

Brahma Newsletter

Hallettsville ISD

Exploring Pathways for Success: College, Career, and Military Readiness in HISD

The Texas Education Agency and educators across Texas are focused on having, “Every child, prepared for success in college, a career or the military.” Likewise, Hallettsville ISD has increased opportunities for students in the district to explore a variety of career pathways and earn industry certifications to prepare them for the workforce. During the 2018-2019 school year, Hallettsville High School offered a number of new courses including AV Production, Video Game Design, Medical Terminology, and Principles of Health Science. As a District of Innovation, Hallettsville ISD has the flexibility to employ professionals from a variety of fields



Pictured above are some of the students in Michele Etzler’s Medical Terminology Class checking tonsils and learning about the immune system.



HHS’s Audio Video Production class toured and watched the behind the scenes broadcast at KENS 5 in San Antonio. Students gained an insider’s view to the live production of a news broadcast.

to teach courses. For example, an individual with experience in the content of an elective course could be eligible to teach a vocational skill or elective course through a local teaching certificate. The principal must specify in writing the reason for the request and document what credentials or life experience the teacher possesses that would qualify this individual to teach the proposed subject. Examples could include: an experienced homebuilder teaching a building trades course, a licensed corrections officer teaching a criminal justice course, or a retired CPA teaching an entry level accounting course.

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Innovative Learning Opportunities on the Horizon...

The Mid Coast Construction Academy: A Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Program for Plumbers and Electricians

The demand for skilled labor in the construction industry and in the Mid Coast region is at an all-time high. Therefore, administrators in Hallettsville ISD are collaborating with surrounding districts and MCA leaders to offer educational opportunities and develop journey level, qualified labor to grow our economy.

The mission of the Academy is to promote and educate students and jobseekers about the construction industry and develop skilled labor through pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships. The Academy will prepare students with career ready job skills to enter the workforce with confidence. The attained skills will promote local and regional job growth that pay wages that are at least equal to the prevailing wage for the applicable occupation in the local labor market area. This program will provide students with job-related skills that will enable unemployed individuals to obtain employment.

The benefits of the services provided include: contributing to the economic development of the Mid Coast region, training of future taxpayers, offering lucrative career opportunities to students (promotes better self-esteem, discourages drug usage and high school dropout), educating local individuals versus paying per diem for commuting labor which drives up construction costs, allowing businesses to bid more work which increases revenue,

and fulfilling the need for skilled labor in the construction industry.

The target market is students enrolled in schools in Bee, Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Refugio and Victoria Counties, as well as the public seeking education opportunities.

UT OnRamps: An Opportunity to Experience College Before College

OnRamps' innovative dual-enrollment program brings rigorous courses aligned with the high standards and expectations of [The University of Texas at Austin](#) to thousands of students across Texas. Using best-in-class resources, materials, and instructional strategies, OnRamps also provides intensive, yearlong professional development and support that improves teaching quality in hundreds of classrooms throughout the state.

The key benefit of early exposure to postsecondary education is the authentic entry point to college expectations it provides for students and their families. In addition, earning transferable college credit while in high school accelerates degree completion by reducing the costs and impact of student loans and increasing lifetime earning potential. In OnRamps, students learn first-hand all that it takes to succeed in college before they get there.

The HISD administrative team aims to provide programs such as these and other innovative learning opportunities for students to better prepare them for college and their careers.

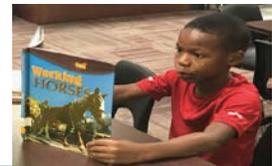


The 2018-2019 Fall semester has been filled with learning and service projects. HES students and staff have set sail to “Seas the Day” each and every day. Our main focus continues to be student achievement and innovative engaging instructional practices that provide the best opportunities for learning. We have engaged in a variety of extracurricular activities this Fall including: Red Ribbon Week, the Veterans’ Wall of Honor and raising over \$6,000 to support Jump Rope for Heart. In order to provide a safe school, we have practiced safety drills regarding fires, bus evacuation and possible intruders into our building. Our 4th grade students recently learned how to properly activate a fire extinguisher during our Fire Prevention program hosted

by the Hallettsville Volunteer Fire Department. Third grade students orchestrated a Thanksgiving food drive in support of Manna Food Pantry and collected 2441 items. Families joined our 2nd grade students for a library camp-out adventure during Family Reading Night, and our 1st graders excelled in technology this Fall as they created green screen projects and presentations for their very own Dad’s Day program. We are always appreciative of our parent and community support, and we look forward to more successes as we move forward into the Spring semester.

Work Hard, Dream Big and Be Kind!

Trina S. Patek
HES Principal



HJHS Yearlings

The 2018-2019 school year is under way, and the HJHS staff and students are ready to make this an outstanding year of academic and athletic success!

Fall sports for the yearlings have been successful, and we look forward to continuing that success throughout the basketball season and other spring sports. Academic UIL competition has been slated for February, and teams have begun practice for the various events. Students are participating in fall educational field trips which include visits to schools of higher education.

The HJHS campus is continuing their focus on AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategies. The purpose of AVID is to help close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college

readiness and success in a global society. Also this year, the HJHS campus is promoting character education in the areas of respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, caring, fairness and citizenship through class presentations and acknowledgement of those traits.

To ensure that all students are successful, tutoring is available Monday- Thursday from 3:30 – 4:00 p.m., and students are encouraged to attend as needed. Contact your child’s teacher for more information. Parents are also encouraged to actively participate in their child’s education by monitoring his/her child’s grades at all times through the family access program. Students and parents are also invited to subscribe to Remind, visit the campus webpage as well as “friend” us on Facebook to keep up to date on classroom/school activities.

Sophie Teltschik, HJHS Principal

The 2018-2019 school year at Hallettsville High School has been awesome this fall. We are very excited about our new course offerings in AV Production, Video Game Design, Medical Terminology, and Principles of Health Science. We operate each day taking major strides in technology, career pathways, and college readiness. Our organizations such as National Honor Society, FCCLA, Student Council, FFA, AVID, Rotary, and the HHS Library Committee have done numerous service projects this fall that positively impact the community of Hallettsville.

Our co-curricular programs have achieved great accomplishments recently. The Girls Cross Country team advanced to the regional level, the Lady Brahma volleyball team made a huge splash by advancing three rounds in the playoffs.

The Brahma Band earned an Excellent rating at the Region UIL Marching Contest. Our FFA program raised the bar this fall by advancing more teams than ever at this point in the year. Many students from HHS spent time in October at the University of Texas taking a one-day class to assist in their spring UIL academic events. The One Act Play team did an outstanding performance of their fall production for the school and the community.

We continue to take pride in our commitment to academic excellence, leadership development, and a winning culture at HHS. Our faculty and students look forward to the challenges and opportunities for success in 2019.

Darrin Bickham,
HHS Principal



Brahma Athletics



Our HB/LB Athletic Program continues to be a success through hard work and great teamwork. It was exciting to watch our volleyball team go three rounds into the playoffs this year. These girls have worked extremely hard throughout the summer and into the fall. It was also exciting to watch our cross country girls participate at the district and regional competition this year.

Our football team did not fair as well on record; however, we had many sophomores and freshmen participate in starting roles throughout the year versus an extremely strong District 14-3A. It has been fun watching our seniors demonstrate great leadership as we practiced and competed in all fall venues on a weekly basis.

As we face a new year, HB/LB will be gearing up for all spring sports. Basketball has already begun district competition. And, the remainder of the sports is soon to follow after Christmas Break. Our school district has added the sport of swimming to our venue as of 2018-19. We are looking forward to seeing the added success at competition in early spring.

Our school district would like to thank the Peoples State Bank and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6382 for their contribution to our scoreboard purchase in the main competition gym.

We also give thanks to the continued support of our athletes through the Brahma Booster Club, as well as the individuals that have contributed monetarily to our athletic program.

We are very thankful for the "ALL IN" support of this great community towards our very successful athletic program. GO HB/LB!!!

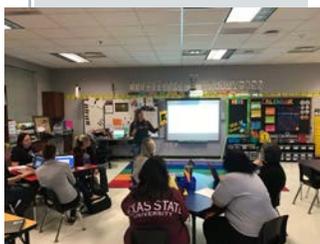
Tommy Psencik,
Athletic Director

Go LB!

Go HB!



November 14, 2018
Rylee Trlicek signs with the University of Florida to play softball



This year the Curriculum and Instruction department has been engaged in teacher learning and student progress. English, Language Arts, and Reading (ELAR) teachers attended training for new ELAR Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills that will be implemented next year in grades Kindergarten through 8. These new TEKS will focus on listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking across increasingly complex texts. They will also bring back the much coveted cursive writing skills.



In order to monitor student growth and progress, we began utilizing the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Interim Assessments this fall. These assessments, which are aligned to the STAAR/EOC and include some former STAAR items, will provide us with pertinent data to track individual student progress and even provide a prediction measure for success on the STAAR. In addition to teachers



and administrators tracking student data, students have taken an active role in monitoring their own progress. Together we will work toward our vision that every student is achieving at his or her maximum potential.

At the high school level, the C&I department has reached out to the University of Texas to become a part of its UT OnRamps program. This innovative dual-enrollment program provides students with the opportunity to earn college credits by attending a face-to-face course co-taught by a HHS teacher and a UT college professor. It is unique in that it brings the college experience to the high school classroom. We hope to join UT OnRamps next school year. We look forward to growing and learning as administrators and teachers and helping our students continue to grow in their learning experiences.

Dr. Mandy Bucek,
HISD Curriculum Director

Tech Talk



This year HISD's Technology Department has been focused on building on the technical capacity of the HISD teachers by focusing on the emergent tech ed programs available to schools.

During the District of Innovation Professional Development days, teachers have been invited to learning sessions hosted by HISD Technology Coaches Miranda Halata, Ashley Kallus, Peggy Vanek, Marisa Maes, Melissa Simecek, Christi Opiela, Karen Boone, and Kristin Freytag.

Teachers were able to learn how to incorporate programs like Google Suite for Educations, Nearpod, and TedED among others to develop lessons for students that are engaging and innovative.

In addition to these sessions, Region 3's Digital Learning Specialist Laura

Sprinkle introduced the teachers to Adobe Spark and its many classroom uses and Eric Bludau with Team Retirement presented on Financial Literacy.

In other news, HISD has successfully piloted Chromebooks this fall semester with the help of the High School AVID Class. In order to be fiscally conservative while trying to keep abreast of current technology, we will be using these low-cost devices to replace some of our outdated equipment and supplement some areas to allow easier access to resources such as digital textbooks and learning management systems.

Farrah Jernigan
Technology Director



HALLETTSVILLE ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Hallettsville ISD Education Foundation's mission is to provide opportunities for excellence in education, promote innovation in teaching, and partner with the community to enhance the quality of education for all students.

HISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Herb Beyer, President
Doris Herring, Secretary
Glenda Svetlik, VP Finance & Treasurer
Angela Leadford, VP Development
Luis Camarillo, VP Marketing & Events
Christine Brown, VP Programs & Grants
Lace Felcman
Nettie Mertz
Michelle Drozd
Marna Klimitchek
Brian Smith
Holly Henrichs
Angie Kubenka
Colleen Guevara
Dr. Jo Ann Bludau

Foundation Goals

The Hallettsville ISD Education Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following goals:

- Enhance and enrich educational opportunities for students
- Support staff for innovative efforts and recognize staff for exemplary teaching
- Involve the community in assuring a quality education for the leaders and workers of tomorrow

You may contact hisdef@gmail.com or Pastor Herb Beyer at 361-798-0155 if you are interested in contributing to the foundation fund. Contributions may also be mailed to the HISD Education Foundation at P.O. Box 368, Hallettsville, TX 77964. All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Visit our Hallettsville ISD Education Foundation FACEBOOK page and the Foundation website at www.hisdef.org for news and updates.

Fall 2018 Innovative Teaching Grants



Elementary Grant Recipient:

Lori Dodd – The Read It Forward Grant is for purchasing books to be read and passed from student to student throughout the entire campus.

Junior High School Grant Recipient:

Melissa Simicek – The fall grant was to purchase two more Lego robotics kits for Computer 1.



High School Grant Recipient:

Renae Phillips – The Cricut Creativity grant will provide the high school library makerspace a digital cutting machine for students and staff to utilize.



*Thank you for your support of
the HISD Education
Foundation!*

PROGRAMS/FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Innovative Teaching Grants
- Recognition of Academic Achievement
- Recognition of Teaching Excellence