

## Linguist finds family at Crow

There was a reason Aleksander Linguist enrolled at Crow Elementary last May and it had nothing to do with starting in the school's alternate curriculum program.

As it turned out, Aleksander's enrolling at Crow led to a new family for him as less than six months after he started school he was officially a member of teacher Chris Linguist's family.

A passing comment by Aleksander's foster mother about him being available for adoption was all that it took to get things rolling for Chris Linguist and his wife, Debra. Two weeks later the adoptive parents had relinquished the rights to Aleksander and by the end of October he was officially the third child for both Chris and Debra, who also have two adult children.

Nothing has been the same for the Linguist family



Chris Linguist and his wife officially adopted Aleksander last October.

over the last 10 months and Chris Linguist wouldn't have it any other way.

"Things happen the way they happen for a reason," said Chris Linguist, who has

been teaching in the AISD for five years. "When the

[SEE LINGUIST, PAGE 3](#)



## A message from Dr. Cavazos

We believe in the AISD that our students can excel, but sometimes for that to happen they have to be in the right situation.

Thankfully for Aleksander Linguist he found that situation when he enrolled at Crow Elementary thanks to teacher Chris Linguist and his wife, Debra. They have gone above and beyond to put Aleksander in a position to succeed by adopting him. Well done by them and the Crow family for embracing Aleksander.

Another way our students can excel is by having outstanding opportunities. The work being done by the 2014 Bond continues to provide those opportunities.

We saw that on display recently at the open house and dedication of the AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center.

We also continue to provide opportunities for our teachers like professional development with Math Solutions. Programs like that will lead to better achievements for our students.

Our staff excels both in the classroom and with each other. All you have to do is look at our employees of the month or check out the stakeholders being honored for their outstanding customer service work.

Thank you for everything you do to help us become a premier district.

# Meet students where they are

Have you ever had a conversation with someone and they were retelling you a story that you had already heard? The person is insistent on recapping every granular detail and all you can do is patiently wait while they finish.

Or have you ever experienced the opposite, when a person summarizes an event or story and leaves out critical details that cause you to feel confused? The lack of information generates gaps in your understanding and you are left with far more questions than answers.

This is not a unique experience. I think most of us have been in this situation one time or another and would say that neither is ideal.

As I reflected on these circumstances, I recognized that such is also the case in learning. In an effort to get through the curriculum and to make sure that an entire class is moving along in mastering the standards, we as educators sometimes feel the need to teach every granular detail without first stopping to figure out what our learners already know and what specific gaps need to be filled.



## THE LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE

If we stop and think about it, it is understandable why we do this. We live in a time where there are high levels of accountability and not enough time. We do our best to generate tasks that we feel will benefit our students and help them to master the content. But what are we sacrificing? Is it possible that if we routinely took the extra time to find out what our kids know about a topic before we started teaching or even designing a lesson. We could increase their engagement, commitment to the tasks and even their level of mastery? I would like to suggest that an investment of this type will in fact yield those very results.

Differentiation is a word

we hear all the time in education. I suspect that we hear it so often that it may have even become white noise in the background. We have so many students with diverse backgrounds and needs. Of course, we differentiate our lessons.

But what does high quality differentiation look like? Differentiating for our learners invites us to design learning experiences for our students that address their varying ability levels by:

- Finding out what students already know and what they need to know in connection to the standards being taught;
- Providing our learners with standards-aligned resources that are organized by their ability levels
- Facilitating individualized learning through small group instruction and resources
- Scaffolding learning tasks

Here are three ways we may consider as we plan for differentiation...

**1. Content.** We can provide students with a variety of access points to content. This can be done by leveraging Canvas and other technology resources to differentiate the information and content

we wish to share based on students' needs and skills.

**2. Process.** We can design a variety of exercises and/or practice that students do in a way that acknowledges what they already know how to do and takes them to the next level of mastery.

**3. Products.** This is our chance to be creative and to truly tap into our students' passions. Students can be provided with choice and a variety of opportunities to create products that demonstrate their understanding and mastery of content in a way that is individualized and aligned to their interests.

Differentiation takes practice.

In the spirit of getting better every day, let's lean into what we already do well and then stretch ourselves to try something new. As a goal, I invite us all to reflect on ways we can improve the quality of our differentiation for our students and pick one thing to try. That one thing will not only increase the learning, but enhance the quality of the learning experience itself.

**Dr. Steven Wurtz is the chief academic officer for the AISD**

## AISD awarded grant for anatomy visualization system

The AISD has been awarded \$75,000 by the Texas Education Agency's Perkins Reserve Grant to purchase an Anatomage table – a technologically-advanced anatomy visualization system – for the district's health science students.

The grant will help the district's nearly 2,900 students enrolled in Career

and Technical Education health science courses – the largest career cluster in the AISD – to have real-world experiences and increased rigor so they may graduate exceptionally prepared to enter the health science workforce and postsecondary education, all goals of the district's *Achieve Today. Excel Tomorrow.* strategic plan.

The AISD offers six health science pathways: emergency medical technician, patient care technician, pharmacy technician, biomedical research, health informatics and sports medicine. Hands-on experience with the Anatomage table will give AISD students multiple advantages in terms of opportunities

for certification and post-graduation employment as well as a solid foundation for postsecondary education.

With the purchase of the Anatomage table, the AISD will be the only program in Arlington and one of few in Tarrant County to give secondary students access to this state-of-the-art technology.

EXPERIENCE THE

 fort worth zoo



**Company Code:** AIS201710

Each employee purchasing tickets will need to create an account using their company email address as their username and a password of their choice.

To set up an account for the first time and purchase tickets, please visit the Zoo's website, [fortworthzoo.org](http://fortworthzoo.org) and do the following:

Click on "Corporate/Group Tickets" under the Plan a Visit tab.

Next, click on "click here for more information".

Finally choose "click here to enter your company code" to finish set-up.

**CLICK HERE &  
BUY NOW!**

# MARCH SPOTLIGHT DISCOUNT

## LINGUIST FROM PAGE 1

foster mom came up here to register him, she sat down with me and the AP and we're five minutes into the conversation and we're exchanging information. She just stops and looks right at me and says, 'He can be adopted really easily because it would be a private adoption.' Where did that come from? It got the ball rolling. By the end of the next day I had told my wife she needed to come up here and meet Aleksander."

Aleksander has done nothing but flourish since being adopted, which is a far cry from how his life started. He was born in Bulgaria, where he lived for 4 1/2 years in an orphanage. He was adopted by a family in the area, but when they couldn't meet his needs, they had him placed in foster care.

That led him to Crow and his new family. Aleksander is in the alternate curriculum program because he's intellectually disabled as well as having cerebral palsy. But the intellectual disability is based on

Aleksander being compared to other 7-year-olds.

His time at the orphanage impacted that, and Aleksander has flourished since coming to Crow.

"He's catching up extremely fast," Chris Linguist said. "In three years of being in the U.S., he talks like his age-appropriate peers and sometimes a little more. His vocabulary is extremely good."

Linguist believes Aleksander will be able to catch up with his peers academically with support by the time he gets to fifth grade, if not sooner.

Aleksander calls Linguist "sir" when he's at school and "dad" when he's at home.

There are times it's hard to separate the two but those times are fewer now than they were last year.

Linguist has learned several things about his youngest son, too. Because of his time at the orphanage, he doesn't like to do activities by himself. That means lots of family bonding time

for the Linguists, particularly Chris and Aleksander because Debra travels frequently for her job as the director of global and national sales for a molecular testing company.

It's a lot of work for parents who were empty nesters for almost a decade.

And taking on a new child at 53 can also have challenges. But for the Linguist family, it's worth it to give Aleksander a better life.

"It just seemed like the right thing to do," Chris Linguist said. "It seemed like we had all the tools he needed. He needed someone with a special learner's background. He needed someone with no kids at home so he could be the central focus. He needed a home where there wasn't going to be a financial hurdle to meet his needs. I knew we had all the resources both physically and emotionally to meet his needs. My heart is full when I look at him. We've settled into the new normal."



Tina Baze, Specialist  
Risk Management  
Arlington ISD  
1203 W. Pioneer Pkwy.  
Arlington, TX 76013  
Office: 682-867-7649  
Fax: 682-867-4682

**\*\*\*Accident\*\*\* What to Do Next?**

- Contact supervisor. If an emergency response professional is needed call 911.
- Contact the risk management office at 682-867-7649.
- Complete workers' comp packet.
- Completed packet should be sent to risk management office at the administration building.

**The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes.**

**That's the day we truly grow up.**

**John C. Maxwell**

# Risk Management Review February 2018

## What is modified duty?

Modified duty, also sometimes called light or limited duty, is an offer for a temporary work assignment made to an employee who is recovering from an injury and who has received clearance from a physician to return to work with limitations. An employee assigned to modified duty may perform a portion of the duties of their regular job or a completely different job. Modified duty is intended to allow employees to earn a salary and perform productive work while they continue to recover.

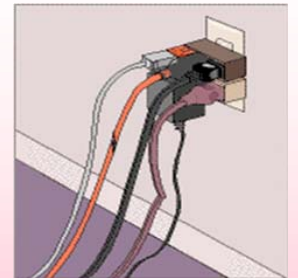
## American Heart Awareness Month

February is American Heart Month and Valentine's Day is a great time to start taking steps to be heart healthy. Americans of all backgrounds can be at risk for heart disease. Small changes can make a big difference. Schedule a visit with your doctor. Add exercise to your daily routine. Increase healthy eating. Take steps to quit smoking and take medication as prescribed.



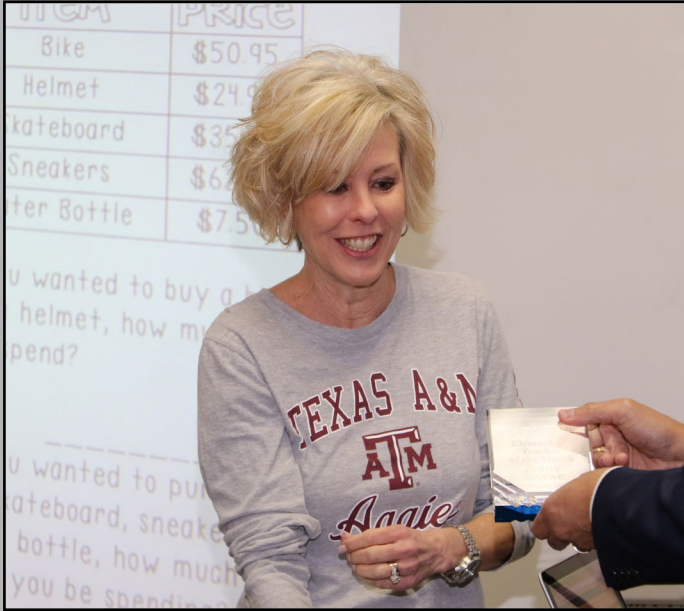
## Cords, extension cords and plugs

We all use electricity and we all at one time or another will be using cords and extension cords. Some basic steps may prevent a serious accident. Be sure to pull the plug, not the cord, when disconnecting an electrical device. Never remove a plug when your hands are wet or if you're touching a metal object. Do not place a cord under a carpet, through a doorway or anywhere that it could be stepped on. Make sure all electrical cords are tucked away neatly so that no one will trip and fall. Always use extension cords that are properly rated for the amount of electricity you'll be using. Extension cords are intended for temporary use only. Do not plug multiple cords into one outlet as this can be a fire hazard. Use a certified power strip if you need to plug multiple items into an outlet.



**Be Alert & Stay Safe!**

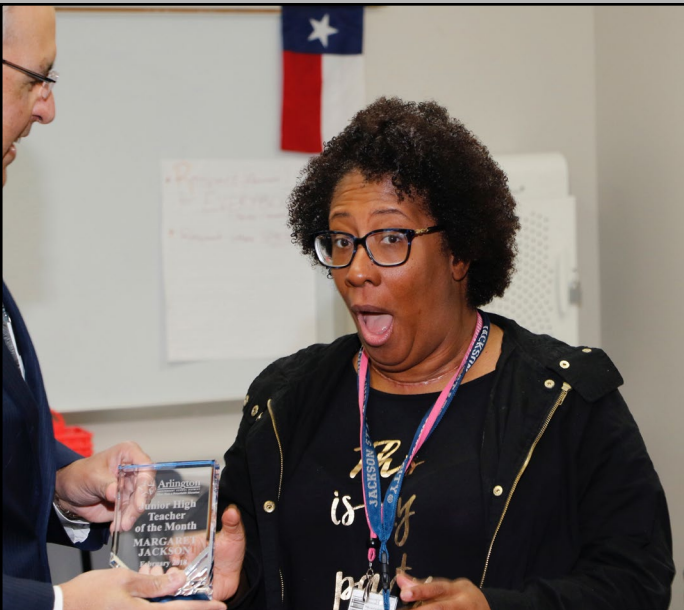
# FEBRUARY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



**Cindy Wayne**  
**Moore Elementary**  
**Elementary Teacher of the Month**



**Jackie Turner**  
**Security**  
**Department Employee of the Month**



**Margaret Jackson**  
**Turning Point Secondary**  
**Junior High Teacher of the Month**



**Ramona Taylor**  
**Sam Houston High School**  
**High School Teacher of the Month**



# Big turnout for CTC dedication

The AISD dedicated the cornerstone of its 2014 Bond program - the [AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center](#) – Feb. 10. The event attracted about 500 people, including a number of dignitaries and local elected officials, to honor namesake Dan Dipert and tour the state-of-the-art facility.

The 169,800 square-foot CTC offers juniors and seniors from all AISD high schools 68 CTE courses in 27 programs of study, including 17 that are new to the district. The facility, along with the new [Agricultural Science Center](#), can accommodate more than 4,700 students each week. The CTC houses 16 specialized labs, plus additional computer and science labs, and regular classrooms. It features an open-design concept that creates a college-like atmosphere.

One of those specialized labs was especially busy on Saturday and the days leading up to the dedication. Students in the culinary arts program worked long hours in their culinary lab to cater the event and serve the food. Down the hall, students in the floral program arranged flowers to decorate the event.

The dedication program included prolific praise for the building and its namesake from district officials, elected officials, and Dipert friends and family.

According to the CTC's architect, Sloan Harris of VLK Architects, the AISD's new CTC is the state's best. He, along with everyone else, also declared the building has the perfect namesake in Dan Dipert.

"Dan Dipert is Arlington's very own renaissance man," AISD Board of Trustees President Aaron Reich said.

Dan Dipert, originally from Damascus, Arkansas, came to Arlington in 1964 to serve as the youth and recreation director for First Baptist Church Arlington. In 1972, he purchased a small travel agency and built it into a multimillion-dollar travel and transportation business that is among the safest and most respected motor coach charter operators in the nation.

Active and generous in the



**There was a full house at the AISD Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center dedication and open house.**

community, the Dipert family formed the Dan Dipert Family Fund to benefit Arlington causes, among them the AISD Education Foundation. Dan was a founding member and established an endowment fund to help students and educators with classroom grants. Dan also served two terms as a trustee on the AISD Board of

Trustees.

If you didn't make it to the dedication, but still want to see the new CTC, tours are available. [Request a tour](#) at the CTC's website. And check out [this brochure](#) to learn more about services available to the public, including cosmetology, floral design, automotive and catering.

# Math Solutions valuable asset

Math teachers in grades kindergarten through eight have been engaging in Math Solutions professional learning sessions since October.

The purpose of Math Solutions is to support instruction and student learning in the area of mathematics. Math Solutions and the AISD believes a partnership that focuses on our district goals, student data and a thorough understanding of student instructional needs that meet the depth and complexity of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills will lead to building the capacity required for student achievement in mathematics.

Teachers are given



**AISD teachers have been getting professional learning from Math Solutions since last October.**

opportunities to provide feedback at the end of each professional learning session.

Teachers had lots to say

about the sessions.

*"I have a deeper understanding of the difference between a*

*mathematical tool and strategy. Also, the different type of problems and how my students need to be exposed to different types of problems. Focusing less on key words and more on understanding what is going on in the problem."*

*"I really love all the Math Solutions training and I hope to have more. I can't wait to use what I learn and see how my students thinking and explaining changes."*

There are two cohorts of teachers who have been engaging in Math Solutions professional learning since last October.

Cohort 2.5 began its session Feb. 20.



**Arlington**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MARCH DATES

Texas History Month

Theatre for Life Month

Music in our Schools Month

Youth Art Month

Texas Independence Day	March 2
NEA's Read Across America	March 2
Texas Public Schools Week	March 5-9
National School Breakfast Week	March 5-9
Begin Daylight Saving Time	March 11
Spring Break	March 12-16
Pi Day	March 14
Absolutely Incredible Kid Day	March 15
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
First Day of Spring	March 20
National Puppy Day	March 23
Good Friday (Holiday)	March 30
Passover Starts	March 30

## New intranet discounts added

With spring break coming and the weather starting to warm up, the Fort Worth Zoo is becoming a very popular place.

Luckily for AISD employees, there are discounts available at the zoo. To find out more information, all you have to do is click on the link on page 2 of *My AISD*.

And another great discount is being ironed out for March. The DSW shoe store at The Parks Mall in Arlington is working on a day for all employees to get discounts.

To find out more information, please keep checking on the [perks page](#), which is where you will also find out the latest on our new discount deal

with Six Flags Over Texas.

Those deals are just a few of the ones offered on the revamped intranet, which is constantly being updated with discounts for AISD employees.

The site also includes the staff favorites section, which will quickly guide you to the most commonly-used links, and the employee perks and discounts.

If you have any suggestions about discounts you want to see, send an email to [aandro@aisd.net](mailto:aandro@aisd.net).

You can also use that same email address if you know a great story about a staff member in the district that needs to be told. We are always looking for story ideas.



**ACCESSIBILITY**  
**TANGIBLES**  
**RELIABILITY**  
**RESPONSIVENESS**  
**EMPATHY**



**Accessibility**  
 Patricia Bianchini  
 West Elementary

**What they said:** Pat is very reliable and very well versed in technology. Pat is always helping out in the office when needed. She is very caring with the students and they all call her Mrs. Pat. If there is an issue with a printer or just getting into your email she is there to help.



**Tangibles**  
 Michael Hill  
 Administration

**What they said:** He has served as the chair of the calendar committee. He is an exceptional leader for this process. He provides great data, honors all input, and communicates with clarity. He responds to concerns and perspectives by returning dignity to all involved.



**Reliability**  
 Michelle Strachan  
 Goodman Elementary

**What they said:** She meets with me regularly, answers all my questions, stays after school when she needs to, answers texts at all hours of the day, and is always so encouraging and positive. I've been a teacher for 15 years but I believe that it is still so important to learn from one.



**Responsiveness**  
 Mark Strand  
 Human Resources

**What they said:** Mark always returns missed calls before the end of the day and usually within the hour. He is always patient and very helpful even though he is getting calls for help from all over the district. Mark models what is expected by being both responsive and reliable.



**Empathy**  
 Carol Neff  
 Special Education

**What they said:** Carol has taken upon herself new responsibilities this year to assist parents and caregivers of newly-identified infants who are deaf or hard of hearing. These parents need someone to listen to their challenges as well as assist them in navigating the world of hearing and language development.

**A customer forms an impression of service received over time depending on a range of experiences. Have you recently experienced exemplary service from anyone in the AISD? If so, affirm their practice by sending a shout out to [bit.ly/AISDSERVE](http://bit.ly/AISDSERVE), and we'll recognize them! Be sure to let us know which component of the framework was exemplified (accessibility, tangibles, reliability, responsiveness or empathy).**