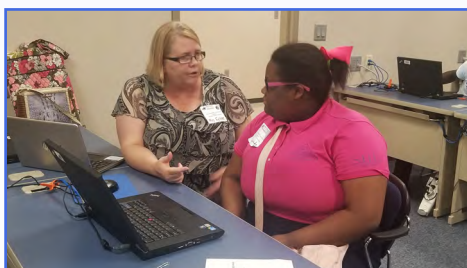
Did you know a map can be used to tell a story? More than 10 Harris County students attended the Geographic

Information Systems (GIS) Summer STEM Academy July 29 – Aug. 1 to learn about geocaching and developing a personal StoryMap.

During the four-day camp, students also took two field trips and interacted with professionals who use mapping technology on the job. In order to create the StoryMap, students used the Esri ArcGIS platform, which combines interactive maps with text, photos and effects to create a dynamic storytelling tool for informing others about topics containing geographic information. Students were able to share their StoryMaps with each other on the last day of the camp.

HCDE

Curriculum
Director for
Science
Lisa Felske
oversaw the
camp with
the help of



volunteers Hank Deslaurier, an advanced placement U.S. History teacher from Houston ISD, and Linda Brack, a science teacher from Conroe ISD.

Hailey Thomas, a junior from Alvin ISD's Shadow Creek High School, was looking for summer camps that involved computers and engineering, and her and her mother came across HCDE's GIS camp.

Her mother works with GIS as a pipeline designer and engineer.

"I didn't know anything about GIS and my mom makes it seem really fun, so I wanted to see what it's like," she said.

Not knowing anything about GIS, Thomas learned how some jobs are tied into GIS along with how to layer maps, how they can be designed and how maps are key to GIS.

"It's cool to see how the different types of maps that GIS brings into the job such as where to build a fire station or where we should be able to track a hurricane and evacuate people in a safe manner," she said. "To be able to do all of that on a piece of paper is really cool."



Her StoryMap was about the evolution in history of recreation of hip hop. It illustrated how hip hop spread across the country, the origin, how it was started, what it is like, how it has changed and the types.

"I've been interested in learning about it for so long, but never took the time out until now and this camp gave me the opportunity," Thomas said.

This camp was put on in collaboration with the Education Foundation of Harris County and HCDE Teaching and Learning Center after receiving a combined total of \$12,500 from the Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation, Kinder Morgan Foundation and the Susan Vaughan Foundation.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Assistant Superintendent Parker Interviewed on KTRK about HB 3 for Full-Day Pre-K



HCDE Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Parker was recently featured in a news story on KTRK Channel 13 about a full-

day pre-kindergarten program appropriated by HB 3. The feature story talked about the academic

and cost-savings benefits of full-day pre-k in public schools for designated families.

Some area districts already provide full-day pre-k, but at many districts the full-day model will be a first. Parker also discussed the difference between Head Start, which is federally funded, and the state-funded, public pre-k program.

View the story: <https://youtu.be/Qvfl2tRPiIA>



Center Director Andrews Appears on Fox 26 for School Safety Segment

Center for Safe and Secure Schools Director Julia Andrews appeared on Fox 26 morning news and introduced safe school initiatives for the new school year. Andrews was interviewed by anchor Melissa Wilson. Andrews talked about school safety plans which are completed at each school in Harris County. The center is available to lead the audits and supplies this service to many of the districts in greater Harris County.

View the story: <https://youtu.be/yiBxULmom8g>

Head Start/Adult Education Return from Summer Break to Plan School Year 2019-2020



Both Head Start and Adult Education go back to school and normal schedules this week as they plan for the new school year.

Head Start included several “years of service” milestones

as staff returned to work. Colleagues surprised 20-year employees Rose Menefee and Armando Rodriguez with a celebratory cake.

Adult Education administrators are busy planning this week as they host more than 200 teachers at Irvington Aug. 10 for curriculum planning and class scheduling.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Releases Comprehensive Harris County School Districts Calendar for 2019-2020

District	Calendar	Headquarters	Other	Other	Other	Staff Workdays
Alief	Aug. 12	Aug. 21 - Aug. 3	Nov. 25-29	Dec. 20-23	Jan. 13-15	Aug. 12-15, 19-21, 26-28, 31-33, 35-37, 40-42, 45-47, 50-52, 55-57, 60-62, 65-67, 70-72, 75-77, 80-82, 85-87, 90-92, 95-97, 100-102, 105-107, 110-112, 115-117, 120-122, 125-127, 130-132, 135-137, 140-142, 145-147, 150-152, 155-157, 160-162, 165-167, 170-172, 175-177, 180-182, 185-187, 190-192, 195-197, 200-202, 205-207, 210-212, 215-217, 220-222, 225-227, 230-232, 235-237, 240-242, 245-247, 250-252, 255-257, 260-262, 265-267, 270-272, 275-277, 280-282, 285-287, 290-292, 295-297, 300-302, 305-307, 310-312, 315-317, 320-322, 325-327, 330-332, 335-337, 340-342, 345-347, 350-352, 355-357, 360-362, 365-367, 370-372, 375-377, 380-382, 385-387, 390-392, 395-397, 400-402, 405-407, 410-412, 415-417, 420-422, 425-427, 430-432, 435-437, 440-442, 445-447, 450-452, 455-457, 460-462, 465-467, 470-472, 475-477, 480-482, 485-487, 490-492, 495-497, 500-502, 505-507, 510-512, 515-517, 520-522, 525-527, 530-532, 535-537, 540-542, 545-547, 550-552, 555-557, 560-562, 565-567, 570-572, 575-577, 580-582, 585-587, 590-592, 595-597, 600-602, 605-607, 610-612, 615-617, 620-622, 625-627, 630-632, 635-637, 640-642, 645-647, 650-652, 655-657, 660-662, 665-667, 670-672, 675-677, 680-682, 685-687, 690-692, 695-697, 700-702, 705-707, 710-712, 715-717, 720-722, 725-727, 730-732, 735-737, 740-742, 745-747, 750-752, 755-757, 760-762, 765-767, 770-772, 775-777, 780-782, 785-787, 790-792, 795-797, 800-802, 805-807, 810-812, 815-817, 820-822, 825-827, 830-832, 835-837, 840-842, 845-847, 850-852, 855-857, 860-862, 865-867, 870-872, 875-877, 880-882, 885-887, 890-892, 895-897, 900-902, 905-907, 910-912, 915-917, 920-922, 925-927, 930-932, 935-937, 940-942, 945-947, 950-952, 955-957, 960-962, 965-967, 970-972, 975-977, 980-982, 985-987, 990-992, 995-997, 1000-1002, 1005-1007, 1010-1012, 1015-1017, 1020-1022, 1025-1027, 1030-1032, 1035-1037, 1040-1042, 1045-1047, 1050-1052, 1055-1057, 1060-1062, 1065-1067, 1070-1072, 1075-1077, 1080-1082, 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5635-5637, 5640-5642, 5645-5647, 5650-5652, 5655-5657, 5660-5662, 5665-5667, 5670-5672, 5675-5677, 5680-5682, 5685-5687, 5690-5692, 5695-5697, 5700-5702, 5705-5707, 5710-5712,

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Community Relations

In keeping 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; and**
- **Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, affecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship with the Department and community.**



Last week ABC 13 KTRK called upon our leadership team to discuss the benefits of pre-k for parents and the Harris County community. Assistant Superintendent for Academic Support Services Jonathan Parker talked with reporter T.J. Parker about how pre-k prepares young children with socialization skills.

Fox 26 invited our newly appointed Center for Safe and Secure Schools Director Julia Andrews to its station to talk about safe school initiatives at the beginning of the school year. Andrews spoke about school safety plans and the importance of creating open communications within the school culture through training with Restorative Practices.

Through our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) camp, a dozen students

from area high schools gained practical experience with story mapping and took those experiences back to their respective districts. Story mapping is used in practically all professions these days as locations and activities are mapped.

Speaking on maps, last week I traveled to Ohio State University to take part in a national panel

discussion on recovery schools. My role on the panel was to lend the K-12 Perspective for Recovery Schools. To have Fortis reflected on a national level is an accomplishment for the Department and the Board.



By representing HCDE services through venues such as the national recovery conference, I am functioning as the primary ambassador for the Department and making professional presentations to audiences. Furthermore, by accepting media opportunities, I am ensuring that HCDE maintains visibility and involvement in the community. I am also meeting the expectations of this element of performance by communicating the needs and accomplishments of the Department in a variety of formats through written reports, communication with media, community, school districts, political arenas and public meetings. By ensuring that HCDE continues to offer these kinds of opportunities like GIS training for students, I am working to meet the expectations of the Board to identify the learning needs of students and develop a process that ensures each student's learning goals are met or exceeded.

HCDE BOARD

Board President

Josh Flynn

Vice President

George Moore

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danny Norris

Don Sumners

Michael Wolfe

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

